

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Committee of the Whole Meeting and School Board Meeting Minutes
December 1, 2022

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, December 1, 2022, at 5:35 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.¹

Present were:

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Cristina Diaz-Torres, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
Barbara Kanninen, Member
David Priddy, Member
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. John Mayo, Chief Operating Officer
Christine Smith, Division Legal Counsel
Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Jeffrey Chambers, Director, Design and Construction

A. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING ON CONSTRUCTION COSTS

The School Board convened a Committee of the Whole meeting to discuss the process to determine capital improvement projects and their funding. The Board also discussed School Board Policy F-5.7 Capital and Maintenance Program.

Mr. Goldstein called for a recess at 6:45 PM and the Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:02 PM.

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School & Community Relations
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING (7:02 PM):

1. Call to Order
2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadets Corps
3. Recognitions: Student Winter Performance and School Board Chairs

The Board was delighted by a performance from the HB Woodlawn Secondary Program choral group led by Director Bill Podolski. The Board recognized Mr. Antony Maderal and Ms. Debbie Pierre-Louis, the 2022 School Bond Co-Chairs, for their volunteer work and tireless efforts to encourage the community to vote and support the 2022 School Bond, which received an approval rating of 77%. The 2022 School Bond, totaling \$165.01 million, will finance investments to improve and upgrade the school division's existing infrastructure and it will fund the long-awaited new facility at the Arlington Career Center. In addition, Dr. Kanninen thanked Mr. Daryl Johnson, Director of Strategic Outreach, for his collaborative support of the Co-Chairs.

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C. CONSENT ITEMS (7:25 PM):

Ms. Kadera moved for the adoption of the consent agenda, seconded by Dr. Diaz-Torres. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0, with Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Goldstein, Ms. Kadera, Dr. Kanninen, and Mr. Priddy voting affirmatively. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes

[C-1-a Minutes for the June 7, 2022 Closed Meeting and FY 2023-2032 Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\) Work Session #3](#)

[C-1-b Minutes for the June 8, 2022 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting](#)

[C-1-c Minutes for the June 9, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-d Minutes for the June 13, 2022 Public Hearing on the FY 2023-32 Capital Improvement Plan \(CIP\)](#)

[C-1-e Minutes for the June 21, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)

[C-1-f Minutes for the June 23, 2022 Closed Meeting and School Board Meeting](#)

[C-1-g Minutes for the June 28, 2022 Closed Meeting](#)

2. Personnel Actions

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 1 Appointment
- 2 Changes In Position/Salary
- 3 Resignations

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 14 Appointments
- 6 Changes In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations
- 5 Resignations With Prejudice

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Resignation With Prejudice

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 1 Change In Position/Salary
- 2 Resignations

3. Changes to the 2022-2023 School Year Calendar

4. Amendments to School Policies D-10.1 Purchasing and I-9.1 Selection of Instructional Resources

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5. Appointments to School Board Advisory Committees

Mr. Goldstein announced that under consent, the School Board adopted amendments to School Board Policy D-10.1 Purchasing to clarify the wording and School Board Policy I-9.1 Selection of Instructional Resources to bring APS into conformity with the law. In addition, the School Board approved the adjustment to the 2022-2023 school year calendar making Friday, April 21, 2023, a non-school day for students and a holiday for staff.

D. ANNOUNCEMENTS (7:26 PM):

1. Board Announcements:

- December 7 – Policy Subcommittee Meeting, 4 PM, Board Conference Room
- December 8 – Closed Meeting, 5:30 PM, Board Conference Room
- December 8 – Work Session - Topic: TBD, 6:30 PM, Board Room
- December 13 – Work Session on the Virtual Learning Program, 5:30 PM, Board Room
- December 15 – School Board Meeting, 7 PM, Board Room

Mr. Goldstein was honored to share that at the opening session of the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, Dr. Kanninen received the VSBA Regional School Board Member of the Year award in recognition of her Board leadership and active involvement in promoting student achievement. Also, at the VSBA Annual Convention, Dr. Kanninen announced that for the fourth year in a row APS won the Excellence in Risk Management Award for school divisions with over 10,000 students. The Excellence in Risk Management Award recognizes school divisions that emphasize safety, injury prevention, and overall management of risk. She wanted to publicly acknowledge Ms. Smith for leading a presentation at the convention titled “Collective Bargaining: What We’ve Learned and Where We’re Going” which provided information on the process for passing the APS Collective Bargaining Resolution, hiring a Director of Labor Relations and Labor Relations Specialist, collaborating on the process for a successful election of the Arlington School Administrators (ASA) as an Exclusive Representative, and beginning the negotiations. Furthermore, Dr. Kanninen commended Mr. Daryl Johnson, Director of Strategic Outreach, who also spearheaded a presentation titled “Redefining & Reimagining the Role of School Resource Officers (SROs) in Arlington Public Schools”. His presentation spoke about the SRO work group, their report and recommendations, and the Superintendent’s recommendations and implementation to redefine SROs in schools. Last but not least, Dr. Kanninen was proud to announce that the Arlington Career Center earned second place for their video submission “What is Rising Above?” in the eleventh annual VSBA contest, which challenged high school students across Virginia to create a 30-second video centered on the theme “Rising Above.” To conclude Board announcements, Mr. Goldstein shared about events at his liaison schools.

2. Superintendent’s Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán began by pointing out that the public comment period to submit feedback on the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) Model Policies for the Treatment of Transgender Students had concluded. He informed the community that APS was closely monitoring developments by the VDOE and acknowledged some of the stress that the proposal caused families. Dr. Durán took the opportunity to publicly reaffirm his unwavering support for all students and staff and his commitment to fostering an inclusive and welcoming environment in all schools and access to quality education. He encouraged anyone that does not feel welcome or safe to reach out to their principal or APS staff for support. Furthermore, the Superintendent addressed concerns about Governor Youngkin’s proposal to revise the history curriculum that is being taught in the classrooms, leading to not teaching or telling the whole history to students and diverging from the VDOE history and social science standards that have long been put in place. Thus, this proposal ignores history and leaves students feeling unseen. Dr. Durán expressed that APS would continue to teach the diverse curriculum APS has worked on to meet the needs of students. He again conveyed his commitment to making sure all students are seen and heard, as well as stating that it is equally important for students to not only learn about their history but about others

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as well, so that they learn to become one community. To conclude, the Superintendent encouraged the community to provide input on the proposed changes to the VDOE.

As part of the Every Student Counts series, Dr. Durán highlighted Gifted Services and the focus on ensuring students are provided differentiated learning experiences and have access to supports that will help them address gaps and strengths. Marking the end of the first quarter, he then provided a brief update on the academic progress and shared about the Beginning-of-Year (BOY) assessments to help teachers plan support and interventions based on student strengths and needs. Additionally, Dr. Durán announced that schools and offices would be closed from December 19-January 2 for winter break. In conclusion, he shared about several schools participation in the book giveaway offered by Reading is Fundamental (RIF), aimed at promoting literacy and building lifelong readers. He also shared about the 29th annual Latino Youth Leadership Conference (LYLC) hosted by the Office of English Learners where secondary English Learner (EL) counselors facilitated career workshops led by Latino leaders in their fields to stimulate students to think about their future professions.

Referring to the Gifted Services update, Ms. Kadera suggested more discussion on teaching strategies and the consideration of additional staffing in the budget development process.

E. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS (7:56 PM):

The following speakers addressed the Board with concerns regarding the proposed 2023-23 school year calendar:

Name:	School or Affiliation:
Danielle Anctil	Teacher
Katie Sunderland	Arlington Parents for Education
Joshua Folb	Teacher

F. MONITORING ITEMS (8:06 PM):

1. Educational Technology Update

Dr. Amy Jackson, Educational Technology Supervisor, began by speaking about the educational technology’s impact on instruction and the digital pedagogy to achieve success. She shared the mission, vision, and goals of the Office of Educational Technology and the digital integration to the Profile of a Virginia Graduate. She then spoke about the major services provided to students and educators. In addition, Dr. Jackson shared about the educational technology implementation to support digital literacy and resources. Lastly, she presented budgetary recommendations to support the ongoing needs of digital pedagogy.

Ms. Kadera began the conversation by noting the difference in the monitoring update from the last one, appreciating looking at technology use differently and the work being done to increase digital competency. She then expressed her interest in clarifying the difference between digital citizenship and digital literacy. Dr. Jackson explained digital citizenship relates to the way we use technology, mainly referring to the do’s and don’ts; whereas digital literacy refers to the skills and knowledge required to use technology to engage in learning. Devices are no longer used to complete tasks but are a tool for building knowledge, collaboration, creativity, and finding a passion for learning. Dr. Kanninen was happy to hear this important vision for the use of technology devices. She also wondered how relevant it is to continue to ponder the use of devices used by grade level and a rationale for the need of devices at the younger levels. Dr. Jackson explained the importance of the developmentally appropriate use of technology and using devices to impact instruction. The Instructional Technology Coordinators (ITCs) collaborate with content area coaches and work to implement technology in the classrooms to elevate learning. Dr. Jackson also noted that similar to any instructional strategy, the use of

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technology will always have to be considered to ensure it impacts instruction in a positive manner and it follows the best approaches for the school system. Ms. Diaz-Torres shared her experience visiting Swanson Middle School and appreciated being able to witness the coherent learning and purposeful use of technology in various classrooms. Understanding that ITCs expand the gamut, Mr. Priddy inquired about the staffing for ITCs and the consideration of using the planning factor study to analyze ITC staffing needs. Dr. Durán noted that the planning factor study scope was not defined yet and that the staffing of ITCs is guided by the Standards of Quality, which makes APS compliant with their guidance. However, to provide better service and balance the workload, APS included additional ITCs in the budget. Thinking about the long-term use of technology, Ms. Kadera was intrigued to learn how technology would eventually be redefined, streamlined, and integrated in schools, as well as implementing means to ensure there is an evaluation of resources. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein was curious about the substitute quandary and how substitute teachers access technology to which Dr. Jackson explained the importance of systematized products.

G. ACTION ITEMS (9:04 PM):

1. School Board Legislative Package

Ms. Lilla Wise, APS Legislative Representative, presented changes to the School Board legislative package resulting from the Annual Legislative Meeting held on November 28.

Ms. Diaz-Torres moved that the School Board approve the 2023 Legislative Package as presented, seconded by Mr. Priddy.

Ms. Diaz-Torres acknowledged the work that went into drafting the legislative package which built and continued to expand on Board priorities. Ms. Kadera thanked Ms. Diaz-Torres, Mr. Steven Marku, Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs, and Ms. Wise for their lengthy and important work on this matter.

Mr. Goldstein called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Diaz-Torres – Aye; Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Ms. Kadera – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Mr. Priddy – Aye

H. INFORMATION ITEMS (9:14 PM):

1. Heights Phase I – Change Order for Washington Gas

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director of Design and Construction, explained that construction of The Heights Building Phase 1 required significant work by Washington Gas particularly due to the redevelopment of 18th St. N. Thus, Washington Gas requested a change order of \$112,276.04 due to the need for ground excavation and subsurface utility challenges encountered during the work and provided the required justification for the increased costs.

2. Proposed 2023-2024 School Year Calendar

Mr. Michael Hodge, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, presented the calendar development process including information about the calendar committee and the calendar survey results. In addition, he provided a comparison of 2023-2024 School Year Superintendent's Proposed Calendar and neighboring school divisions. Lastly, Mr. Hodge presented the Superintendent's Proposed Calendar, highlighting information about instructional hours and holidays. Dr. Durán conveyed that it would behoove APS to develop a different calendar process guided by a policy to set clear parameters for the school year calendar. The proposed policy would include community input from different stakeholders. Dr. Durán explained that the Superintendent's Proposed Calendar prioritized ensuring 180 instructional days, maintaining the religious holiday, and aligning Spring Break to other jurisdictions.

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Board members collectively agreed with the Superintendent's suggestion to develop a policy and survey the community on common principles that would guide the calendar development process. In addition, the Board discussed the proposed calendar options acknowledging having received concerns from different stakeholders. Ms. Diaz-Torres expressed that she would never favor removing religious holidays because the inclusion of the various religious holidays sends a welcoming message to students and families. To follow up, Dr. Kanninen chimed in that the inclusion of the religious holidays is part of a lifelong lesson related to diversity. However, on the other hand, Ms. Kadera and Mr. Goldstein shared her concerns about childcare difficulties for working families during the different days off. Mr. Priddy was interested in learning the feedback from the calendar committee and Mr. Hodge shared that the primary feedback from the calendar committee was their desire for a shorter winter break and that they did not support the earlier start of the school year. Lastly, Mr. Goldstein shared his interest in exploring options for instructional staff in-service week.

I. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:07 PM.

ATTEST:

Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board

Reid Goldstein, Chair
Arlington School Board

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