

ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
School Board Meeting
September 24, 2020

Item C-1-a

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 7:02 PM. This meeting
was held via Zoom.

Also present were:

Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent

Raj Adusumilli, Assistant Superintendent, Information Services

Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations

Assistant Superintendent, Human Resources

Lisa Stengle, Executive Director, Planning and Evaluation

Arron Gregory, Chief Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer

B. REGULAR MEETING OPENING :

1. Call to Order

Ms. O'Grady called the meeting to order and announced that as she was not feeling well, and turned the meeting over to Dr. Kanninen, as Vice Chair.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Citizen Comment on Agenda and Non-Agenda Items:

The following speakers were recognized: [names redacted]

manage risks. Many speakers appreciated the

¹ Video clips of regular School Board meetings can be viewed on the APS Web site at the following link:

<https://www.apsva.us/school-board-meetings/view-school-board-meetings/>

DVDs of all regular School Board meetings are also available at the following link: [redacted]

efforts of teachers to provide virtual instruction, and some asked about the metrics that informs decisions:

Katie Sunderland, parent
Nathan Zee, parent
Julie Hannink, Oakridge parent
Morgan Ziegenhein, parent
Anna Chenoweth, parent
Melissa Thierry, parent
Russell Laird, parent
Maureen Klovers, parent
Deanna Caputo, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board, stating concerns that virtual instruction does not meet the needs of students with special needs, and asking for a plan to provide needed instruction and support to these students:

Anjy Cramer, parent
Alicia Keenan, parent

The following speakers also addressed the Board:

Natalie Foley, parent: asking APS to recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead of Columbus Day, explaining the importance of recognizing and including all peoples who make up the country.

Ingrid Gant, president, Arlington Education Association: speaking on the return to school, recognizing the challenges and concerns that students and staff are facing and asking the Board and Superintendent to consider all stakeholders in plans.

5. Announcements

- *October 1, 2020 Virtual Closed Meeting, 5:15 PM*
- *October 6, 2020 Virtual Policy Subcommittee Meeting, Noon*

Dr. Kanninen announced the passing of former Superintendent Arthur Gosling, acknowledging his many contributions to APS and the community. Mr. Goldstein shared information about events at his liaison schools. Ms. Talento encouraged the community to apply for vacancies on School Board Advisory Committees. Dr. Kanninen then summarized communications received by the Board.

5. Superintendent's Announcements and Updates

Dr. Durán thanked staff for their work during the closure and highlighted celebrations for Hispanic Heritage Month and National Custodial Workers Day. He provided information about Suicide Prevention Month, National Addiction

Professionals Day, and the work of APS substance abuse counselors. He also provided an update on the APS policy review process.

C. CONSENT AGENDA: (7:53 PM)

Ms. Talento moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Van Doren. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye. The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

- a. May 5, 2020 Public Hearing School Board Proposed Budget
- b. May 28, 2020 Capital Improvement Plan Work Session #2
- c. July 1, 2020 School Board Organizational Meeting
- d. July 18, 2020 School Board Retreat
- e. July 23, 2020 Closed Meeting
- f. September 3, 2020 Closed Meeting
- g. September 8, 2020 School Board Policy Subcommittee Meeting

2. Personnel Actions:

P/E-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 4 Appointments
- 1 Change in Position/Salary
- 1 Resignation

T-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 13 Appointments
- 3 Changes In Position/Salary
- 8 Resignations
- 1 Resignation (With Prejudice)
- 2 Retirements

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

- 6 Appointments
- 1 Resignation
- 1 Termination

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL

- 3 Appointments
- 5 Changes In Position/Salary
- 6 Resignations
- 2 Retirements
- 1 Termination

4. New Elementary School at Reed Temporary Change to Project Funding
5. License Agreement for School Bus Parking at the Trades Center West Lot
6. Amendment of Memorandum of Understanding with The Children's School
7. Appointment of Audit Committee Chair

Dr. Kanninen announced that as part of consent, the Board appointed Frank Bellavia as Director of Communications and Melaney Mackin as Principal, Carlin Springs Elementary School.

D. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:57 PM)

1. School Year 2020-2021 Update

Recognizing the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, Dr. Durán thanked staff, students and families for their support and suggestions to help prepare for returning to in-person learning. He shared the APS COVID Dashboard where the most current information related to health and safety of students and staff would be posted. He described four levels for the return to school, with level 1 focused on students with special needs; level 2 for PreK-3, ELs, CTE, and all other students with disabilities; level 3 for students who choose the hybrid model; and level 4, all students in school full time. He described each level in terms of timing, students eligible to participate, the rationale for the groups, and the schedule. Transportation considerations as well as health and safety expectations were also shared.

Dr. Durán then reviewed the survey process for staff and families at each level. He spoke to instructional resources being made available to families to help support virtual learning. A technology update was provided with information on connectivity and devices. Dr. Durán then summarized the status of operations including meal services, childcare, air quality, cleaning and maintaining healthy environments, and operations. In closing the presentation, Dr. Durán reviewed the APS financial projections and budget status.

The Board appreciated the update, thanking staff for their efforts. Acknowledging community concerns with the virtual model, the Board confirmed that the goal is to return students to the classroom in a safe and supported way. The group discussed staffing for in-person learning and how staff members with health concerns will be accommodated. Staff shared additional details on communications to families as well as how staff needs and preferences will be managed. Also briefly discussed were transportation, the VPI program, and the financial challenges being faced, as well as ensuring strong communications.

2. Update from the Arlington Partnership for Children, Youth and Families: (9:36 PM)

Board members highlighted the work that went in to developing this plan and looked forward to implementing this work.

Dr. Kanninen called for a motion, and it was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Mr. Goldstein – Aye; Dr. Kanninen – Aye; Ms. O’Grady – Aye; Ms. Talento – Aye; and Ms. Van Doren – Aye.

2. Transportation Staff Facility Construction Contract Award: (11:24 PM)

Dr. Durán confirmed that no changes have been made to the item since it was presented as information.

