Arlington School Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 24, 2026

The recordings of School Board meetings are posted on the APS Website following the meetings. Regular meetings are also broadcast on Comcast Cable Channel 70 and Verizon FIOS Channel 41.

The Arlington School Board convened on Thursday, September 24, 2026, at 8:30 p.m. at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia

Present Were:
Miranda Turner, Chair
Kathleen Clark, Vice Chair
Monique "Moe" Bryant, Member
Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, Member
Bethany Zecher Sutton, Member

Also Present Were:
Dr. Francisco Durán, Superintendent
Dr. Christina Arpante, Interim Assistant Superintendent, School and Community Relations
Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and Student Support
Kimberley Graves, Chief of Student Support
Andy Hawkins, Business Officer
Dr. Gerald Mann, Chief Academic Officer
Christine Smith, Division Counsel
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

A. MEETING OPENING: (8:30 p.m.)

1. Call to Order

Noting the Board meeting schedule change, Ms. Turner thanked the community for their patience and understanding of the later than usual start. The adjustment allowed Board members to attend middle school back-to-school night and a closed meeting.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Recognition: Hispanic Heritage Month

The School Board recognized Hispanic Heritage Month by presenting a video featuring students, staff, and community members sharing what Hispanic Heritage Month means to them. Ms. Turner was also proud to recognize that the Superintendent, Dr. Francisco Durán, is one of only

two Latino Superintendents among Virginia's 132 school divisions and just the third Latino Superintendent in the Commonwealth's history.

B. CONSENT ITEMS: (8:39 p.m.)

Ms. Zecher Sutton moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Turner. The motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Bryant – Yes; Ms. Clark – Yes; Ms. Tapia-Hadley – Yes; Ms. Turner – Yes; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Yes.

The following items or actions were approved as a part of consent:

1. Minutes:

B-1-a Minutes for the February 7, 2026 School Board and Superintendent Retreat.pdf

B-1-b Minutes for the February 17, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting.pdf

B-1-c Minutes for the February 24, 2026 Policy Subcommittee Meeting.pdf

B-1-d Minutes for the February 26, 2026 Superintendent's Proposed Budget FY 2027.pdf

B-1-e Minutes for the March 2, 2026 Policy Subcommittee Meeting.pdf

B-1-f Minutes for the March 17, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting.pdf

B-1-g Minutes for the March 24, 2026 Work Session on Educational Technology - APS Device Working Group Recommendations.pdf

B-1-h Minutes for the March 24, 2026 Work Session on Mathematics and the Science of Learning.pdf

B-1-i Minutes for the March 24, 2026 School Board and County Board Joint Budget Work Session.pdf

B-1-j Minutes for the March 24, 2026 Closed Meeting.pdf

B-1-k Minutes for the April 10, 2026 Audit Committee Meeting.pdf

B-1-l Minutes for the April 14, 2026 Budget Work Session #1.pdf

B-1-m Minutes for the April 14, 2026 Budget Work Session #2.pdf

B-1-n Minutes for the April 14, 2026 Budget Work Session #3.pdf

B-1-o Minutes for the April 14, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting.pdf
B-1-p Minutes for the April 14, 2026 Public Hearing on the School Board's Proposed FY 2027 Budget.pdf

B-1-q Minutes for the April 22, 2026 Policy Subcommittee Meeting.pdf

B-1-r Minutes for the April 28, 2026 Work Session the Budget Advisory Council.pdf

B-1-s Minutes for the April 28, 2026 Closed Meeting.pdf

B-1-t Minutes for the May 6, 2026 Policy Subcommittee Meeting.pdf

B-1-u Minutes for the May 19, 2026 Committee of the Whole Meeting.pdf

B-1-v Minutes for the May 19, 2026 Work Session with Advisory Councils .pdf

B-1-w Minutes for the May 29, 2026 Audit Committee Meeting.pdf

B-1-x Minutes for the June 2, 2026 Closed Meeting.pdf

B-1-y Minutes for the June 2, 2026 Public Hearing on the Proposed FY 2027-36 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP).pdf

B-1-z Minutes for the June 11, 2026 Closed Meeting.pdf

2. Personnel Actions

P/E SCALE PERSONNEL
1 Appointment
1 Change in Position/Salary

T-SCALE PERSONNEL
12 Appointments
5 Resignations

A-SCALE PERSONNEL

2 Appointments
3 Changes in Position/Salary
1 Retirement

SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
3 Appointments
3 Changes in Position/Salary
1 Resignation

3. Membership Appointments and Changes to School Board Advisory Committees

Academic Advisory Council
Arati Jain - Parent
Brandi Harris - Staff
Brian Courchaine - Parent
Brindis Ochoa - Parent
Carla Uriona - Parent
Chloe Cole - Student
Erik Sullivan - Community Member
Ezra Lee - Student
Faiza Siddiqui - Parent
Gail Klein - Community Member
Jason Brayton-Lewis - Parent
Jennifer Orr - Staff
Jerry A Higgs - Parent
Jim Egenrieder - Community Member
John Weaver - Parent
Katie Lavery - Parent
Kristel Butron Veizaga - Student
Lea de Toeni Zhu - Community Member
Manav "Mike" Bahl - Parent
Mariam Al Sabae - Parent
Marty Swaim - Community Member
Nadi Penjarla - Parent
Peter Herman - Parent
Richard Pollack - Parent
Syed Ahmed - Parent
Tralonne Shorter - Parent

Operations Advisory Council

Sid Ghosh - Student
Andrew Dabney - Staff

Personnel Advisory Council
Lisa Ozkan - Parent
Kylsya Irizarry Perez – Parent

Student Health and Well-Being Council
Representatives
Jeremy Enright - Parent, Advanced Academics
Cecilia Lazo - Parent, Budget
Elizabeth Fabrizio - Parent, Special Education
Arlyn Elizee - Parent, Special Education
Members
Candice Lopez - Parent

Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC)
Peter Tolsdorf - remove member

Ms. Turner announced that under consent, School Board appointed Ms. Heidi Vega as the Assistant Superintendent of School and Community Relations, effective November 2.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (8:42 p.m.)

1. Board Announcements:

Ms. Turner reminded the community that the School Board was accepting applications for the School Board Advisory Councils for the 2026–27 school year through the end of October. Ms. Clark expressed her gratitude for the work of the Academics Council.

D. PUBLIC COMMENT ON AGENDA AND NON-AGENDA ITEMS: (8:42 p.m.)

The following speakers addressed the Board:

First and Last Name:	What is your relationship to APS?	Topic
Melissa Dokurno	Resident of Arlington County	Supporting Integration Station
Reade Bush	Former APS Student	

Sarah Shifrin	Parent or Guardian of APS Student	
Brendon Clark	Resident of Arlington County	
Kevin Muse	Resident of Arlington County	
Harish	Resident of Arlington County	
Erin Turner	SEPTA, Vice President	
Sally Englander	Resident of Arlington County	
Amanda Villapando	Resident of Arlington County	
Danielle Pasch	Resident of Arlington County	
Robert Robertson	Resident of Arlington County	
David Pasch	Resident of Arlington County	
Alissa Ortman	Resident of Arlington County	
Alaina Clark	SEPTA, President	
Courtney Kelly	Resident of Arlington County	
Robert Rice	Resident of Arlington County	
Thierry Servius	Resident of Arlington County	
Daniella Senior	Resident of Arlington County	
Daniela Hirsch	APS Employee or Retiree	
Shannon Badowski	Resident of Arlington County	
Erica Larsen	APS Employee or Retiree	Teacher safety
Theresa Flynn	Resident of Arlington County	Budget Priorities for FY 2027

Jaqueline Cortez Wang	Resident of Arlington County	Awareness & Training of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASDs)
Danielle Jones	Resident of Arlington County	HVAC issues at schools
Peter Hiebert	APS Employee or Retiree	Power outage at Gunston Middle School on September 14

Ms. Turner called for a recess at 9:38 p.m. and the Board reconvened at 9:42 p.m.

E. ACTION ITEMS: (9:43 p.m.)

1. FY 2026-27 Internal Audit Work Plan

Attachment: E-1 FY 2026-27 Internal Audit Work Plan.pdf

Ms. Clark moved that the School Board approve the FY 2026-27 Internal Audit Work Plan, seconded by Ms. Turner.

Ms. Turner called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 5 – 0. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Bryant – Yes; Ms. Clark – Yes; Ms. Tapia-Hadley – Yes; Ms. Turner – Yes; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Yes.

F. INFORMATION ITEMS: (9:44 p.m.)

1. Services and Material Changes Required to Maximize / Obtain Geothermal Tax Credit Changes - Hoffman Boston Elementary School

Attachment: F-1 Services and Material Changes Required for Hoffman Boston.pdf

Mr. Jeffrey Chambers, Director of Design & Construction, explained that to obtain the Clean Energy Tax Credits, APS needed to adjust the HVAC, electrical, and other building equipment at Hoffman-Boston Elementary School to meet domestic continent requirements, thus recommending executing a change order to implement modifications.

The Board discussed the cost of the required changes and potential future savings.

G. MONITORING ITEMS: (9:56 p.m.)

1. **Academic Data Update**

Attachment: G-1 Academic Data Update September 24 2026 .pdf

Dr. Durán presented the Every Student Counts video highlighting Partners for Progress and academic support. Dr. Mann presented the 2026-2027 priorities and projects to enhance teaching, learning, and student experience. He also summarized the results for the Standards of Learning (SOL), Measures of Academic Progress (MAP) Growth Performance, Advanced Culture, Civics, and English Studies (ACCESS) Progress Rates, and the 2025-26 school year accountability results. Furthermore, Dr. Mann presented information on Partners for Progress, a collaborative approach to strengthen instruction and build collective efficacy in schools, and Specially Designed Instruction (SDI), designed to meet the unique needs of a student with an Individualized Education Program (IEP). Dr. Mann also presented information on the new SOL cut scores related to the Four-Year Phase-In Proficiency Implementation Plan. Lastly, Dr. Mann spoke about the work ahead to achieve high-quality instruction.

The Board discussed SDI, data by the different subgroups, schedules for English Learners, homework expectations, cross-collaborative strategies to support instruction, and training and resources for teachers.

H. NEW BUSINESS: (11:02 p.m.)

1. Revisions to the 2026-27 School Year Calendar

Dr. Durán explained that middle school parent-teacher conferences were omitted from the 2026-27 school year calendar because these conferences were not written in policy or Policy Implementation Procedures (PIPs), despite being a long-standing practice. Understanding the importance of these conferences and recognizing the omission, staff proposed that the Board consider a revision to the 2026-27 school year calendar to add dedicated opportunities in October and March for parent-teacher conferences. Dr. Durán requested further conversations to thoughtfully revise the calendar policy and PIPs to include guidance on parent-teacher conferences.

Ms. Bryant moved that the School Board approve the following revisions to the 2026-27 school calendar to provide opportunities for middle school parent-teacher conferences:

October 2026

- *October 8: Early release for middle school students*
- *October 9: No school for middle school students*

March 2027

- *March 18: Early release for middle school students*
- *March 19: No school for middle school students*

The motion was seconded by Ms. Zecher Sutton.

Most Board members expressed their support for the calendar revision to honor communication already shared with parents and due to the importance of parent engagement. However, Ms. Turner opposed the motion but agreed with the need to review the calendar policy.

Ms. Turner called for a vote and the motion was adopted in a vote of 4 – 1. The voting record is as follows: Ms. Bryant – Yes; Ms. Clark – Yes; Ms. Tapia-Hadley – Yes; Ms. Turner – No; and Ms. Zecher Sutton – Yes.

I. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____
Miranda Turner, Chair
Arlington School Board

_____
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Arlington School Board