Arlington School Board Meeting Minutes
September 10, 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 10, 2026, at 7:02 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
Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Claudia Mercado, Clerk
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk

A. MEETING OPENING: (7:02 p.m.)

1. Call to Order

2. Presentation of Colors: Arlington Career Center Space Force JROTC Cadet Corps

3. Recognition: 25th Anniversary of 9/11

The Board recognized the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and paused for a moment of silence in remembrance of all those whose lives were lost on September 11, 2001, and in honor of the families, survivors, first responders, service members, and all those forever connected to that day.

B. CONSENT ITEMS: (7:07 p.m.)

Ms. Clark moved to adopt the consent agenda, seconded by Ms. Zecher Sutton. 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: None

2. Personnel Actions

   P/E SCALE PERSONNEL
   1 Appointment
   3 Changes in Position/Salary

   T-SCALE PERSONNEL
   32 Appointments
   4 Changes in Position/Salary
   2 Resignations
   2 Retirements

   A-SCALE PERSONNEL
   15 Appointments
   1 Change in Position/Salary
   5 Resignations

   SUPPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL
   3 Appointments
   1 Probation
   1 Resignation
   1 Retirement
   1 Suspension

3. Membership Appointments and Changes to School Board Advisory Committees

   Arlington Special Education Advisory Council (ASEAC)
   Carolyn Jackson, Staff
   Katiera Allen Jones, Parent
   Emily Schick, Community Member

   English Language Learners

Laura Anduze Cabrero, Staff
Lourdes Morales, Parent

Student Health & Wellness Advisory Council
Sarah Rosado, Community Member
Olivia Harrington, Student
Amritha Kothapalyam, Community Member

4. SY 2026-27-2

The Board moved to deny the appeal in grievance number SY 2026-27-2 and uphold the recommendation of the Superintendent.

Ms. Turner announced that under consent, the School Board appointed Ms. Ivana Hampton as the Director of Talent Acquisition and Management, effective September 16.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (7:11 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: (7:12 p.m.)

First and Last Name:	What is your relationship to APS?	Topic
Shawnee Hoover	Resident of Arlington County	Schedule changes
David Whatley	Arlington County Business or APS Partner	Teacher compensation
Rena Cutlip-Mason	Parent or Guardian of APS Student	Incorporation of AI into I-9.1 PIP-4
Larry Fishtahler	Resident of Arlington County	Homework Policy
Danielle Jones	Resident of Arlington County	Beginning of School

Jenny Shanker	APS Employee or Retiree	Changes to the procedures for ordering library books in school libraries.
Joshua Folb	Resident of Arlington County	Employee workplace conditions

E. MONITORING ITEMS: (7:28 p.m.)

1. Beginning of School Update

Attachment: E-1 Beginning of School Update (Rev. 091023 923 am).pdf

Dr. Durán presented the Every Student Counts video highlighting the first day of school around Arlington and provided a summary on enrollment, family engagement, transportation and food services. Moreover, Dr. Durán explained three key instructional focus areas for the school year, including purposeful homework practices, and expectations for the academic integrity policy. The Superintendent also spoke about the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence (AI), Bilingual Family Specialists and their important role in strengthening family connections, and how fundamental it is to learning that students feel safe, known and connected. Lastly, Dr. Durán shared information on communications at APS, preparations for the first day of school, and the 2026-27 priorities and projects.

The Board briefly discussed the Academic Integrity Policy and homework.

2. FY 2025-26 Final Internal Audit Work Plan Update

Attachment: E-2 FY 2025-26 Final Internal Audit Work Plan Update.pdf

Ms. Alice Blount-Fenney, Director of Internal Audit, presented a summary of internal audits conducted during the 2025-26 fiscal year, including audits of School Safety and Emergency Management and Consulting Contracts, as well as a limited-scope audit of Employee Relations. She also provided updates on two special projects: the district-wide Risk Assessment and the Ethical Advocate Hotline.

The Board thanked Ms. Blount-Fenney for her work and follow-through on each of the audits.

F. ACTION ITEMS: NONE

H. INFORMATION ITEMS: (8:16 p.m.)

1. Attachment: G-1 FY 2026-27 Internal Audit Work Plan (Rev. 090826 1058 am).pdf

Ms. Blount-Fenney presented the Audit Plan for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which included the following:

- Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Post Implementation Review
- Procurement
- Human Resources: Recruitment, Hiring, Qualifications and Performance Tracking
- Facilities, Infrastructure, and Capital Investments
- Cybersecurity: Co-sourced with a third-party
- Audit Follow-Up Reviews

Ms. Zecher Sutton expressed her gratitude to staff for their collaboration and engagement in the audit work.

I. NEW BUSINESS

J. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

ATTEST:

_____	_____
Claudia Mercado, Clerk	Miranda Turner, Chair
Arlington School Board	Arlington School Board