ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on Mathematics and the Science of Learning Meeting Minutes
March 24, 2026

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 10:46 a.m. at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:
Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Miranda Turner, Vice-Chair
Monique Bryant, Member
Kathleen Clark, Member
Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, Member (Participated virtually using Microsoft Teams due to personal reasons from Arlington, Virginia)
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk of the School Board

Also present were:
Dr. Durán, Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent of School & Community Relations
Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, and Student Support
Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support
Dr. Gerald Mann Jr., Chief Academic Officer
Christine Smith, Legal Counsel
Brian Stockton, Chief of Staff
Andy Hawkins, Business Officer
Carl Seward, Supervisor, K-12 Mathematics
Margaret Sullivan, Director of Strategic Research, Educational Advisory Board (EAB)

Introduction/Presentation

The work session focused on the science of learning as it relates to mathematics instruction and explored strategies to strengthen student and staff engagement throughout the instructional materials adoption process. Dr. Durán noted that mathematics achievement has remained relatively flat over the past several years, with some student groups not experiencing the same levels of progress. He also shared that teachers, particularly at the elementary level, have expressed a need for additional support in mathematics instruction. As part of this work, the division is reviewing student instructional resources and the mathematics adoption process to better support teaching and learning.

Dr. Mann reviewed data showing that mathematics achievement remained relatively unchanged in recent years and discussed the need for greater consistency in instructional practices across the division. He highlighted the adoption of new mathematics instructional materials aligned with the science of learning, emphasizing clarity, coherence, rigor, and evidence-based instructional practices to support all learners. He also explained the importance of developing a common instructional language for educators and recommended reviewing elementary homework practices as part of the Office of Academics' ongoing work.

Ms. Sullivan presented on the science of learning and its application to mathematics instruction. She reviewed national data showing stagnant mathematics achievement and discussed research-based strategies to improve student outcomes. Ms. Sullivan highlighted the instructional hierarchy of acquisition, fluency, and generalization, emphasizing the importance of aligning instructional practices with each stage of learning to build strong foundational skills. She also stressed the need for evidence-based instructional materials, targeted teacher support, and professional learning to strengthen mathematics instruction and improve achievement for all students.

Mr. Steward discussed implementing the instructional hierarchy as a key component of strengthening mathematics instruction, noting that this work has been elevated through the partnership with the EAB and participation in the

Blueprint Leadership initiative. Elementary and secondary principals, along with mathematics coaches, will engage in professional learning focused on the science of learning and effective instructional practices. He emphasized that while new instructional resources support these principles, educators' successful implementation is critical. The discussion also highlighted instructional strategies such as retrieval practice, spaced practice, and interleaving, with the overarching goal of improving mathematics outcomes for all students, particularly those who have not yet met achievement benchmarks.

School Board Discussion

The School Board discussed with staff the implementation of the science of learning framework for mathematics instruction, emphasizing the need for ongoing professional learning, intentional use of instructional resources, and support for teachers through mathematics coaches and school leaders. Staff outlined plans to strengthen foundational mathematics skills, including a Math 7 pilot program, updated curriculum documents aligned with the instructional hierarchy, and a phased two-year implementation plan. The discussion also addressed improving outcomes for all students through targeted interventions, reducing reliance on instructional technology, reviewing homework practices, ensuring accessible instructional materials, and providing opportunities for students to build mastery through practice and feedback. Board members also discussed the importance of communicating upcoming instructional changes to families and engaging the community throughout implementation.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Arlington School Board