The Arlington School Board represents the citizens of Arlington and acts as a body to ensure the provision of a high-quality public education to Arlington's children. In this capacity, the School Board shall:

1. Adopt an annual budget for Arlington Public Schools;
2. Appoint the Superintendent;
3. Govern through clearly written School Board-adopted policies, in accordance with the Code of Virginia, which also account for federal, state, and local laws;
4. Adopt a ten-year Capital Improvement Plan every two years;
5. Establish and maintain connections and communication links with all Arlington parents and citizens on matters pertaining to public education in Arlington;
6. Monitor and evaluate the Superintendent in accordance with School Board Policy C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation; and
7. Collaborate with the Arlington County Board, the Arlington legislative delegation, and others to advance public education in Arlington and beyond.

To enhance leadership behaviors and policy-making skills, the School Board members participate in:

1. An ongoing professional development program that supports current School Board work, explores emerging educational trends and research, and promotes effective policy development; and
2. An annual School Board self-evaluation.

The School Board's work shapes community values, and community values guide and influence the School Board's policy development. The School Board actively seeks out the opinions of those it represents and engages them in shaping its policies. The School Board considers information on the status of education and the context in which it occurs. It regularly disseminates reports that show the community the progress and status of the School Board's work.

General Authority
The Constitution of Virginia and the Code of Virginia set out the specific obligations and duties of the State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the local school boards as they relate to the operation of the public schools.

School Board Legal Status
The School Board derives its authority from the Constitution of Virginia, the Code of Virginia, and the regulations of the State Board of Education. The School Board members are officers of the Commonwealth. The School Board governs the school division. The School Board is a body corporate whose official title is Arlington School Board.

School Board Member Authority
The School Board is a body corporate, and in its corporate capacity is vested with all the powers and charged with all the duties, obligations, and responsibilities imposed upon school boards by law and may sue, be sued, contract, be contracted with, and purchase, take, hold, lease and convey school property, both real and personal. School Board members shall have no authority or duties except such as may be assigned to them by the School Board as a whole.

School Board Powers and Duties

1. Adopts policy to provide for the day-to-day supervision of schools;
2. Sees that the school laws are properly explained, enforced and observed;
3. Secures, by visitation or otherwise, as full information as possible about the conduct of the public schools in the school division and takes care that they are conducted according to law and with the utmost efficiency;
4. Cares for, manages and controls the property of the school division and provides for the erecting, furnishing, equipping, and non-instructional operating of necessary school buildings and appurtenances and the maintenance thereof by purchase, lease, or other contracts;
5. Provides for the consolidation of schools or redistricting of school boundaries or adopts pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division;
6. Insofar as not inconsistent with state statutes and regulations of the State Board of Education, operates and maintains the public schools in the school division and determines the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued, the methods of teaching and the government to be employed in the schools;
7. Performs such other duties as shall be prescribed by the State Board of Education or are imposed by law;
8. Obtains public comment through a public hearing not less than seven days after reasonable notice to the public in a newspaper of general circulation in Arlington County or in an online-only news publication, as defined in Code of Virginia §8.01-324(I), that has been approved for such purpose by the circuit court pursuant to §8.01-324(J) prior to providing (i) for the consolidation of schools; (ii) the transfer from the public school system of the administration of all instructional services for any public school classroom or all non-instructional services in the school division pursuant to a contract with any private entity or organization; or (iii) in school divisions having 15,000 pupils or more in average daily membership, for redistricting of school boundaries or adopting any pupil assignment plan affecting the assignment of fifteen percent or more of the pupils in average daily membership in the affected school. Such public hearing may be held at the same time and place as the meeting of the School Board at which the proposed action is taken if the public hearing is held before the action is taken;
9. Surveys, at least annually, Arlington Public Schools to identify critical shortages of (i) teachers and administrative personnel by subject matter, (ii) specialized student support positions, and (iii) school bus drivers and reports such critical shortages to the Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction and to the Virginia Retirement System or requests the Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools to conduct such survey and submit such report to the School Board, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Virginia Retirement System;
10. Ensures that the public schools within the school division are registered with the Department of State Police to receive electronic notice of the registration or reregistration of any sex offender within the school division pursuant to Va. Code §9.1-914;
11. Ensures that the information sheet on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits program developed and provided by the Virginia Department of Social Services pursuant to subsection D of Va. Code § 63.2-801 is sent home with each student enrolled in an

elementary or secondary school in Arlington Public Schools at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment;

12. Ensures that a fillable free or reduced-price meals application is sent home with each student enrolled in a public elementary or secondary school in Arlington Public Schools at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of any student who enrolls after the beginning of the school year, as soon as practicable after enrollment; and
13. Ensures that at any back-to-school night event in Arlington Public Schools to which the parents of enrolled students are invited, any parent in attendance receives prominent notification of and access, in paper or electronic form, or both, to information about application and eligibility for free or reduced price meals for students and a fillable free or reduced price meals application that may be completed and submitted on site.

Qualifications of School Board Members

At the time of appointment or election to office, each member of the School Board must be a qualified voter and bona fide resident of the school division and district, if any, which he represents and meet any other criteria set forth in state law. If a School Board member ceases to be a resident of the school division or that district which he represents, his position on the School Board shall be deemed vacant.

No employee of the School Board may serve on the School Board.

School Board Member Oath of Office

All new school board members qualify by taking the oath prescribed for officers of the Commonwealth on or before the day of the initial meeting of the new school board. Failure to take the oath of office within the time allowed by law renders the office vacant.

School Board Member Committees

School Board member committees may be appointed by the chair or created by School Board action. The Committee of the Whole is comprised of all School Board members.

Definitions

Specialized Student Support Positions- school social workers, school psychologists, school nurses, licensed behavior analysts, licensed assistant behavior analysts, and other licensed health and behavioral positions, which may either be employed by Arlington Public Schools or provided through contracted services.

References

Constitution of Virginia, Article VIII, §7
Code of Virginia §8.01-324, 15.2-1522, 15.2-1524, 22.1-2, 22.1-1.8 through 22.1-20, 22.1-28 through 22.1-31, 22.1-57.3, 22.1-71, 22.1-78, 22.1-79, 22.1-253.13:2, 22.1-277.06, 24.2-228, 49-1, 49-3, 63.2-801
School Board Policy C-2.7 Superintendent Evaluation

Policy Adoption and Revision History

Adopted November 2001
Renumbered (former Policy 10-4) effective July 1, 2018

Revised March 14, 2019, Effective March 14, 2019
Revised August 1, 2024. Effective August 1, 2024