ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on the Feasibility Studies Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2025

The recordings of School Board meetings are posted on the APS Website following the meetings.

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, at 1:03 PM at 2110 Washington Blvd., Arlington, Virginia.

Present were:
Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Miranda Turner, Vice Chair
Mary Kadera, Member
Kathleen Clark, Member
Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, Member
Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk of the School Board

Also present were:
Dr. Durán, Superintendent
Catherine Ashby, Assistant Superintendent, 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
Renee Harber, Assistant Superintendent, Facilities and Operations
Cathy Lin, Director, Facilities and Operations
Jeff Chambers, Director of Design & Construction
Matt Williams, Project Manager

Presentation

Dr. Durán emphasized the School Division's commitment to understanding the condition of its facilities and obtaining direction from the School Board to ensure responsible and strategic use of resources. He explained the work was essential in identifying school needs and setting priorities for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). As part of this effort, staff examined seven schools and conducted an in-depth review of five of them.

Ms. Harber provided an overview of the presentation, beginning with the objectives and comprehensive review process guided by School Board direction from the approved 2025–34 CIP. She explained how the school sites were selected during the CIP process, identifying the five schools included in the feasibility studies: Barrett Elementary School, Randolph Elementary School, Taylor Elementary School, Swanson Middle School and Thomas Jefferson Middle School. She also noted the two schools not considered—Arlington Career Center and the Montessori Public School of Arlington—and explained the reasons for their exclusion. In addition, she outlined the architectural firms responsible for conducting the studies for each school. Mr. Chambers reviewed key terminology frequently used in evaluating school facilities, including educational specifications, design capacity, design standards, K–12 support spaces, and cost considerations. He then explained the overall approach used in conducting the feasibility studies. Mr. Williams presented the general facility conditions identified for each school and, together with Mr. Chambers, walked through the individual site studies, outlining the different options developed for each of the five schools reviewed.

School Board Discussion

The School Board discussed the background and goals of the current feasibility study, including how schools are prioritized for renovation and which facilities may still require future improvements beyond the seven initially evaluated. They asked clarifying questions regarding the study's approach, comparisons to past projects, cost ranges for meeting educational specifications, the feasibility of constructing a new elementary school, and differences in infrastructure and capacity needs across schools. Additional discussion focused on uniformity of educational specifications, pricing variations, solar-ready design, relocatable classrooms, accessibility, auditorium needs, and safety and security considerations. Board members also raised the importance of prioritizing gender-neutral bathrooms, addressing the high Facility Condition Index at MPSA, and balancing renovation needs equitably across all schools.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:31 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Arlington School Board