ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on Non-Traditional Secondary Program Meeting Minutes
November 18, 2025

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

The Arlington School Board convened on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, at 10:48 a.m. 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
Celia Fischer, Interim 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
Leona Smith, Executive Principal
Darrell Sampson, Executive Director of Student Services

Presentation

Dr. Durán reviewed the School Board's charge and outlined the priorities guiding the work session, noting that key commitments and recommendations were expected to emerge by the end of the session. He emphasized that recommended changes would be incorporated into next year's budget with implementation beginning in the 2026 school year.

Dr. Crawford provided an overview of the topics for discussion, highlighting how they align with the strategic plan, and the division's core commitment to student success. She also summarized the engagement efforts conducted to date and the groups who participated in those sessions. Ms. Smith presented the feedback gathered from non-traditional schools, traditional schools, community groups, and central office staff. She outlined the common strengths, challenges, and suggestions raised by each group and shared updates and key recommendations for current programs based on that feedback. Dr. Sampson emphasized that the proposed changes did not diminish the important work already accomplished by the programs. He reviewed key terminology, provided an overview of the different programs and the services they offer to students, and discussed proposed changes to the Alternative Learning Program and Newcomer programs. He also shared preliminary staffing implications related to these adjustments and concluded with an outline of the next steps. Ms. Graves closed the presentation by summarizing the main themes, including maintaining a strong focus on student needs, continuing engagement with programming communities, consolidating program sites where appropriate, and ensuring staff are supported throughout the transition.

School Board Discussion

The School Board discussed the focus and structure of the Arlington Public Schools non-traditional secondary programs, including the unique features of each program model and the specific student populations they serve. Board members

reviewed program locations, considerations for consolidating or clustering programs, and the staffing and budget implications associated with these options. The discussion also addressed the Grace Hopper Center, including programs originally planned for the facility and better aligning the programs with student needs and operational realities.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk Arlington School Board	Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair Arlington School Board