ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on High School Bell Schedules 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 2:46 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
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

To begin, Dr. Durán clarified that any potential changes to the high school bell schedule would not be implemented until the 2027–28 school year and noted that feedback was received from various groups across the school community. Dr. Sampson outlined the purpose of the work session, which focused on examining high school scheduling options to determine the instructional model that best supports student learning, including a seven-period day and block scheduling. He discussed scheduling alignment with the Strategic Plan, reviewed bell schedules in neighboring districts, described the current Arlington Public Schools high school schedules, and summarized strengths and challenges identified through community feedback. Ms. Smith then presented the work of the community working group, which explored four scheduling options, reviewed the strengths and challenges of each, and outlined the next steps in the process.

School Board Discussion

The School Board discussed the various scheduling models under consideration and shared experiences from within the division related to this issue. Members referenced peer-reviewed research and expressed interest in reviewing additional quantitative data to better inform the discussion. The Board emphasized the importance of clearly defining the problem the division is seeking to address, noting that the focus should remain on instructional quality and student-centered learning. Members also discussed the need to identify key indicators for success and outlined questions to guide the next steps in the exploration process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:39 p.m.

ATTEST:

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Arlington School Board