ARLINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Work Session on the Advisory Committee Working Group 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 9:05 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
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
Jonathan Turrisi, Director of Accountability, Evaluation & Strategic Planning
Jenny Roahen-Rizzo, Chair, School Board Advisory Committee Working Group
Lida Anestidou, Vice Chair, School Board Advisory Committee Working Group

Presentation

Ms. Zecher Sutton opened the work session by noting that, due to technical issues, the meeting would be recorded rather than livestreamed. She explained that the Advisory Councils Working Group began its work in September 2024 and that the purpose of this work session was to share progress and updates on the group's work to date.

Mr. Turrisi then presented an overview of the topics and timeline for the Working Group's progress. He reviewed community engagement efforts related to the current structure of the School Board Advisory Committees and summarized the feedback received. He also discussed organizational models for advisory councils, shared input from current councils, and explained how that feedback informed the development of the Working Group's proposed structure. In addition, he outlined the structural options considered, the rationale behind each, and how the proposals align with the division's strategic plan. Ms. Anestidou followed with a review of the current advisory committee structure, including membership composition, identified strengths, challenges and limitations, and opportunities for improvement. Ms. Roahen-Rizzo then presented the key elements of the proposed Working Group structure, detailing the purpose and value of advisory councils, the School Board's charges to these councils, expectations for recruiting and onboarding members, and the core operational components that would guide their work.

School Board Discussion

The School Board held a discussion on advisory committee organizational structures, including the use of subcommittees and the roles of groups focused on English Learners, Advanced Academics, Budget, Career, Technical, and Adult Education (CTE), Student Services, and overall membership composition. Members emphasized that discontinuing a committee would not diminish the importance of its associated priorities. The Board also reflected on

its role and leadership responsibilities in guiding this work. The Superintendent highlighted the significant needs of English Learners and expressed support for establishing a standing subcommittee dedicated to this population, noting the importance of continued advocacy and recognizing the potential for Arlington Public Schools to grow as leaders within this area.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

ATTEST:

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Carmen Mejia, Deputy Clerk
Arlington School Board

Bethany Zecher Sutton, Chair
Arlington School Board