

October 24, 2016 Minutes

“BICYCLES, BONDS, AND BOUNDARIES”

President’s welcome and comments:

A copy of the budget is provided for review. A vote on the budget will be taken at next month’s meeting.

CCPTA has received a check from Swanson Middle School for a donation to the CPCI fund. More donations are welcomed and requests for grants are encouraged.

Chris Ditta participated on a speaker’s panel at the Committee of 100 and reports that it went well. Discussion involved educational environment and opportunities, homework, testing, preparation for college and work, diploma requirements, etc.

Peter Fallon and Monique O’Grady – 2016 School Bond

Presentation regarding the upcoming school bond on this November’s ballot. APS is preparing for growing enrollment. There have been 14 bond requests since 1988 and all have passed.

2016 bond request is the largest in Arlington’s history: \$138,830,000. Funding is needed for:

HB Woodlawn school at Wilson site (478.4 million)
Stratford building addition (\$26.03 million)
Career Center and Arlington Tech (\$12 million)
1300 high school seats (\$10 million for design and planning)
Other general maintenance (\$12.4 million)

ACTION: Don Weinstein, CCPTA Vice President: “I move that the CCPTA endorse the 2016 school bond.” Motion was seconded and passed unanimously. Chris Ditta, CCPTA President: “The CCPTA hereby endorses the 2016 school bond.

Linda Erdos – HS Boundary Update

APS has completed 4 “Getting Started” community meetings. An additional meeting was added in response to community feedback and held in Spanish at Arlington Mill Community Center. Meetings were viewed via livestream by 659 people, via periscope by 407 people, and attended by about 500 people.

Staff and ambassadors also met with 3 PTAs and 4 civic associations, with one more civic association meeting to be attended this week.

158 emails have been received; and 150 index card questions from community meetings gathered; 47 phone messages; and 10,000 website visits. Boundary tool closed today with 1,355 submissions.

Most often cited priority criteria has been “proximity.”

Staff will review and analyze the data over the next few days and formulate some options to be presented at the “What We’ve Heard” community meeting at W-L HS on Thursday. They will also have recommendations regarding sibling preferences. The meeting will be livestreamed.

The Superintendent will make final recommendations to the School Board (SB) on 11/3. The SB will have a work session 11/9 in the Wakefield cafeteria. The session is open to the public but will not afford opportunity for public comments.

NOTE CHANGE IN SB MEETING TO TUESDAY 11/15 instead of Thursday. The 11/15 SB meeting will include a public hearing at 6:30 p.m. On Thursday, 12/1 the SB will take action on the issue.

Arlington Tech – the First 40 Students

Ty Byrd, Director Secondary Education introduced Margaret Chung, Principal of Arlington Tech, who gave a brief presentation about the launching of the new program and outreach efforts that have been made to continue publicizing the program and recruiting interested students. Ms. Chung explained the PBL – or Project-Based Learning – approach taken at Arlington Tech and one of the first students (Bree) was also present to share her experience so far. When she was applying to the program, she wanted to become a forensic anthropologist. Now that she has started, she would like to become a coroner.

Ms. Chung asks for help to spread the word about the program. A Parent Information Night is scheduled for November 15th at the Career Center. It was noted that this conflicts with the public hearing on high school boundaries; so they will need to look into what they will do.

In response to questions:

23% of the Arlington Tech students have an IEP; 52% are identified “gifted.” 7 of the 40 freshmen are female. There will be a concerted effort to recruit more female students; but the application process is a double blind lottery if there are more applications than seats available, with 20 spaces for students coming from each middle school.

Phoenix Bikes

Meg Rapelye, Executive Director gave a presentation on the programs at Phoenix Bikes, which hopes to move from its current location on 4 Mile Run to the currently vacant and larger retail space in Arlington Mill Community Center next March.

Phoenix Bikes conducts activities in several Arlington schools in an attempt to “meet kids where they’re at.” In addition to their Earn-a-bike program, they run after-school bike clubs, a race team, have a youth advisory council, and a former female participant began a girls club called “Chainbreakers.”

It generally costs the organization about \$300 to run a club and some PTAs have voluntarily contributed funds to offset those costs, though it is not required. To have a club at a school, all that is really needed is a staff person to serve as a liaison and secure a space and make announcements.

In addition to their hopeful move to Arlington Mill CC in March, this year also marks the 10th anniversary of Phoenix Bikes, and they are bringing the Youth Bike Summit to Arlington.

Bike Arlington

There was a brief presentation on Bike Arlington’s efforts to promote awareness of transportation options, notably with youth and the Hispanic communities. They have been visiting different schools, selling SMARTrip cards to students who receive ½ - fare on ART and METRO. They want to get kids to start thinking and learning about transportation options other than driving and to promote good habits and the environment.

Superintendent News and Highlights

- SB meeting agenda 11/3 includes Arlington Tech and the Career Center; study on compensation; and high school boundary recommendations.
- Graduation rates continue to be strong at 97%, 68% receiving AP or IB diplomas; 93% graduates going to 2-or 4-year colleges; decrease in dropout rates of Black and ED students.
- SAT scores continue to be above average for the state. Dr. Murphy would remind everyone that SAT scores are merely a predictor of how well a student is likely to do the first semester of college; so it may not be wise or worth while to talk about spending more time on SAT preparation.
- Drew visioning meeting took place this evening. Next meeting will be Thursday, 12/8.

- Various programs and activities at the Parent Resource Center. October is Disability Awareness Month. Many quality programs continue throughout the year.
- College and Career Night moved to W-L and was attended by about 2,000 5th – 12th grade families and 140 colleges.
- Stop arm bus camera program restarted October 3rd.
- APS GO survey runs through 11/4
- Call for entries for adtv's winter break greeting.
- New video series "The Whole Child"
- New video for the summer literacy project "Boys of Color"

School Board representative – Emma Violand-Sanchez

Dr. Sanchez had one question – an open question for the community for suggestions as to how to make appointments to various SB committees and working groups more open and more representative of the population's diversity.

Currently, SB asks FAC, ACI, CCPTA, ACI, etc. if they would like to send a representative and board members may recruit people.

Some suggestions/comments included:

Working through school principals to identify and recruit parents directly;
 E-mail communication from the school administrators;
 Sufficient notice in advance so that the community is aware that a particular committee is being formed and providing information about the specific responsibilities, timeframe, meeting days, and time commitment

Committee Reports

FAC: Been busy with the high school boundary process; have been asked for input regarding the various policies being reviewed.

SEPTA: 11/10 Introduction to Special Education in Spanish in the TJMS library; Mini-grant program deadline was Friday. They have \$3,000 to give out and received requests for \$7,000. "Phantom Ball" fundraiser coming up and PTA donations are welcomed to help fund the grants.

ACI: Expressed concerns about the Career Center/Arlington Tech not being well-known by the community; Seeking feedback on the various high school options.