

**Arlington Public Schools**  
**School Board FY 2016 Priorities**

The School Board establishes annual priorities to assist in keeping the Board's work focused, effective and aligned with its Strategic Plan goals. The Board separately provides budget direction to the Superintendent in development of the annual budget. To accomplish these priorities, the Board will continue to work collaboratively with the Arlington County Board and will continue to engage in a meaningful way with the Arlington community throughout the year.

**Student Achievement and Success**

- Evaluate and refine the Arlington Public Schools (APS) definition of student success, accounting for academic achievement as well as the development of the whole child. Use this revised definition to lay the groundwork for developing the next Strategic Plan.
- Support strategies to improve student outcomes, with particular attention to racially and ethnically diverse groups, English Language Learners, Students with Disabilities, and Economically Disadvantaged Students.
- Continue to focus on literacy, ensuring that students are reading on grade level by grade three and ensuring that struggling readers at all grade levels receive appropriate services.
- Receive an update on full, system-wide implementation of the FLES program and the bi-literacy diploma.
- Strengthen differentiated instruction and begin review of APS Policy 20-3 "Program Differentiation" as part of the work to ensure that all students are challenged and engaged to meet their academic goals.
- Continue to integrate and evaluate the effectiveness of instructional technology to support student learning. Receive an update on teacher, family, and student training for the use of personalized learning through instructional technology and digital citizenship.

**Meeting the Needs of the Whole Child**

- To ensure that each child is healthy, safe, supported, academically engaged and challenged, review and strengthen efforts that effectively align, integrate and foster collaboration among resources of APS, the County government, non-profits, businesses, faith-based organizations and the Arlington community. Our goal is to place each child at the center and provide the necessary educational support and services. This includes services related to supporting:
  - Basic needs, such as food, housing and health care; safety and security
  - Wellness, including exercise, nutrition and stress management
  - Academic support, with tutors and mentors, enrichment, and advanced learning opportunities
  - Leisure activities, including after school activities, recreation, and sports programs.

- Continue the implementation of the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Policy to strengthen and expand FACE programs. Review strategies to strengthen family and community engagement throughout APS and develop indicators to measure progress.

### **Supporting Teachers and Staff**

- Review the program evaluation of Professional Development. Determine if Professional Development is meeting the needs of teachers as expressed by teachers.
- Review the staff compensation study.
- Monitor employment efforts to ensure that hiring practices continue to develop a workforce that reflects the diversity of Arlington Public Schools' student population.
- Monitor and review APS efforts to retain a highly qualified teacher workforce at all instructional levels.

### **Growing Enrollment**

- Determine the location for a new elementary school in South Arlington.
- Approve the final design for the middle school at the Stratford site and award the contract.
- Approve the final design for the school to be built at the Wilson site and award the contract.
- Consider a plan for Arlington Tech at the Career Center, with the first cohort to begin enrollment in the Fall of 2016.
- Adopt the APS Capital Improvement Plan for FY 2017-26.