

School Board Organizational Meeting
July 1, 2015
Mr. Lander's Statement

Thank you. Madam Chair. Good morning again to everyone. It is July again and this year has gone by tremendously fast. I am honored and privileged to have the opportunity to have served as Chair and work collaboratively. I think, for me, this year has been a signal of leadership and flexibility. What you see before you is the result of 5 different changes to the Board and 7 different Board members over the past 12 months. I have hopefully honored my colleagues by leading us forward with the help of the collaboration from our County Board colleagues. I want to point to Jay Fissette, who was the Chair of the County Board when I took over as Chair of the School Board. I would like to thank him for his leadership, his wisdom, and his guidance as we looked to face the challenges of the budget head-on. We redesigned the process so that we obtained what we needed and we did what was right. We were able to give all of the teachers and Extended Day staff step increases. We were able to pay our lowest paid employees for the time that they missed during the snow storm. We re-evaluated the process and established principles that placed us directly in alignment with what we wanted to achieve not only as a School Board or a County Board, but as a community. So I thank you for your leadership.

I also want to thank Ms. Mary Hynes for her leadership and her continued service to this county for over 20 years. Her experience as we ushered in the budget process was very effective to me. We were able to accomplish many things. We also were able to head into the challenges we faced with our rapidly growing school system of 1,000 children per year over the past 7 years. Construction and the CIP is something we worked on collaboratively. We established the community facilities process and working group. We also have a south Arlington working group to move forward on the elementary school in south Arlington. As of today I will be the lead for Facilities and the liaison for the Facilities Advisory Committee. I look forward to that challenge and bringing my experience and leadership to usher us forward.

Mr. Tejada is here today. I want to thank him for his many years of service, his commitment to our community and to a diverse population, ensuring that the voices of those who are often silent are heard. So thank you, Mr. Tejada for being here this morning.

Ms. Libby Garvey is also here. I want to thank her for her many years of service on the School Board. When I first started she was my colleague. Now she is a colleague from the County Board. So I thank you, Ms. Garvey for being here this morning and for your leadership and service to our County. We really appreciate it.

Finally, I would like to thank all of my colleagues here. Again, I talked about the transition and the 7 members we've had over the last 12 months. One of the friendly faces missing is that of Dr. Betty Hobbs who transitioned into retirement, as well as that of Ms. Karen Allen who transitioned this year into retirement. The work that gets done could not be done without them. There is no other way to say that.

As we continue to push forward, I am dependent upon these wonderful ladies here to keep me on the straight and narrow. I thank Dr. Violand-Sánchez for her friendship, for her passion, and whether we're are calling, texting or emailing, our passionate conversations are always in the interest of putting students first. As we move forward we have 2 wonderful new Board members - Dr. Kanninen who has brought so much enthusiasm to the Board, and Ms. Van Doren her expertise

and 4 wonderful children – one who is transitioning out of Arlington schools and 3 who remain in the school system. She brought and reminded us of how the policies at this table are implemented at the school level. So thank you. And of course, Ms. Raphael, this is our last transition meeting with you. So, I want to thank you for your years of service, your diligence, and all of the work you have done. You have made Arlington proud. So, thank you all.