

AFCA Meeting
March 20, 2019

Minutes

School Board member Reid Goldstein made a presentation at the AFCA monthly meeting.

A summary of the presentation is presented below:

- School enrollment projections are recalculated every 10 years.
- Schools are using a new methodology to make these projections.
- The school population is increasing faster at a faster rate than the County population.
- The boundary change process has been completed at the first eight schools. The next phase will occur in 2020.
- The Science Focus school and Key School swap has been paused for further study.
- Board is looking at whether there should be a linkage for IB at the elementary, middle and high school levels.
- The youth risk survey is conducted every two years.
- A transportation review is ongoing. Consideration is being given to creating nodes as pick up points to reduce the time kids spend on the bus.
- In the fall, Patrick Henry will become a Montessori school.
- There are big growth plans for all the programs on the Career Center campus.
- A construction project on the campus is expected to be completed in fall 2025.
- It is being proposed that to accommodate the growth at the Career Center campus, the Columbia Pike Library will be moved.
- Drew will become a neighborhood school and will be renamed.
- The new Heights Building on Wilson Boulevard will include HB and the Stratford program.
- Dorothy Hamm Middle School will be the new name for the school on the existing HB/Stratford site.
- Schools get 47 percent of County-generated revenue.
- The cost due to increasing enrollments is \$10 million over the previous year.
- 1,500 seniors will graduate and 2,200 kindergarten students will start school.
- Arlington teacher pay increases every year and there are excellent benefits. Arlington looks for teachers with 7 to 14 years of experience. There is some concern that pay is not keeping pace with what is offered by other jurisdictions.
- May 9 – the School Board adopts the FY 20 budget.
- April 23 – County Board adopts the tax rate and budget.
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Questions:

- Why does Arlington spend twice as much per pupil as DC, but DC pays the highest teacher salaries? Answer: There are other factors that contribute to per pupil cost besides salaries, including class size, other supports for students, more classes, in-school support for teachers, etc.
- Parents expressed concern about cuts to the crew teams. Crew is no longer an “official” sport.
- What is the impact of Amazon? It’s hard to know what the impact will be until we know what types of business lines Amazon will locate in Arlington. It’s estimated that 15 to 20 percent of Arlington Amazon employees will live here.
- When is Mr. Goldstein up for reelection? November 2019. There is a Democratic endorsement caucus in early June.
- Proposed budget has cuts to library aides. Answer: Mr. Goldstein’s mother was a school librarian, so he understands the importance of what they do.
- Why isn’t more being done to save energy and costs in school facilities? Answer: It is being looked at and there have been a number of improvements made.
- Why is Drew becoming a neighborhood school? Answer: More elementary school space is needed and the Montessori program is going to its own stand alone facility.
- Could the rental income charged to use the schools be raised to increase revenue, and also increase summer school fees? Answer: The Board is looking at ways to increase revenue, including raising the sliding scale income cap for extended day beyond \$65,000.
- Park space is becoming scarcer and scarcer, yet schools treat their open space as a free asset that is not factored into the cost/benefit analysis for school construction. Answer: There is no process to take this into account.

The full presentation is available on the Arlington Public Schools website.

The meeting was adjourned.