

Survey of Issues Facing Arlington Public Schools in Spring 2014

Summary of Responsesⁱ

Question	Critical	Very Important	Important	Of Interest	Not Important	Rank ⁱⁱ
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [More Seats for More Students for Elementary Schools]	4	2	1	2		3
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [More Seats for More Students for Middle Schools]	5	3	1			2
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [More Seats for More Students for High Schools]	6	2	1			1
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [10-Year Capital Improvement Plan for 2015-2024]	3	3	3			4
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [2014-2015 Budget]	2	3	2	2		6
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [Projects That are Already Underway (e.g, Ashlawn, McKinley, etc.)]	1	2	4	2		8
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [Student Achievement Gap]	2	2	2	3		7
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [Operations (e.g., Transportation, Snow Removal, Cafeteria, etc.)]			2	6	1	10
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [Student Instruction (e.g., Curriculum, Class Size, etc.)]	2	3	3	1		5
Please indicate how important each topic is to you. [Other]	1	1				9
How can APS improve its notifications and communications?	Systemwide, they do a good job. Individual school communication varies a lot from school to school. Some have daily emails and others do a weekly send-out. The more communication coming from your individual school, the better.					
If you have contacted the APS School Board during the past 12 months, what issues have you discussed?	Proposed budget cuts of library assistants. Very much against this cut.					
What questions would you like to ask Ms. Baird during the May 28, 2014 BCA General Membership Meeting?	When will you convert ATS into a neighborhood school in keeping with Arlington's stated policy of having walkable neighborhood schools?					
	VI-Why won't the school board consider moving ATS and turning that school back into a neighborhood school?					
	Why is the SB so supportive of this superintendent, when he is so unpopular with teachers and parents?					
	Thoughts about replicating the success of the small school model as part of the capacity improvement strategy.					
	please comment generally on the quality of the relationship with the County on budget matters.					
	Neighborhood students given preference for ATS.					
The recommendation that the Superintendent presented on May 8 is constrained by a 9.8% cap on APS's bonding capacity and does not						

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	provide enough seats when they are needed. What will be done to provide enough seats when they are needed? What will be the community engagement process and timelines to add relocatables to each site? How will core capacity (e.g., cafeterias and gymnasiums) be augmented to accommodate students in relocatables (some students already had to go to lunch at 10:40am, and Claremont with over 725 students already is losing playground space due to construction of storm water management facilities)?
	How will the School Board make an informed decision when it votes on the recommendation that the Superintendent presented on May 8 with all of its unknown quantities, e.g., the site of the new elementary school for option E-1 is unspecified (although the County Manager has proposed 3 sites) and option E-4 is for an addition at an unnamed school and does not specify how many seats it would add and the cost per seat.
	Using the criteria that the School Board adopted for evaluating CIP options, staff and the FAC rated each option. What process was used to assign a score for each criteria to each option when some options have unknowns, e.g., E-1 and E-4?
	The McKinley Elementary Schematic Design presented on May 8 compared the \$83,402.49 per seat cost to the \$90,999.67 per seat cost for the Ashlawn Elementary addition. While each site poses unique challenges, how is the \$118,840 per seat cost of option E-2 of the recommendation that the Superintendent presented on May 8 reconcile with the cost per seat for the Ashlawn addition? E-3 is the staff's second high rated option after E-1.
	Enrollment intervention has been in several CIP presentations. What will be the community engagement process and timelines to establish enrollment intervention for each school or program where it will be used?
	APS has had a strategic goal to close the student achievement gap between student groups since at least 1999. While reading and math Annual Measurable Objectives in 2012-2013 were on target, they remain up to 24% lower in reading and 20% lower in 2013 in math for the Gap Groups. Advanced Placement course enrollment was 41% and 48% at Washington-Lee and Yorktown, but 28% at Wakefield. What is programs are in place or being initiated to close the gaps and differences?
Please write anything else that you would like to add.	Thanks to Ms. Baird for being willing to be so flexible in communicating with us!

ⁱ 9 Responses were received as of April 6, 2014

ⁱⁱ Rankings in the last column of first 10 issues was estimated.