



**DATE: Monday, January 23, 2023**  
**PLACE: Virtually from 7:00 - 9:00 PM**

- **Meeting Called to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:01pm ET. A quorum was established virtually by Zoom:
  - Executive Committee Members in attendance:
    - Claire Noakes, CCPTA President
    - Will Le, CCPTA Second Vice-President
    - Dima Hakura, CCPTA Vice-President Advocacy
    - Jamie McHenry, Grant Fund Committee Chair
    - Saul Reyes, Vice-President Membership
    - Michael O’Leary, Secretary
    - Christa Mansur, Partnerships Committee Chair
  
- **7:05 PM: Discussion with APS Leadership**
  - APS Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán
  - School Board Member Mary Kadera
  - County Board Chair Christian Dorsey
  
- Dr. Durán addressed questions regarding students who have an adverse reaction to safety drills such as a lockdown drill. He explained that APS has a policy for lock-down drills that aligns with Virginia law and includes two components: (1) during the first sixty days of schools there are no lock-down drills for pre-k and kindergarten students; and (2) parents will be provided at least twenty fours notice of when a lock-down drill may occur. However, they will not be advised exactly when it will occur. But conversely, advance notice is not provided for fire drills which is also consistent with state guidance. If parents have specific questions or concerns they can reach out directly to APS.
  
- Dr. Durán addressed questions regarding APS staff and the use of an outside consultant to conduct a review of current facilities and infrastructure across all of APS schools. He explained that the results of that work will be ready in the spring of 2023. APS anticipates that the framework it is developing with the consultant will be reviewed by the Advisory Council on School Facilities and Capital Programs this spring as well and will be available for consideration in connection with the upcoming CIP process in 2024. The framework will provide sufficient detail to inform APS’s prioritization of future projects.
  
- Dr. Durán provided an overview of the Talking Points pilot program that APS is currently evaluating. The Talking Points platform is an application that supports

145 language and allows for two way communication between students and families. Most importantly, the platform has the capability to properly translate educational terms. The pilot program has been conducted at the following schools: Carlin Springs, Randolph, Gunston, Kenmore, Wakefield and Washington-Liberty. Thus far, the feedback APS has received has been very positive. And if that positive experience continues, APS will be looking at how to implement the platform into a future budget for County-wide use.

- CCPTA's recent school supplies resolution asked APS to take another look at providing critical school supplies that are required for educational attainment. Dr. Durán addressed questions regarding requests by school testing coordinators for their PTAs to provide headphones with a built-in microphone, for the purposes of conducting mandated testing. Dr. Durán indicated that requests for additional testing equipment should always be directed to APS's testing office which can arrange for replacement headphones. He will ask school principals to remind staff to direct these requests to APS rather than school PTAs since testing equipment is something that should be provided by the APS central office. He was not sure what the lead time required is for certain replacements. However, if PTAs are fielding requests for testing headphones or other items that are provided by APS, they should bring it to the attention of their school principal or Kimberley Graves, Chief of School Support at APS.
- Dr. Durán addressed questions regarding recent HVAC issues at APS schools. APS does have emergency funds that it can use for issues like the recent one facing an Arlington elementary school. However, many of its HVAC systems need significant renovation or replacement. Those type of activities require dedicated funding in the CIP. Systematic repairs cannot be addressed through emergency funds.
- Dr. Durán discussed APS policies regarding communication protocols for a threat or safety incident which include both contacting law enforcement directly and APS's threat assessment team. There is no formal communication policy difference between elementary, middle, and high school students. However, there may be differences in how APS's threat assessment team interacts with the students given their age and maturity. APS works to be as transparent as possible about such incidents but must abide by restrictions imposed by law (e.g., FERPA) and the need to keep information confidential during an ongoing investigation.
- Dr. Durán and Mr. Dorsey addressed questions regarding Arlington County's extended day program. Dr. Durán noted that one of the major challenges to the extended day program is the ability to recruit workers. APS is using monthly in-person recruiting events to try and address the recruiting issue. Mr. Dorsey explained that the County Board has been working on potential solutions and believes it can make the funding available if workers can be found.

- **Guest Presentation on School Food Security**
  - Stephanie Hopkins, Food Security Coordinator, Arlington County Department of Human Services gave a presentation to the General Membership on the School Food Security Inventory.
  
- **President’s Report—Claire Noakes**
  - With a quorum present a motion was made to approve the November CCPTA Minutes and seconded
    - The motion passed by unanimous voice vote
  - Ms. Noakes discussed the CCPTA’s new website and centrally-managed email addresses and the transition
  - Ms. Noakes introduced a proposal for CCPTA to develop and publicize open volunteer positions at our PTAs and addressed questions from the general membership
  - Ms. Noakes discussed changes to the CCPTA’s Summer Activity Fair on February 16th at Kenmore Middle School and made a request for volunteers
  
- **Recap of Reflections Ceremony, April Maddox, Chair, Reflections Committee**
  - Ms. Maddox provided an overview of the 2022-23 Reflections program and awards ceremony
  
- **Presentation on Upcoming Panel Discussion**
  - Katrina Brubaker, President, YHS PTA provided a preview of a panel discussion on March 13, 2023 regarding substance abuse challenges at Arlington high schools
  
- **Grant Committee—Jamie McHenry**
  - The CCPTA Grant Fund considered eight applications from five elementary schools and approved seven of them for a total of \$6,443.
  - Ms. McHenry noted that of the eight applications, only three of them did not involve a request for transportation which may be tied to APS’s decision to remove that from its budget.
  - Additional information on the grant process will be available on the CCPTA website.

- **SEPTA Update—Kathleen Clark**
  - Ms. Clark introduced Kristin Gillig, the Parent Liaison at Swanson MS
  - Ms. Gillig noted that they still need representatives from the following schools: Carlin Springs, Claremont, Key, Fleet, Glebe, Oakridge, Taylor, and HB-Woodlawn.
  - SEPTA’s Advocacy Committee is seeking additional community input on important issues to inform its work including facilities accessibility, accommodations for students at a high risk for COVID, AAC users, discipline, transportation, and behavioral support.
  
- **Treasurer’s Report—Presented by Will Le**
  - Mr. Le presented on the status of the current budget.
  
- **Advocacy and Policy Updates—Dima Hakura**
  - Ms. Hakura discussed the upcoming virtual constituent connection meetings in connection with the next Virginia legislative session and encouraged members to participate.
  - Ms. Hakura explained there were four areas of focus for Virginia PTA advocacy in connection with the upcoming session: (1) fully lifting 2009 recession caps on support staff; (2) additional funding for the standards of quality, which includes assistant principals, English learners, and funds for at-risk schools; (3) expanding reading specialists and resources for 6th and 8th graders; and (4) expanding funding to modernize school buildings.
  - Ms. Hakura also discussed the new Virginia history standards and the process for soliciting public input.
  
- **Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:07pm.

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