



DATE: Monday, February 27, 2023
PLACE: Virtually from 7:00 – 9:00 PM

- **Meeting Called to Order:** The Meeting was called to order at approximately 7:03pm 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

- **Discussion with APS/School Board Leadership:** APS and County leadership addressed questions submitted by the CCPTA Executive Committee and General Membership. Mr. Le posed questions to our guests:
 - APS Superintendent Dr. Francisco Durán
 - School Board Member Bethany Zecher Sutton
 - County Board Chair Takis Karantonis

 - Dr. Francisco Durán discussed the APS Safety Audit Committee appointed by the Superintendent. He noted the Committee is mandated by the Code of Virginia and includes two parent representatives who were appointed in January 2023 for two-year terms. The Committee’s role is primarily focused on the review of APS safety audits. Anyone who is interested in being considered as a parent representative for the next term commencing in January 2025 can contact APS’s Safety, Security and Risk Management (“SSRM”) Office. APS’s SSRM office is responsible for collecting school safety data including the review of “concern reports” submitted by the general public. The data is collected and made public by the SSRM office in an annual monitoring report which is publicly available.

 - In response to questions regarding whether APS is considering the return of School Resource Officers to APS schools, Dr. Durán explained the recent decision to remove SROs from APS buildings was the result of review by a working group and community engagement. Thus, before APS would consider returning SROs to schools, there would need to be a new working group formed and additional community engagement. APS has been working to review its existing relationship with the Arlington County Police Department and its next Memorandum of Understanding with the ACPD. That includes ensuring that ACPD has adequate access to APS facilities.

- Dr. Durán discussed the factors that APS considers when deciding whether it should contact the police to report an individual trespassing on school property. Dr. Durán noted that the key factors include whether a weapon is involved, whether there has been threatening behavior exhibited toward APS students or staff, and whether the individual has previously trespassed on APS property.
- Dr. Durán outlined APS's program for rotating administrators among different positions which is described in its existing policy as "career rotations." The program is generally voluntary although there have been instances where individuals have been involuntarily transferred. The rotations typically involved transfers between school levels (e.g., elementary to middle school) and transfers between school and central office environments. There are between 8-10 such changes within APS each year.
- Mr. Karantonis addressed a question regarding whether there was an active investigation or an arrest of the person who provided drugs to the student who recently died of an overdose at an APS school. He noted that he was not at liberty to comment on any ongoing investigations by law enforcement. However, Arlington residents should expect that the County takes these types of incidents very seriously and evaluates both the specific circumstances of the incident as well as its larger context.
- Mr. Karantonis addressed a question regarding feedback from students that they are not interested in seeking mental health counseling from APS-employed counselors, because of perceived trust issues. Mr. Karantonis explained that he had recently discussed the question with both APS and County mental health staff and that creating trust is an area of focus for them. He also addressed the possibility of placing County counselors in APS schools. The County is considering the possibility but faces challenges that need to be overcome to achieve that goal. First, the County's child behavioral health unit has a 43% vacancy rate due to difficulties in recruiting. The County is continuing to look for ways to address these staffing shortages including through recruiting and retention incentives. Second, the County would need to execute a separate memorandum of understanding and address legal restrictions under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.
 - Dr. Durán noted that APS is very interested in exploring the possibility of County mental health professions in APS facilities and is in close contact with the County on the issue. Ms. Sutton noted that the School Board is also supportive of exploring the proposal.
- Dr. Durán addressed a follow-up from prior meeting where school testing coordinators were advised to contact Laura Pellegrino in APS's central office regarding additional headphones for testing. He clarified that funding for additional testing equipment at APS's Central Office had been exhausted but that individual schools should still have funds in their budgets. Accordingly, school testing coordinators should contact their principals. Although real-time budget information

- is not available to the public, PTAs should be able to find out what the funding levels for their schools are each year including with respect to supplies.
- Dr. Durán explained that APS is in the process of training all bus drivers to administer Narcan and expects to complete that process shortly.
 - **Guest Presentation on Coordination Opportunities – Jenn Owens, President & CEO, Arlington Community Foundation**
 - Ms. Owens gave a presentation to the general membership on the Arlington Community Foundation including its role, activities, and how it can support projects around the County.
 - Ms. Owens addressed questions from the general membership.
 - **President’s Report—Claire Noakes**
 - With a quorum present a motion was made to approve the January CCPTA Minutes and seconded
 - The motion passed by unanimous voice vote
 - Ms. Noakes introduced a discussion on the APS’s preliminary budget and upcoming work sessions. She noted that it was important for any comments or feedback on the preliminary budget to be submitted before the public hearing on April 25th.
 - Ms. Noakes addressed some key aspects of the preliminary budget.
 - There was a discussion amongst the general membership regarding issues in the preliminary budget.
 - **SEPTA Update—Kathleen Clark**
 - Ms. Clark announced that SEPTA is still looking for liaisons at seven schools: Carlin Springs, Key, Fleet, Glebe, Oakridge, Taylor, and H-B Woodlawn.
 - Ms. Clark discussed SEPTA’s facilities survey.
 - She noted that SEPTA March meeting was moved to March 28th.
 - SEPTA discussed upcoming teacher nominations.
 - **March 13 Call to Action on Student Drug Abuse and Mental Health—Judith Davis**
 - Ms. Davis provided an overview of the upcoming March 13 event and encouraged members to attend.
 - **Reminder of Officer Nomination Process Under Bylaws—Saul Reyes**
 - Mr. Reyes gave a presentation on the required process for new officer elections by local PTA units.
 - **Treasurer’s Report—Presented by Will Le**
 - Mr. Le provided an overview of current expenditures and budget projections
 - Mr. Le noted that some PTAs still have not paid their dues. Dues can be paid via the CCPTA website.
 - **Meeting Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:16pm.