

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
July 9, 2020 (7:00 p.m.)

Meeting Held via Zoom

On March 12, 2020, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and Acts of Assembly Chap. 1283 § 4-0.01(g), virtual School Board meetings held during the State of Emergency are limited to:

- addressing the public health emergency declared on March 12, 2020 (Va. Code § 44-146.17); and
- business that is necessary to continue school division operations and to discharge the School Board's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Notice of any virtual School Board Meetings will be posted on the ACPS Calendar and on the School Board Meeting web page, where the public may link to join or watch live meetings. Virtual Special Called School Board Meetings may also be watched live in Alexandria on Comcast Channel 71. Video recordings and minutes for these meetings are posted online as soon as available after the meeting.

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Cindy Anderson
Veronica R. Nolan
Meagan L. Alderton (absent)
Ramee A. Gentry
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber (absent)
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting with the exception of Ms. Alderton and Ms. Lorber, who were absent.

Moment of Silence

2. Observe a Moment of Silence

A Moment of Silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

3. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the July 9, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the July 9, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for July 9, 2020 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Public Hearing on the Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0

Mr. Michael Doney, ACPS parent, spoke about his middle school student's unsuccessful online experience during the past school year. He expressed that his student was not learning and that the amount of parent input required was excessive. Mr. Doney also questioned why an option for full-time in-school learning was not included in the ACPS back-to-school survey.

Ms. Genea Luck, ACPS parent, spoke about her first grade student's difficulty using the online learning model during the last school year. She expressed how difficult it was for young students to sit still and for teachers to keep students engaged. Ms. Luck also expressed that her student's experience in summer camp has been eye-opening, as it is very difficult for young students to keep their masks on or to social distance. She encouraged parents to volunteer to be paired with teachers to support them.

Chair's Report

5. Report from Cindy M. Anderson

Chair Anderson did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

6. Report from Superintendent Hutchings

Dr. Hutchings thanked the staff and teachers for their efforts during the past school year using online learning. He remarked that many lessons were learned along the way and that he appreciates receiving feedback, which will help to refine the process. Dr. Hutchings also noted that there will be a discussion at the July 10th meeting on the Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0.

Adjournment

7. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Greene and seconded by Mr. Suarez, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The meeting ended at 7:19 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the July 17, 2020 School Board Meeting.