

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
August 14, 2020 (12:00 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
Ramee A. Gentry
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Dr. Terri Mazingo, Darrell Sampson, Heidi Haggerty-Wagner, Rene Paschal, Ingrid Bynum, Pierrette Peters, Peter Balas, Dr. Alicia Hart, Clinton Page, Kurt Huffman, Dr. Julie Crawford, Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Dr. Bethany Nickerson

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

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 August 14, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the August 14, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Nolan moved to amend the agenda to add “Supplemental Personnel Actions” to the Consent Calendar and “Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools Update” to Old Business.

Ms. Gentry seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda to add “Supplemental Personnel Actions” and “Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0” to the agenda was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

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

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Public Comments

Ms. Tess Dorrier, ACPS parent, expressed concerns about the proposed schedule for the youngest elementary school students. She believes that engaging students in shorter lessons with smaller classes would allow students to be fully engaged, enhancing their education.

Mr. Harry “Bud” Hart, community member, urged the School Board to support changing the name of T.C. Williams High School, and suggested changing the name to honor Judge Nolan B. Dawkins.

Ms. Louise Muth, ACPS parent, asked the Board to provide flexibility and options for first grade students instead of trying to recreate a whole in-person education in a virtual environment. She suggested that the goal should be to provide parents with tools and options for helping their children learn in fun ways that will foster a lifelong love of learning.

Consent Calendar

5. Minutes for the August 6 and August 7, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meetings

6. Supplemental Personnel Actions

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

No items were pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business and Action Items

1. Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0: Reimagining Schools Update

Dr. Hutchings, Senior Leadership Team members, principals and staff gave an overview of the sample student schedules (preschool, elementary, K-8, middle, and high), guidance on facility usage and access, an update on community-provided child care and eligibility, as well as results from the ACPS Virtual PLUS+ Supports Poll.

Board Members asked questions about enhancing student socialization, transitioning between learning activities for younger students, and additional staff for supporting students who are not

attending. They also asked questions about technology support, childcare options and eligibility for ACPS families, as well as flexibility of schedules for staff with children.

Dr. Hutchings notified the Board that a Board Brief with additional details would be provided later in the afternoon and noted that the information provided today may change as the conditions regarding COVID-19 change.

Superintendent's Report

1. Report from Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

Dr. Hutchings did not give a report.

Chair's Report

2. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson reminded the public that the next meeting will be a work session where one of the items is a T.C. Williams renaming discussion. She invited the community to listen in on that discussion and other topics that will be presented during the work session.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

3. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of employment, performance, and contractual matters for ten (10) specific public employees.

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 2:23 p.m.

4. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, and which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on August 14, 2020.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

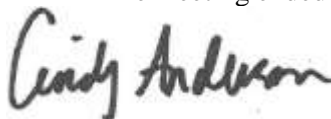
The Board returned to open session at 4:40 p.m.

Adjournment

5. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Gentry and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The vote was taken by roll call.

The meeting ended at 4:41 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the September 10, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting.