

MINUTES
VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
October 22, 2020 (8:00 a.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, Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Dr. Alicia Hart

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m. Members of the School Board present at the start of the meeting were Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Nolan, Ms. Gentry, Ms. Greene, Ms. Lorber, and Dr. Rief. Mr. Suarez joined after the vote to amend the agenda. Ms. Alderton and Ms. Thornton joined during the Closed Meeting.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

2. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the October 22, 2020 virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the agenda for the October 22, 2020 virtual Special Called School Board Meeting.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Ms. Gentry moved to amend the agenda to add the item “Motion to Approve Settlement” after the Certification of the Closed Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion

The vote to amend the agenda to add “Motion to Approve Settlement” was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Mr. Suarez had joined the meeting just prior to the vote. The vote was taken by roll call.

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)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to convene a Closed Meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The Board moved into the Closed Meeting at 8:06 a.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 October 22, 2020.

Ms. Gentry seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call. Ms. Lorber did not return after the Closed Meeting.

The Board returned to an open meeting at 8:59 a.m.

5. Motion to Approve Settlement

Vice Chair Nolan moved that the Board approve the proposed settlement of the following cases: *Lewis et al v. City of Alexandria and Alexandria City School Board*; *Lugo v. City of Alexandria and Alexandria City School Board*; *Cacheris v. City of Alexandria and Alexandria City School Board*; and *Goff et al. v. City of Alexandria and Alexandria City School Board*, on the terms discussed in closed session; and authorize the School Board Attorney to execute on behalf of the School Board a Consent Order in a form consistent with that reviewed in closed session, contingent on approval of the settlement by all parties to the above litigation.

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to approve the settlement as discussed in the Closed Meeting and authorize the School Board Attorney to issue a Consent Order on behalf of the School Board. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call. Board Member Lorber did not return after the Closed Meeting.

Adjournment

6. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Gentry and seconded by Ms. Alderton, the Board voted unanimously, 8-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The meeting ended at 9:01 a.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the October 29, 2020 School Board Meeting.