

MINUTES
VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
December 17, 2020 (4:00 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, Ashley Sanchez-Viafara, Dr. Alicia Hart, Erika Gulick, Dr. Terri Mazingo, Dr. Stephen Haering, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Tiana Dominick, Pierrette Peters, Ingrid Bynum, Peter Balas, Jesse Mazur, Jodie Peters, Darrell Sampson, Cory Kapelski, John Finnigan, Julia Burgos

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 4:02 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 December 17, 2020 Virtual School Board Meeting

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the December 17, 2020 Virtual School Board Meeting. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the agenda for December 17, 2020 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Chair Anderson noted that the Board was expected to amend the agenda before approving. She called for a motion to amend the agenda.

Vice Chair Nolan moved to amend the agenda to add the item “December Personnel Action” to the Consent Calendar. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda to add “December Personnel Action” was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Chair Anderson called for a new motion to adopt the amended agenda.

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the amended agenda for December 17, 2020. Ms. Gentry seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the amended agenda for December 17, 2020 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Public Comments

Ms. Jennifer Niccolls, ACPS parent, spoke about the challenges her family has faced with online learning this school year. She encouraged the School Board to urgently return students to in-person instruction.

Ms. Dawn Lucas, ACPS staff member and EAA President, thanked Superintendent Hutchings for giving educators the option of returning back to school instead of making it a requirement. She shared that many educators have personal reasons for not returning at this time and thanked Dr. Hutchings for respecting their choices.

Mr. Bill Patchak, ACPS parent, expressed his gratitude that concurrent teaching is planned to begin in January 2021, and also expressed his fear that the planning to transition to in-person learning will be stalled because the planning is based on health metrics that fluctuate. Mr. Patchak encouraged the Board to create more adaptive plans so that students can get back to in-person education.

Ms. Kirsi Chavez, ACPS parent, shared a personal experience where she believes that virtual learning is affecting her children’s mental health negatively. She also encouraged the Board to return to in-person learning.

Hakan Ozsancak, ACPS parent, encouraged the School Board and the administration to produce new plans with better options for families who would like their children to return to in-person learning.

Ms. Zion Bezu, ACPS parent, asked the Board to include funding for counselors in the upcoming budget that will solely focus on the mental well-being for Advanced Placement, Honors, and Talented and Gifted students.

Ms. Lee Abbott, ACPS parent, encouraged the administration to accurately inform their employees and the community with information from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and begin the transition back to in-person learning as soon as possible.

Ms. Kirsten Dougherty, community member, encouraged the Board to plan a safe return to school for students as soon as possible.

Ms. Sarah McIlrath, ACPS parent, expressed her concern for families within the community who do not have the ability or resources to facilitate virtual learning. She further expressed her fear that the most vulnerable students are being left behind and encouraged the Board to expedite plans for those students to return to in-person learning.

5. Report from Student Representatives Lorraine Johnson and Ashley Sanchez-Viafara

Ms. Ashley Sanchez-Viafara shared virtual events held over Zoom at T.C. Williams recently, including students providing thank you notes to teachers for their hard work, a lunch where students discussed classroom initiatives, and a Winter Break spirit week. She also reported on the progress of student involvement in the Identity Project and renaming of schools.

Ms. Lorraine Johnson was absent from the meeting.

Consent Calendar

- 6. Personnel Actions for the Month of November 2020**
- 7. FY 2021 Preliminary Monthly Financial Report Ending October 31, 2020**
- 8. FY 2021 Preliminary Monthly Financial Report Ending September 30, 2020**
- 9. Douglas MacArthur New Build: GMP #1 – Abatement & Demolition Contract**
- 10. Revisions to G, C & K (Personnel and Law Enforcement-Related) Policies and Regulations**
- 11. 2020-2021 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee Scope of Work**
- 12. 2019-2020 Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee Annual Report**
- 13. 2020-2021 Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee Scope of Work**
- 14. 2019-2020 Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee End of Year Report**
- 15. Appoint Laura Fontaine to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- 16. Minutes for the December 3, 2020 Virtual School Board Meeting and the December 9, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting**
- 17. December Personnel Action**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Lorber 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

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business & Action Items

18. Adoption of the FY 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Budget

Superintendent Hutchings congratulated Dr. Alicia Hart on her new position as Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, and thanked her for her consistent and effective leadership.

Dr. Hart and Ms. Erika Gulick, Director of Capital Programs, Planning and Design, thanked the School Board for their support of the CIP Budget, and thanked the CIP and Financial Services teams for all of their hard work.

Vice Chair Nolan moved that the School Board approve the FY 2022-2030 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget in the total amount of \$551,483,000 with \$55,199,200 in FY 2022. She further moved that the Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the School Board.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the FY 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Budget was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

19. Update on Virtual+ Plus and Phased Reopening: Phasing in Pre-K to 12 Students

Superintendent Hutchings, along with Dr. Terri Mazingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, gave an update on the Enhanced Continuity of Learning Plan 5.0: Reimagining Schools. The presentation included updates based on a change in community-based health metrics, the ability of staff to return to in-person teaching, and capacity constraints. They reviewed an updated timeline for returning students to hybrid learning, reviewed the instructional model and schedule as well as professional learning opportunities for staff. Dr. Stephen Haering, Director of the Alexandria Health Department updated the Board on community health metrics, risk of transmission in schools, and noted that Alexandria is not in a good situation at this time. Board Members asked questions about the Intent to Return Form, air quality in schools, the timeline for decision making, and COVID vaccines for staff.

20. Areas of Focus Update – Academic Disparities: TAG + Middle School Honors

Dr. Gerald Mann Jr, Executive Director of Instructional Support, and ACPS staff members gave an update regarding the enrollment data for Talented and Gifted (TAG), middle and high school honor courses, Advanced Placement (AP), and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses. The data suggest that ACPS has disproportionality in enrollment in all of its advanced courses or programs. They also discussed AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) supports for advanced students, how to expand advanced classes to allow equal access, and ways ACPS will support students in advanced classes.

21. SY 2021-2022 Program of Studies for Secondary Schools

Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Instructional Support, informed the Board that the Dual Language Spanish US History II Class was missing from the Program of Studies presentation on December 3rd and has been added to the current version.

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the SY 2021-2022 Program of Studies for Secondary Schools. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the SY 2021-2022 Program of Studies for Secondary Schools was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

22. ACPS 2021 Legislative Agenda Revision

The 2021 Proposed Legislative Agenda was first reviewed at the October 21, 2020 Work Session and adopted at the November 23, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting.

Chair Anderson shared that the revision to the ACPS 2021 Legislative Agenda was to include language in support of legislation to provide college and university tuition grants to DACA students.

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the ACPS 2021 Legislative Agenda Revision. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the ACPS 2021 Legislative Agenda Revision was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

New Business and Reports to the Board

23. FY 2021 CIP Quarterly Report for Q1

Mr. John Finnigan, Facilities Project Manager, reviewed the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Report for Quarter 1, which outlines the progress and budget status of all projects in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The report is organized by school site and contains

project status data on major projects through September 2020, as well as addressing the financial standing of the CIP budget.

Ms. Gentry moved to accept the FY 2021 CIP Quarterly report for Q1. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY2021 CIP Quarterly Report for Q1 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

24. SY 2021-2022 Proposed School Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Susan Neilson, Clerk of the Board, presented the proposed 2021-2022 School Board Meeting Calendar. The calendar was developed to align with the academic calendar, key budget dates, and other School Board obligations. The 2021-2022 School Board Meeting Calendar, will return for adoption at the January 7, 2021 Organizational Board Meeting.

Chair's Report

25. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson reported that the next School Board Meeting will be held on January 7, 2021, and the Board Leadership Election. She also reported that the Presentation of the FY 2022 Superintendent's Proposed Combined Funds Budget will be presented at the same meeting.

Chair Anderson further wished happy holidays to her colleagues and the community.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings thanked Alexandria City Public Schools staff for their hard work and efforts, and thanked the School Board for all of the work they do together in such a short amount of time. Further, he wished everyone happy holidays.

Announcements by Board Members

27. Announcements

There were no announcements.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

28. Closed Meeting

29. Certification of Closed Meeting

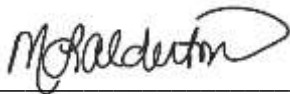
No Closed Meeting was held.

Adjournment


30. Adjourn

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

The meeting ended at 7:52 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the January 21, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting.

