

MINUTES
VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
January 28, 2021 (5:00 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: Meagan L. Alderton
Cindy Anderson

Ramee A. Gentry
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber
Veronica R. Nolan
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Dominic Turner, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dr. Julie Crawford, Darrell Sampson, Dr. Bethany Nickerson, Jennifer Abbruzzese, Dr. Stephen Wilkins

Discussion Topics

The work session began at 5:02 p.m. All Board Members were present at the meeting.

Discussion Topics

1. Public Comments

Kyle Martin, ACPS parent, shared data and asked the School Board to immediately reexamine their decision, match the State Department's guidelines and return students to school.

2. FY 2022 Combined Funds Work Session #2

Mr. Dominic Turner, Chief Financial Officer, presented a summary of non-personnel operating expenditures for the FY 2022 Proposed Combined Funds Budget specifically improvement of instruction, K-2 literacy investment, Social, Emotional, and Academic Learning (SEAL) services, equity, staff retention, community outreach expansion, and improving educational facilities.

Superintendent Hutchings, Mr. Turner and various staff members collectively answered questions from School Board Members on school renaming, the customer management system, funding for SEAL, and translation services.

3. Revisions to C, D, and G Policies

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives, presented revisions to C, D and G policies as part of the Board’s continuing policy review cycle. Ten policies from the classifications were proposed for revision and one policy was proposed for deletion.

School Board Members asked questions about policy GCG regarding the language around teacher resignation notification and re-employing teachers with unsatisfactory evaluations. Mr. Suarez suggested revised language to policy CBG: Superintendent’s Evaluation to read “jointly developed” rather than “agreed upon” to avoid future legal issues. Dr Rief asked about the breakdown of positions which fall into the category of “provisional license” referred to in policy GC. Dr. Wilkins indicated he would get that information to the Board.

Ms. Abbruzzese will return to the Board with updated language to these policies at a later meeting.

The work session ended at 6:08 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the February 4, 2021 School Board Meeting.