

**MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**April 22, 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. As a result, this meeting is being held electronically pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3), for the purpose of providing for the continuity of operations of the School Board for the discharge of its lawful purposes, duties and responsibilities. All members of the School Board are participating via Zoom. Public participation remains virtual and may be accessed by the public through the live broadcast on Comcast channel 71 in Alexandria, through the livestream on the ACPS website, or via Zoom by following the link posted at the top of the published agenda.

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**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Meagan L. Alderton  
Cindy Anderson

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Dr. Terri Mazingo, Dr. Anne Gaddy, Debbie Bowers, Lina Zimmerman, Christina Chommanard, Pierrette Peters, Kristin Donley, Rene Paschal, Dr. Gerald F. Mann, Jr., Terry Werner, Dr. Bethany Nickerson, Darrell Sampson, Dr. Alicia Kingcade, Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Dr. Alicia Hart, Sandra Hardeman, T. Michael Carson, Sheril Waldron, John Porter, Dominic Turner, John Finnigan

**Call to Order**

**1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton**

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Vice Chair Nolan and Ms. Lorber who were absent for the duration 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 April 22, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 22, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

Ms. Gentry moved to amend the agenda to remove the “Recognition of ACPS Principal of the Year, Teacher of the Year and Support Staff Member of the Year” item from the Communications and Addresses to the Board.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda to remove the “Recognition of the Principal of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Support Staff Member of the Year” was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for April 22, 2021 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Both votes were taken by roll call.

Chair Alderton noted that the recognition item is moved to the May 6, 2021 School Board Meeting as ACPS did not want to make any premature announcements prior to the Washington Post releasing the names of their finalists for the 2021 Teacher and Principal of the Year.

### **Communications & Addresses to the Board**

#### **4. Public Comments**

Ms. Erika Melman, ACPS parent, spoke about the CDC 3ft guidelines and implementing them in schools.

Mr. Kyle Martin, ACPS parent, shared statistics regarding ACPS funding and encouraged the School Board to be more aggressive in their tactics to return more students to in-person learning.

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

There was no report from the student representatives as both Ms. Johnson and Ms. Sanchez-Viafara were absent from the meeting.

### **Consent Calendar**

#### **6. Community Use of Facilities Report for March 2021**

#### **7. Supplemental Personnel Actions**

#### **8. Donation to ACPS**

#### **9. 2021-2022 Local Perkins V Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Federal Perkins Funds**

#### **10. E Policy Revisions**

#### **11. Minutes for April 8, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting, the April 8, 2021 Virtual Work Session, the April 13, 2021 Virtual School Board Retreat, and the April 13 and April 16, 2021 Special Called School Board Meetings**

Ms. Anderson moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. 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**

### **12. Hybrid Reopening 5.0 Spring, Summer, Fall Learning and Air Quality Update**

Superintendent Hutchings and Dr. Terri Mozingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, along with various ACPS staff members gave an update on school reopening plans for spring and summer learning, and for reopening for virtual and 5-day in-person learning in the fall. It included updates on the 3 ft. social distancing guidelines, playground and recess, the proposed revision to the Samuel Tucker modified academic calendar, and return to work for staff members. Dr. Alicia Hart, Executive Director of Facilities & Operations, updated the Board on the facilities team efforts for fall space planning, and gave a thorough explanation of classroom ventilation and air quality efforts. Dr. Anne Gaddy, Acting Health Director of the Alexandria Health Department and additional AHD staff highlighted what the current health guidance is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Virginia Department of Health (VDH), and the Alexandria Health Department (AHD).

School Board Members asked questions about air quality, outdoor lunch options, space availability from the City, air quality/social distancing plans regarding transportation, and an upcoming parent survey on their students' intent to return in the fall.

### **13. Human Resources Audit Update**

Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Chief of Staff, introduced the Human Resources (HR) Department staff who updated the Board on current work that included ongoing training, updating files to digital formats, the revised staff evaluation system, staff return to work, and recent and ongoing hiring efforts to fill key positions within ACPS.

Dr. Wilkins further reviewed the progress the HR Department is making on the recommendations from the Audit of the Human Resources Function completed in September 2018 by Gibson Consulting Group. To date, the HR Department has completed 18 of 25 recommendations from the audit.

School Board Members thanked the HR staff members for all of their hard work but would like to see more specific data in any upcoming presentations on the audit.

## **New Business and Reports to the Board**

### **14. Request to Revise the 2021-2022 Modified Academic Calendar for Samuel Tucker Elementary School**

Dr. Terri Mozingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning and Leadership, and Mr. Rene Pascal, Principal of Samuel Tucker Elementary School, reviewed the request to revise the 2021-2022 Modified Academic Calendar for Samuel Tucker Elementary School adopted by the Board on May 29, 2020. This proposed revision is for a one-year adjustment to change the student start date from July 26, 2021 to August 9, 2021. The purpose of the change is to maximize students' summer learning opportunities, ensure an additional two weeks of summer break for students and ACPS staff, and preserve the School Board's commitment to the intersession program and modified calendar framework.

This recommendation will return to the Board for approval at a future School Board Meeting.

### **15. FY 2021 CIP Budget Reserve Update for Q3**

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities, reported that the balance in the CIP Reserve Account at the end of the FY 2022 third quarter is \$235,759.77.

## **Chair's Report**

### **16. Report from Meagan Alderton**

Chair Alderton shared additional comments in regard to the recruitment and retention efforts from the HR Department, highlighting that ACPS already has many talented staff members and that ACPS has to be open to cultivating and growing the talent that currently exists within the division.

She further recognized that the School Board was gifted mementos in recognition of the Week of the Young Child which was celebrated April 10-16. The Week of the Young Child is an annual celebration sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) to recognize the importance of Early Childhood services for families.

Chair Alderton announced important upcoming events and meetings including the Virtual Demolition Kick Off Event for Douglas MacArthur Elementary School on Monday, April 26 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom. She also noted that National Administrative Assistants Day was on April 21, 2021, and the upcoming Joint City Council/School Board Subcommittee Meeting will be held on Monday, April 26 at 5:00pm via Zoom. Chair Alderton announced that next School Board Meeting will be held on May 6, 2021, which is also the first Budget Work Session where the Superintendent's recommended adjustments will be discussed. A Public Hearing on the FY 2022 Combined Funds and FY 2022-2031 CIP Budgets will be held at the May 20, 2021 School Board Meeting. The deadline to sign up for the public hearing is noon on May 19, 2021.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **17. Report from Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.**

Superintendent Hutchings thanked staff for all of their hard work and dedication during this time. He also recognized Ms. Veronica Tellez, his Executive Administrative Assistant for all of her hard work and flawless efforts every day.

## **Announcements by Board Members**

### **18. Announcements**

Dr. Rief thanked Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Career and Technical Education (CTE) Coordinator, for all of her hard work preparing the Perkins Grant application. She also highlighted that the CTE program will be adding an additional pathway next year for students that will enable them to learn trades under Construction Management.

Ms. Greene congratulated the T.C. Williams Girls Volleyball Team for making it to the state championships, which will be held on April 23, 2021.

## **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

### **19. Closed Meeting**

### **20. Certification of Closed Meeting**

No Closed Meeting was held.

## **Adjournment**

### **21. Adjourn**

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

The meeting ended at 8:33 p.m.



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Meagan Alderton, Chair



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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the May 6, 2021 School Board Meeting.