

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
May 6, 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 with no more than four members meeting in-person in the School Board Meeting Room. 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 at the top of the posted agenda.

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, Lorraine Johnson, Ashley Sanchez-Viafara, Pierrette Peters, Vilma Zefran, Alex Weinard, Karam Burjas, Kiernan Almand, Ella Kahl, Tyler Urban, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Dr. Julie Crawford, Christina Chommanard, Darrell Sampson, Sheril Waldron, Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Ingrid Bynum, Sandra Hardeman, Julia Burgos, Dr. Izora Everson, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dr. Jesse Mazur, Rene Pascal, Terry Werner, Peter Balas

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. All School Board members were present at the start of the meeting except for Vice-Chair Nolan, who joined during the Communications & Addresses to the Board section of the meeting.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

2. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the May 6, 2021, Virtual School Board Meeting

Chair Alderton reordered the agenda, moving item “Class of 2021 In-Person Commencement” after the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Anderson moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 6, 2021, Virtual School Board Meeting.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for the May 6, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting was unanimous, 8-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

3. Closed Meeting

Ms. Gentry 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, specifically the Board will be discussing a settlement matter.

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 5:07 p.m.

4. Certification of Closed Meeting

Ms. Gentry 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 May 6, 2021.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 5:21 p.m.

Moment of Silence

5. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Recognition of ACPS Principal of the Year, Teacher of the Year, and Support Staff Member of the Year

Superintendent Hutchings shared a brief overview of ACPS 2021 Principal of the Year, and Principal of Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Ms. Pierrette Peters. Superintendent Hutchings acknowledged Ms. Peters for being the epitome of Vision, Integrity, and Passion. Ms. Peters thanked Superintendent Hutchings and the School Board for their support and Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr. for all of his support, stating that with his guidance, she led Hammond in their journey from reconstitution to being fully accredited.

Dr. Hutchings shared a brief overview of ACPS 2021 Teacher of the Year and TV/Media Production Teacher at T.C. Williams High School, Ms. Vilma Zefran. Dr. Hutchings highlighted Ms. Zefran's work, including creating the program she currently teaches and the impact she has had on her students. Ms. Zefran thanked the School Board for this recognition as well as her students and Principal Peter Balas their support. School Board Member Ms. Lorber gave brief remarks recognizing Ms. Zefran's impact on her son while attending T.C. Williams High School.

Dr. Hutchings also acknowledged the ACPS 2021 Support Staff Member of the Year, Mr. Alex Weinard, a Kindergarten Paraprofessional at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School.

Superintendent Hutchings highlighted Mr. Weinard's achievements at Ferdinand T. Day, his

mentorship program with AmeriCorps and his assistance in establishing a robotics club at the school. Mr. Weinard thanked Principal Rachel Dischner for her support and the opportunity to work at the school and among his colleagues.

7. Public Comments

Ms. Erika Melman, ACPS parent, spoke about classroom capacity options.

Ms. Margaret McLaughlin, ACPS parent, encouraged the School Board to dedicate more resources to the investment in professional development for educators in the area of K-2 Literacy.

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

Ms. Johnson congratulated Ms. Vilma Zefran on being selected as the ACPS 2021 Teacher of the Year, sharing that Ms. Zefran has helped her figure out what she is passionate about and what she hopes to pursue post-graduation. Ms. Johnson also shared that the T.C. Williams “Decision Day” for seniors was a recent success, expressing that the seniors enjoyed sharing their future endeavors and spending time with their friends.

Ms. Sanchez-Viafara reported on creating a pathway for student engagement to ensure student voices are always considered in the future.

Consent Calendar

9. FY 2021 Monthly Financial Report Ending March 31, 2021

10. FY 2021 Budget Transfer Report Q3

11. Personnel Actions for the Month of April 2021

12. Revision to 2021-2022 Modified Academic Calendar for Samuel Tucker Elementary School

13. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant

14. Appoint Ashley Simpson Baird to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

15. Confidential Settlement Agreement

16. Superintendent Contract Provision: Qualifications

17. Superintendent Contract Provision: Addendum to Other Work Activities

18. Minutes for the April 22, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting

Mr. Suarez moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

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

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

19. Class of 2021 In-Person Commencement

Superintendent Hutchings gave remarks and introduced the T.C. Williams High School (TCW) Student Advisory Group on Graduation, sharing that he was incredibly proud of their work while constructing this plan and advocating for their senior class.

The TCW Student Advisory Group on Graduation presented a plan to the School Board recommending in-person graduation commencement options. The presentation highlighted a site feasibility study, occupant seating arrangement, options for the graduation walk, and additional accessibility and viewing options.

Ms. Greene and the Student Representatives expressed their kudos and thanked the Student Advisory Group for all of their hard work.

20. Hybrid Reopening 5.0 Update: Spring, Summer, and Fall Reopening Updates

Superintendent Hutchings, 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 learning in the fall. It included updates on 3ft social distancing guidelines, lunch logistics, SEAL Support Mondays, staff vaccination poll results, and return to work for staff members. Dr. Alicia Hart, Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, gave a thorough update on the facilities team efforts for fall space planning. Dr. Izora Everson, Director of Online Learning, reviewed the Virtual Virginia (VVA) Program. Ms. Christina Chommanard from the Alexandria Health Department, highlighted the current health guidance 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 staff leave options to remain virtual, the learning choice form and communication for summer learning, feasibility for returning to 4-days a week, space concerns and planning, the Virtual Virginia program, and minority student data on students returning to the hybrid model.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. Adjustments to Secondary Grading Practices for S.Y. 2020-2021 in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

Mr. Darrell Sampson, Executive Director of Student Support Teams, presented recommendations to the School Board which would adjust secondary grading practices for the 2020-2021 school year. These adjustments in implementation would not alter Policy IKC-R's (Regulations Governing the Grading Policy) current provisions. This proposal will continue to be shared with school and administrative staff to obtain additional insight.

22. Resolution for VASS Superintendent of the Year

Chair Alderton announced that the Virginia Association of School Superintendents (VASS), has recognized Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr as a VASS Superintendent of the Year.

Due to the extraordinary leadership of all Virginia public school division superintendents during the 2020-21 school year and their roles in serving their communities through the COVID-19 pandemic, VASS is honoring all 133 division superintendents as Virginia Superintendents of the Year. They will be officially recognized during the VASS Spring Conference. Chair Alderton read aloud the resolution from VASS.

Ms. Anderson motioned to adopt the Resolution for VASS Superintendent of the Year. Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote to adopt the Resolution for VASS Superintendent of the Year was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

Dr. Hutchings thanked the School Board and acknowledged that he wouldn't have been able to lead effectively without their support.

Chair's Report

23. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton acknowledged Teacher Appreciation Week and Nurse Appreciation Day and thanked them for continuing to show up daily for students. She also shared that the next School Board Meeting is on May 20, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. which will include the public hearing on the Combined Funds and CIP Budgets. The meeting will be followed by an Add/Delete Budget Work Session. Final adoption of the Budgets is on June 3, 2021.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings announced his appreciation for the school nurses who have been keeping students and staff safe during these unprecedented times.

Announcements by Board Members

25. Announcements

Vice Chair Nolan gave remarks and expressed her frustration regarding the decision City Council made to sever the partnership between the City and the ACPS by defunding the Alexandria Police Department's School Resource Officer Program.

Ms. Anderson announced that May 7, 2021 is School Lunch Hero Day and thanked the School Nutrition staff for all of their hard work during the pandemic.

Chair Alderton called for a recess at 8:44 p.m. The Board returned at 8:54 p.m. and began the work session for the evening. The School Board returned from the recess at 10:10 p.m.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

26. Closed Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

She also moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the term or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board.

Ms. Gentry further 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 one (1) specific public employee.

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

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 10:12 p.m.

27. Certification of Closed Meeting

Ms. Gentry 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 May 6, 2021.

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

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

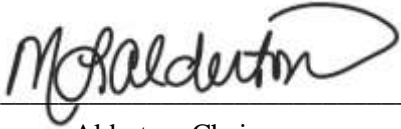
The Board returned to open session at 11:19 p.m.

Adjournment

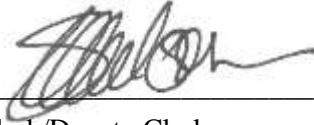
28. Adjourn

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

The meeting ended at 11:20 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the May 20, 2021 School Board Meeting.