

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
May 20, 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 cable 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, Ashley Sanchez-Viafara, Cory Kapelski, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Lina Zimmerman, Marya Runkle, Pierrette Peters, Julia Burgos, Sandra Hardeman, Dr. Stephen Wilkins, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dr. Julie Crawford, Terry Werner, Dr. Bethany Nickerson, Dr. Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Kimberly Schell, Candace Pannell, John Finnigan, Erika Gulick

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

2. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the May 20, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 20, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting.

Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for May 20, 2021 was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

Moment of Silence

3. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

4. Closed Meeting

5. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. National Board Certified Teachers

Superintendent Hutchings congratulated all of the National Board Certified Teachers on their recent accomplishments and introduced Mr. Cory Kapelski, Talent Development Specialist.

Mr. Kapelski shared that due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, this year has been more trying for teachers than any other in memory, which is what makes the achievement of the National Board Certification that much more impressive and significant. He shared that the founding mission of the National Board Professional Teaching Standards is to advance the quality of teaching and learning by maintaining high and rigorous standards for what accomplished teachers should know and be able to do.

He recognized and congratulated the following 2021 ACPS National Board-Certified Teachers:

- Ms. Laura Beers—T.C. Williams High School, International Academy
- Ms. Theress Carrington—Samuel Tucker Elementary, Special Education
- Ms. Katherine Cherry—Mount Vernon Community School, Technology Integration Specialist
- Ms. Christina Davin-Smith—Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, Instructional Coach
- Ms. Rebecca De Louise—Samuel W. Tucker, 5th Grade
- Ms. Abigail Dillingham—James K. Polk Elementary School, Visual Arts
- Ms. Erin Flynn-Pace—Charles Barrett Elementary School, Instrumental Music
- Ms. Jennifer Kazanciyan—T.C. Williams High School, Science
- Ms. Heather Rosner—George Mason Elementary School, Band
- Mr. Phillip Smith—T.C. Williams High School, International Academy
- Ms. Erin Hudson—T.C. Williams High School, Social Studies (NBCT renewal)

7. Public Hearing on the FY 2022-2031 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and FY 2022 Combined Funds Budgets

Ms. Haley Crittenden Gordon, ACPS parent, expressed her concern regarding the amount of testing students have to endure and asked the Board if they could share the cost of testing with the community.

8. Public Comments

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, shared his concern about the decision City Council made to end the partnership between ACPS and the Alexandria Police Department, which would remove the School Resource Officers (SROs) from the schools. Mr. Roberts also expressed his concerns regarding training of school administration in regards to proper use of SROs.

Mr. Kyle Martin, ACPS parent, shared his frustration in discovering that ACPS has a program which allowed the children of ACPS Staff Members to attend in-person learning four days a

week. He further expressed that ACPS had a lack of transparency, and that there are many ACPS families who would have wanted this opportunity offered to them.

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

Ms. Johnson was absent from the meeting.

Ms. Sanchez-Viafara reported that on Tuesday, May 18, 2021 the AVID Program congratulated graduating seniors with a drive-up senior celebration event. She also shared that collectively the class of 2021 in the AVID program has accomplished an average of 5 years in the program, nine dual-enrollment credits, an average of a 3.0 GPA, the cohort was awarded about 2.3 million dollars in scholarships to various institutions, 22 students have received \$204,000 from the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria (SFA), and approximately 80% of AVID students have received one or more scholarships towards higher education pursuits.

Consent Calendar

10. Community Use of Facilities Report April 2021

11. Minutes for the May 6, 2021 Virtual School Board Meeting and the May 6, 2021 Virtual Work Session

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Suarez 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

12. Update on Hybrid Phased Re-entry Transition Plan

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 outreach efforts, learning choice forms, summer learning for all, August school staffing update, teacher turnover data, the Virtual Virginia program and a facilities update.

Ms. Lina Zimmerman, Population Health Epidemiologist of the Alexandria Health Department 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). Ms. Marya Runkle, Director of Education and Business Applications shared student in-person demographic data. The data highlighted student enrollment in either virtual learning or in-person for English learners, students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and students without a designation group.

Superintendent Hutchings noted how hard staff is working on behalf of students and mentioned the decision by ACPS to allow a very limited number of staff members' children to attend school four days a week. This decision was made to help get a number of teachers into classrooms for in-person learning.

School Board Members asked questions about utilizing schools as vaccination sites, school capacity using 3ft distance for the fall, communication and outreach to families regarding the Virtual Virginia Program, and secondary options to ensure staff for the summer learning for all program.

New Business and Reports to the Board

13. English Language Arts Textbook Resource Adoption

Ms. Kimberly Shell, K-12 Literacy Team Coordinator, and Secondary Literacy Curriculum Specialist, and Ms. Candace Pannell, Textbook and Library Media Services Instructional Specialist, shared the process and list of recommended textbook materials for secondary education in English Language Arts.

ACPS initiated a local textbook review process in September 2020 to provide needed materials for the 2021-2022 school year and beyond, in accordance with Policy IIAA, Textbook Selection, and Adoption. A Request for Purchase (RFP) process was initiated to allow for the review of materials beyond the VDOE-approved list to provide a more comprehensive selection. The Textbook Selection Committee (TSC), made up of members with diverse educational backgrounds and experiences, reviewed instructional materials based on specific criteria, such as alignment with SOLs, assessment materials, professional development and quality of English content and integration of digital resources. The TSC sought additional feedback from school-based staff who recommended specific textbooks for each course.

The English Language Arts Textbook Resource Adoption item will return to the Board for approval at a later date.

14. FY21 Q3 CIP Quarterly Report

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities and Ms. Erika Gulick, Director of Capital Programs, Planning & Design presented the FY 2021 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarter 3 Report, which outlined the Capital Improvement Program work that progressed during the third quarter of FY2021 (January 2021-March 2021). The majority of the work noted was in the implementation phase (21 projects); the remainders of projects were either in the initiation, planning/design, or closeout phase.

School Board Members asked questions about the stadium work at T.C. Williams, the timeline for the playground assessment and replacement of HEPA filters.

Ms. Gentry moved to accept the FY 2021 CIP Quarter 3 Report. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY 2021 CIP Quarter 3 Report was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. A roll call vote was taken.

Chair's Report

15. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton shared upcoming meetings that included the Joint City Council and School Board Subcommittee Meeting hosted by City Council and held via zoom on May 24, 2021. She further shared that the Ad Hoc School Board Advisory Support Committee will have their first meeting on May 25, 2021, and that there will be a Budget Work Session on May 27, 2021, and a School Board Meeting on June 3, 2021.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings shared some highlights from the anti-racism training he and ACPS Staff attended earlier in the week, which included having uncomfortable conversations around the racial inequities that are still present within the community in order to move forward on the anti-racist journey the division is committed to.

Chair Alderton and Ms. Lorber shared their support.

The Board went into recess at 7:18 p.m. for the purpose of a work session. The Board returned from recess at 9:24 p.m.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

17. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan 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.

She also 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. Gentry 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 9:26 p.m.

18. 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 May 20, 2021.

Ms. Greene 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 10:22 p.m.

Adjournment

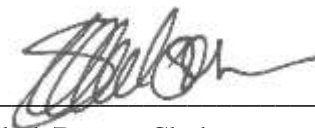
19. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Lorber 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 10:24 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the June 3, 2021 School Board Meeting.