

**MINUTES**  
**VIRTUAL MEETING OF CERTAIN BOARD MEMBERS**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**School Board Candidate Information Forum**  
**June 26, 2021 1:00 p.m.**

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 virtually via Zoom. 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 posted at the top of the published agenda.

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**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING OF CERTAIN BOARD MEMBERS:

<b>Board Members</b>	Meagan L. Alderton
<b>Present at the</b>	Cindy Anderson
<b>Candidate Forum:</b>	Ramee A. Gentry
	Margaret Lorber
	Veronica R. Nolan
	Heather Thornton

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Laurie Cromwell (facilitator), Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Jennifer Abbruzzese, Debbie Ash, Willie Bailey, Aloyisuis “Ish” Boyle, Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi, Christopher Harris, Tammy Ignacio, Deanna “D” Ohlandt, Ricardo Roberts

The Candidate Forum began at 1:06 p.m.

**Introductions**

Dr. Hutchings welcomed the School Board candidates to the information forum, introduced Ms. Laurie Cromwell, facilitator from Foundation Innovations and any Board Members present.

**Discussion Topics**

Ms. Cromwell shared a presentation regarding the role and responsibilities of a School Board Member. She covered topics such as the role of the Board Member vs. the role of the Superintendent, how Board Members serve students and families, individual Board Member authority, and communications with the public, staff, and media.

Ms. Neilson, Clerk of the Board, reviewed important Board documents and resources available to candidates to give insight into some of the work of the Board, governing documents, compensation, and the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives, reviewed policies related to candidates running for office, facility use, distribution of campaign materials and ACPS employee participation in campaigns.

Board Members present shared insights, experiences, and offered advice for the candidates.

School Board candidates introduced themselves and were given the opportunity to ask questions about the role of a School Board Member.

The Candidate Forum ended at 2:36 p.m.



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Meagan Alderton, Chair



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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the August 3, 2021 Special Called School Board Meeting.