

**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

August 26, 2021 (7:15 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE WORK SESSION:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Cindy Anderson
Ramee A. Gentry
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber
Veronica R. Nolan
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez (via Zoom)
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Dr. Clinton Page, Dr. Terri Mazingo, Jennifer Abbruzzese,

Call the Work Session to Order

Chair Alderton called the Work Session to order at 7:15 p.m.

Discussion Topics

1. Draft 2021-2022 Areas of Focus

Dr. Clinton Page, presented highlights of the 2020-2021 Areas of Focus and the draft ACPS Areas of Focus for the 2021-2022 school year. The areas of focus are updated annually based on current and historical data and to ensure organizational alignment and prioritization of work efforts across the system. The Areas of Focus are created to align with and support the Equity for All strategic plan, FY 2022 Board Budget Priorities, and to sustain and build off of areas of focus from last year.

The proposed Areas of Focus for 2021-2022 include: Social Emotional and Academic Learning Recovery, Hispanic Males, Middle School Educational Experience, Early College, and Talented and Gifted. They will also continue on the following areas of focus from 2020-2021. They are: Strategic Plan Implementation, Policy Equity Audit and SWD/ED Black Males.

Board Members asked questions about screening for SEAL, addressing needs of students with disabilities, alternative programs, incorporating feedback, literacy and Hispanic males. The Areas of Focus will return for adoption at the next School Board Meeting.

2. Equity Policy Audit: Board Review and Approval Approached

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Board Policy and Initiatives, invited feedback on a preferred approach for how the Board can begin reviewing the 115 APCS/IDRA Equity Policy Audit Team-identified policies during the 2021-2022 School Year. The Board discussed the benefits of the different approaches to review the policies and selected the approach where a rotating committee of three Board Members would serve for two months reviewing policies, followed by a subsequent summary review and approval by the full Board at Board meetings.

Lastly, at the end of the Work Session, Dr. Hutchings and Board Members offered comments regarding the public feedback they are receiving on specific topics and the amount of time it takes to manage email “campaigns.”

Adjournment

The Work Session ended at 10:12 p.m.



Meagan L. Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the October 7, 2021 School Board Meeting.