

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
November 4, 2021 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Aly Khan Johnson, Mark Eisenhour, Cindy Hart, Lilla Wise, Dominic Turner

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Vice Chair Nolan

Vice Chair Nolan called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Suarez who arrived at 6:45 p.m. during the Advisory Committee discussions. Chair Alderton was 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 November 4, 2021 Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the November 4, 2021 Special Called School Board Meeting. Ms. Anderson seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for November 4, 2021 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Written Public Comments

Consent Calendar

5. Revisions to E, I, K, and L Policies/Regulations

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

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

New Business and Reports to the Board

6. School Board Discussions with Athletic Hall of Fame and Special Education Advisory Committees

Dr. Rief shared that last spring the Ad Hoc School Board Advisory Support Committee was created and tasked with developing a scope of work and goals to provide ongoing support and guidance to School Board Advisory Committees. Dr. Rief further mentioned that a survey was recently distributed and highlighted key take-aways from the survey.

Mr. Aly Khan Johnson, Chair of the Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee, and Mr. Mark Eisenhour, Lead Administrator for Operations and Facilities at Alexandria City High School and Staff Liaison to AHOF, shared a brief overview of the AHOF Advisory Committee, reviewed their scope of work and provided a synopsis of the most recent Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and selection process. Mr. Johnson highlighted that the committee has implemented a 60/40 rule to ensure equity for women athletes. He further shared that the Board can support AHOF by assisting in communications for the Annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony which will be held the second Saturday in October annually. He also noted that the due date for nomination forms to submit athletes for consideration to the AHOF has been changed to January 31 of each year for induction in the fall. School Board Liaison, Ms. Jacinta Greene, thanked committee members for their dedication and great perspectives for their contributions to the committee. She also shared her excitement for having more female involvement on the committee as well as inductees.

Board members asked Mr. Johnson questions about what AHOF looks for in a committee member, as well as the criteria for selection into the ACPS AHOF. He indicated that most members are recruited by committee members through phone calls and outreach, are knowledgeable or involved in athletics, and by keeping them involved in the process. He noted that athletes are chosen from submitted nominations by the public and then rated by the committee based on categories.

Ms. Cindy Hart, Former Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), shared her personal history and original involvement with SEAC. She shared that originally it was hard for her to commit to participating regularly and noted that this is currently an issue for most parents of special needs children. Ms. Hart thanked the Board for allowing their committee to conduct meetings virtually over the fall and advocated for virtual meetings to continue in order to provide flexibility for parent involvement. She also suggested that it may be helpful to have in-person presentations to discuss the End-of-Year Reports, assigned tasks from the School Board, and a School Board/Special Education 101 Meeting, which could be recorded and posted to the website as a resource for the community in the future. Ms. Hart asked Board members if it would be possible to differentiate Advisory Committee speakers from members of the public who speak during the public comment portion at School Board Meetings. She also highlighted some of the challenges the committee has which included representation of parents of secondary education students.

Board Members shared that the Board should engage with the SEAC Committee more regularly and discussed the possibilities of creating focus areas in order to work more cohesively and share how the Boards work lines up with strategic planning.

7. Proposed 2022 ACPS Legislative Agenda

Ms. Lilla Wise, ACPS Lobbyist, reviewed the proposed 2022 ACPS Legislative Agenda, highlighting key focus areas such as, the Alexandria School Board supporting the return to the General Assembly's prior practice of funding support services to school divisions based upon local school division practices, additional funding to address lost learning due to Covid-19, the full funding of the Standards of Quality as recommended by the State Board of Education, the

implementation of the Board of Education's recommendation to base EL pupil/teacher ratios by English language proficiency of students, extending the Halifax Model of 1% sales tax for school construction and modernization to all school divisions, and the continued use of the Cost of Competing factor, including the restoration of funds for the inclusion of all support staff, in the reimbursement formula for Planning District Eight. Finally, the Alexandria City School Board opposed any diversion of public education funds to non-public schools including the use of tuition tax credits, tax deductions, or vouchers as a mean of reimbursing parents for their children's K-12 education expenses.

Board members asked how they could offensively assist in advocating for the Board Committees to continue holding meetings virtually and defensively prepare for the upcoming major issues surrounding the diversion of public education funds to non-public school institutions.

The 2022 ACPS Legislative Agenda will return to the Board for adoption at the next School Board Meeting.

8. ACPS Guidelines for the Implementation of the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002

Mr. Dominic Turner, Chief Financial Officer, reviewed ACPS's interest in adopting guidelines for the implementation of the Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002. The Public-Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act of 2002 (Va. Code § 56-575 et seq.) ("PPEA") will allow Alexandria City Public Schools to enter into public-private partnership agreements to develop needed qualifying projects in a timely and/or less costly manner. The first project which ACPS plans to use this PPEA policy is to allow for a power purchase agreement (PPA) or energy savings performance contract (ESPC) to provide photovoltaic panels for both the new Douglas MacArthur and Minnie Howard projects. This item will return for approval at the next School Board Meeting.

Chair's Report

9. Report from Vice Chair Nolan

Vice-Chair Nolan shared upcoming events, including the next School Board Meeting on November 11, 2021, where there will be a discussion on the Fall Membership Report and the presentation of the Superintendent's FY 2023-2032 CIP Budget. On November 15, 2021 at 6:30 p.m., a Special Called School Board Meeting with Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Budget Advisory Committees (BAC) will discuss their respective committees followed by the CIP Work Session #1 which will also feature an Employee Compensation presentation. On November 18, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., the Equity Policy Audit Committee will meet. And lastly, on November 29, 2021, a Special Called Meeting and Public Hearing on the CIP Budget will be held, followed by the CIP Budget Work Session #2 which will discuss the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advisory Committee and CIP Budget.

Vice Chair Nolan noted the recent election and thanked Chair Alderton, Dr. Rief, and Ms. Greene for returning to the Board and for their dedication and service. She also extended support and congratulations to the newly elected School Board Members: Mr. Willie Bailey, Dr. Ashley Baird Simpson, Ms. Kelly Booz, Ms. Tammy Ignacio, Mr. Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi, and Mr. Christopher Harris. The School Board induction will be held on January 4, 2022.

Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Hutchings did not give a report but noted that in his video message to be posted the next day, he will share information, thoughts and reflections with the ACPS community.

Announcements

11. Announcements

There were no announcements by School Board Members.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

12. Closed Meeting

Ms. Gentry 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.

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

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 8:09 p.m. Ms. Anderson did not participate in the Closed Meeting.

13. 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 November 4, 2021.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was 7-0-1, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Ms. Anderson abstained as she did not participate in the Closed Meeting. The Board returned to open session at 8:53 p.m.

Adjournment

14. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Gentry and seconded by Ms. Lorber, the Board voted unanimously, 8-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:54 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the November 11, 2021 School Board Meeting.