

**MINUTES
VIRTUAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

January 6, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)

Meeting Held via Zoom

Due to the local state of emergency declared by the City of Alexandria through June 30, 2022, members of the School Board are participating via Zoom due to a weather emergency. 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
Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Emily Milton, Sylvia Rahim, Dr. Julie Crawford, Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Ms. Pierrette Finney, Mr. Michael Routouska, Ms. Ingrid Bynum, Mr. Peter Balas, Mr. Rene Paschal, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Dr. Anthony Sims, Mr. Dominic Turner,

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting and were participating through Zoom due to a local weather emergency.

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 January 6, 2022 Virtual School Board Meeting

Mr. Bailey moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the January 6, 2022 Virtual School Board Meeting.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

Ms. Booz moved to amend the agenda to add the agenda item “COVID-19 Update” to Old Business and Action Items.

Vice Chair Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for January 6, 2022 was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

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. Public Comments**

Mr. Kyle Martin, ACPS parent, expressed disappointment in the day of virtual learning due to a weather emergency and advocated for keeping schools open. He suggested that the learning gap is increased for students in public schools in virtual learning.

- 7. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Sylvia Rahim**

Ms. Emily Milton welcomed the new Board Members. She remarked on the substantial increase in COVID-19 cases and encouraged the community to get vaccinated as well as continue to wear masks. Ms. Milton commented on the day’s cancellation of schools due to weather, and that students appreciated that it was a teacher work day instead of a virtual learning day. She indicated that students took advantage of the opportunity to work on assignments. Lastly, Ms. Milton suggested the community read Ms. Kelly Booz’ social media post on all the factors that determine a weather closure for schools as it is an informative read.

Ms. Rahim was present but did not give a report.

Consent Calendar

- 8. FY 2022 Monthly Financial Report ending November 30, 2021**
- 9. Minutes for the January 4, 2022 Organizational Meeting and the December 14, 2021 Special Called School Board Meeting**
- 10. School Board Equity Audit Policy Committee Appointments**
- 11. Superintendent Evaluation Criteria Development Committee Appointments**

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Harris 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

- 9. COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief Student Services Officer, gave an update on COVID-19 health and safety measures including current community transmission rates in Alexandria and recent CDC guidance updates. She reviewed the posted protocol for transitioning to virtual instruction for

when in-person instruction may need to be temporarily halted. Dr. Alicia Hart, Acting Chief of Facilities and Operations, presented information about how staff absences or COVID infections may affect facility use, transportation and food nutrition services and may, in turn, cause a transition to virtual learning. Principals reviewed instructional expectations and communications to families and staff during learning transitions.

Board Members asked questions about at-home rapid testing, vaccinations, student learning under quarantine, monitors/substitutes and pay increases, special education services, and scenarios for a closure of all schools.

10. Douglas MacArthur Modernization Project Update

Dr. Hart provided an update regarding the status of the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School Modernization Project. She reviewed the project background, decisions already made, and the anticipated timeline for construction completion. Dr. Hart noted that asbestos removal and material availability has caused some delays to the timeline but that construction will be completed in time for the start of the 2023-2024 school year. She also reviewed contract amendments, and ways for the community to stay engaged in the project.

Board Members asked questions regarding the project budget, timeline and project delays.

New Business and Reports to the Board

11. Presentation of the Superintendent's FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget

Dr. Hutchings presented the FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget for School Board consideration. which is focused on staff compensation, expanding access and improving the quality of out-of-school learning, as well as social, emotional and academic learning supports for students in preschool through grade 12. The proposed budget, in the amount of \$345.8 million, also includes salary increases to ensure staff retention, increased support for maintaining and improving learning spaces, and a commitment to professional learning as well as growth opportunities and instructional excellence.

The School Board will review the proposed FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget through a series of work sessions with the final adoption scheduled for February 10, 2022.

Chair's Report

12. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton reported on upcoming meetings including an upcoming Board Retreat, and Budget Work Sessions. She congratulated the newly elected and returning Alexandria City Council on their installation, including Councilwoman Amy Jackson as Vice-Mayor.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings thanked staff and community partners for their help with food distribution during the winter break. He also acknowledged the instructional staff, and noted that next week is School Principal Appreciation Week. He asked everyone to acknowledge our principals who are dedicated educators working at the forefront of the division.

Announcements

14. Board Member Announcements

Ms. Booz noted that it was the one-year anniversary of the insurrection at the nation's capital against our democracy. She encouraged civic education which she felt is so important to understanding government, the U.S. Constitution and citizen rights. She further thanked the first responders and the Capital Police for their service and aid during this unprecedented event.

Mr. Elnoubi also commented on the January 6th insurrection stating that what an honor it is to live under a democracy and it shouldn't be taken for granted. He noted that as educators it is incumbent upon us to teach our students how lucky they are and how important it is to preserve our democracy. He also expressed how grateful he was for the actions of first responders and defenders of the U.S. Capital.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

15. Closed Meeting

16. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Adjournment

17. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Bailey 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 9:38 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the March 24, 2022 School Board Meeting.