

**MINUTES**  
**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**February 3, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**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 (participated via Zoom)  
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,

**Call to Order**

**1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton**

Chair Alderton 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 Jacinta Greene who joined the meeting electronically after the adoption of the agenda.

**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 February 3, 2022 School Board Meeting**

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the February 3, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Dr. Rief moved to amend the agenda to add the agenda item "Allow Participation of Board Member Jacinta Greene by Electronic Means."

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for February 3, 2022 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

**4. Allow Participation of Board Member Jacinta Greene by Electronic Means**

Dr. Rief made the following motion:

"Whereas Jacinta Greene has notified the Board Chair that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight's School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically the loss of a family member; and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% of Board Meetings by electronic means during 2022; and whereas Jacinta Greene requests the

opportunity to participate in the meeting via Zoom from Richmond, Virginia where the video conference call shall be heard by all participants in this Board Room and on Zoom; and whereas a quorum of the Board is physically assembled in this Board room;

Therefore, I move, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 that the Board approve the participation of Jacinta Greene in this meeting by video conference call.”

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Board Member Jacinta Greene to participate through electronic means was unanimous, 8-0. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Greene joined the meeting using Zoom.

Chair Alderton reminded audience members that mask wearing is required in ACPS buildings.

### **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

#### **5. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Greene 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.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. Vice Chair Greene indicated her vote orally. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 6:45 p.m.

#### **6. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Greene 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 February 3, 2022.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. Vice Chair Greene voted orally. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 7:01 p.m.

### **Communications & Addresses to the Board**

#### **7. Public Comments**

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about safety and security in ACPS schools.

Dr. Damian Summers-Oslebo, ACPS parent, spoke out against mask wearing in schools.

Mr. Jacob Berube, ACPS parent, asked that the School Board end the mask mandate for students.

Ms. Olivia Degenkolb, ACPS parent, spoke against students wearing masks in school.

Mr. Aaron Wade Norman, ACPS parent, encouraged the Board to restore normalcy to our children by allowing them to attend school without masks.

Ms. Bridget Baron, ACPS student, spoke about HVAC systems and mold remediation at GWMS.

#### **Written Public Comments**

Ms. Zion Bezu, ACPS parent, wrote in about her experience with contract tracing for one of her students who was exposed to COVID. She noted that the notification was sent well past the

exposure date and did not identify which of her students was exposed. She requested that the communication procedures for contract tracing be reviewed.

Ms. Izzy Einsidler, ACPS parent, wrote to share her frustration with the number of days in which school has been closed due to snow days, teacher work days, and parent/teacher conferences. She noted that with the use of Zoom and other electronic communication formats, there should be fewer days where schools are closed especially during this time when students are falling behind academically.

Mr. Alex Sprague, community member, wrote in to ensure that autistic students are given a say in their education. He suggested that we should be taking the time to understand how the kids feel and what they want from us in order to better teach them. He noted that while he did not attend ACPS, he wanted to make sure no other student in Virginia goes through what he went through regarding behaviorism.

Ms. Erin White, ACPS parent, wrote to encourage the School Board to consider increasing the FTEs for arts education for high school students in the upcoming budget. She noted that the size of the arts programs does not match the size of the school, and encouraged the Board to improve the dance, theater and other arts programs. She further noted that encouraging creativity in our students will help offset the mental impact of the pandemic.

#### **8. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Sylvia Rahim**

Ms. Emily Milton reported on several accomplishments of staff and students that included:

- ACHS Scholastic Bowl Team, made up of students Virginia Arnold, Sabine Mead, Paul Osterman-Healey and Parker Treichel, finished undefeated in their fall season and qualified for the National Academic Quiz Tournament (NAQT) in Atlanta in May.
- ACHS students Isabel Cruz Rivera, Brianna Jerez Bustillo and Sabine Mead were recognized for their academic excellence by the College Board's National Recognition Program.
- Full tuition scholarships were awarded by the Posse Foundation to three ACHS seniors, Mya Lopez, Sylvia Rahim and Nana Addo Offei.
- ACPS awarded VIP awards in the category of Licensed Specialists who exhibited Vision, Integrity and Passion. They were: Andrea Heckel—Literacy Instructional Coach at Ferdinand T. Day Elementary, Maureen Selgas—School Counselor at the ACHS Minnie Howard Campus, Chanel Alford-Campbell—Technology Integration Specialist (TIS) at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, and Christina Trozzi—School Counselor at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology.
- ACHS received the prestigious Recognized ASCA Model Program (RAMP) designation from the American School Counselor Association (ASCA).

Additionally, Ms. Milton reported that applications for the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council will be available soon and encouraged students to apply to this committee. She also noted that families have been receiving at-home COVID-19 testing kits, that the COVID Dashboard is up and running on the ACPS website, and that students seem to understand the importance of wearing masks in school.

Ms. Sylvia Rahim was absent due to illness.

#### **Consent Calendar**

##### **9. The New High School Project GMP 1 Contract**

##### **10. Minutes for the January 20, 2022 Virtual School Board Meeting and the January 20, 2022 FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget Work Session #2**

Ms. Ignacio 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**

#### **11. COVID-19 Update**

Dr. Julie Crawford, Chief Student Services Officer, gave an update on COVID-19 health and safety measures. She reviewed the level of community transmission which continues to be in the red (high) transmission level, but noted that there is a downward trend of reported infections for both students and staff. Masks are still recommended by the Virginia Department of Health in levels of high transmission. Dr. Crawford also reviewed testing opportunities for students, staff and families. Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Acting Chief of Human Resources, reported on the number of staff members who are vaccinated, and those that must continue to provide weekly testing.

Board Members asked questions regarding communications to families about COVID, athletics, band and choir activities during COVID, testing types, and masking.

### **New Business and Reports to the Board**

#### **12. ACPS Recruitment Plan Update**

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt updated the Board on the ongoing recruitment efforts for teachers and staff that include recruitment fairs, meeting with principals to determine each school's staffing needs, and focusing on diversity. She also welcomed new Director of Recruitment and Retention, Ms. Margaret Browne.

Board Members asked questions about the recruitment timeline, the number of vacancies in ACPS, filling substitute teacher staff openings, and an initiative to get former students to return as teachers.

#### **13. FY 2022 CIP Quarterly Report for Q2**

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Education Facilities, reviewed the FY 2022 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report for Quarter 2 which contains a summary of the CIP work that progressed from October to December 31, 2021. The majority of the work noted was in the implementation phase, and the remainder of the projects were either in the initiation phase, planning/design phase, or closeout phase. Mr. Finnigan noted that project progress continues to be challenged by supply chain delays which impact the ability to receive construction materials in a timely manner causing some project deadlines to be extended.

Board Members asked questions about air quality testing, Parker-Gray Stadium, wifi challenges at ACHS, electric buses, and repairs needed to the ACHS cistern.

Mr. Bailey moved to accept the FY 2022 CIP Quarterly Report for Q2. Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY 2022 CIP Quarterly Report for Q2 was unanimous, 9-0. Vice Chair Greene voted orally. The motion carried.

#### **14. FY 2022 CIP Reserve Account Balance for Q2**

Mr. John Finnigan reviewed the balance of the CIP Reserve Account which is at \$235,759.77. He also shared a CIP Reserve Account Tracker which outlines all of the Board-approved budget transfers that have led to the current balance.

Mr. Harris moved to accept the FY 2022 CIP Reserve Account Balance for Q2.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY 2022 CIP Reserve Account Balance Report for Q2 was unanimous, 9-0. Vice Chair Greene voted orally. The motion carried.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **15. Report from Meagan L. Alderton**

Chair Alderton reminded the community about the upcoming Add/Delete Work Session on February 8 at 6:30 p.m., and the Special Called School Board Meeting on February 10 at 6:30 p.m. where the Board will adopt the FY 2023 Combined Funds Budget. She also noted that the February 17<sup>th</sup> School Board Meeting has been cancelled and the next Board Meeting is scheduled for March 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **Superintendent's Report**

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

Superintendent Hutchings reported on Black History Month and School Board Appreciation Month. He thanked the Board for their work building the future of public education and making racial equity a focus of work in ACPS. Lastly, Dr. Hutchings reminded families of the upcoming Parent/Teacher Conferences.

### **Announcements by Board Members**

#### **17. Announcements**

Ms. Booz announced that ACHS students will be traveling to Charlottesville to participate in the "We the People" program on their knowledge of the Constitution and wished them luck.

### **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

#### **18. Closed Meeting**

#### **19. Certification of Closed Meeting**

No Closed Meeting was held.

### **Adjournment**

#### **20. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Bailey and seconded by Ms. Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. Ms. Greene voted orally. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:22 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the March 10, 2022 School Board Meeting.