

**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
March 24, 2022 (6:30 p.m.)**

Meeting Held Simultaneously In-Person and via Zoom

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. Megan-Tempel Milner, Dr. Gerald Mann, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Dr. Alicia Hart

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Booz who arrived during Board Member announcements.

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 March 24, 2022 School Board Meeting

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the March 24, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for March 24, 2022 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

4. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(6) for discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved and, where, if made public, would adversely affect the financial interest of the Board. She further 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. Lastly, Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(2) for the discussion and consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matter that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student.

Dr. Rief 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 6:39 p.m.

5. 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 March 24, 2022.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 7:16 p.m.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Public Comments

Mr. Zachary Roberts, ACPS student, spoke about his experiences with technology in school, specifically the Chromebooks, and suggested that students' teachers be consulted when technology changes are considered.

Ms. Devon Wells, ACPS parent, spoke regarding safety concerns in schools and what solutions are being implemented. She complimented the school system on how her students are thriving.

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about safety of students in ACPS schools.

Ms. Cindy Carballo Garcia, community member and Tenants and Workers United Youth Organizer, spoke in regarding the School Resource Officer Program. She suggested that the voices of impacted students should be represented on the SLEP Advisory Group and more resources should be provided which support mental health and restorative practices.

Written Public Comments were provided on the following topics:

Mr. Alex Sprague, community member, wrote in regarding the frightening effects of fire alarms on autistic students in schools.

Ms. Molly Kaiman, ACPS parent, wrote in regarding her concerns on safety and security in schools.

Mr. John Lavalley, community member, wrote to the Board in support of having a Safe Play Spaces partnership between the City of Alexandria and ACPS.

7. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Sylvia Rahim

Ms. Sylvia Rahim reported on the Essential Workers Celebration held at Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology (Cora Kelly) where students were able to interact with those who keep the City and school system running. She also noted that COVID cases reported in March had been significantly lower than the previous month. Ms. Rahim reminded families that during the Spring Break that free meals would be available at Alexandria City High School from 8-11:00 a.m. each day. She also reported that the Superintendent's Student Leadership Council held its

first meeting and there was a great variety of students, ideas and voices. Lastly, she noted that on March 28 at 9:00 a.m. there will be a focus group meeting on the rebranding of the ACPS logo. Ms. Milton reported that ACPS is hosting a virtual panel discussion at 7:30 p.m. on March 28, to address the topic of inclusive history. She invited students to sign up to participate by using the link in the ACPS Express. Ms. Milton also encouraged families to take the Equity for All Climate Survey before it closes on April 3, reported on the non-profit Life Enrichment Center that provides literacy tutoring Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, and invited the community to attend the Groundbreaking Ceremony for the new Minnie Howard Campus of ACHS on Tuesday, March 29th at 10:30 a.m. Lastly, Ms. Milton wished everyone a restful Spring Break and reminded students that April 18th there is no school for students.

Consent Calendar

- 8. Superintendent Contract Provision: Other work Activities--Addendum**
- 9. Contract Amendment: GMP 1B The High School Project**
- 10. Renovations for William Ramsay HVAC Systems**
- 11. Appoint Katherine Radt as the Student Representative to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- 12. Minutes for the January 6, 2022 School Board Meeting and the March 14, 2022 School Board Retreat.**

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

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. Mr. Elnoubi was not present for the vote. The motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

9. TAG Service Model

Dr. Megan Tempel-Milner, Director of Gifted & Advanced Academic Programs, presented information on the delivery of Talented and Gifted (TAG) services and identification process. She reviewed information presented at the March 10th School Board Meeting, the proposed philosophy developed by the TAG Steering Committee, the TAG delivery model, and components of the Advanced Academics Services model. Lastly, Dr. Tempel-Milner review next steps for the TAG Steering Committee and the development of the 5-year TAG Local Plan.

Board members asked questions regarding the role of TAGAC in the development of the local plan, student feedback, disproportionality of TAG identification, and the Young Scholars program.

10. School Law Enforcement Partnership and SRO Program

Dr. Alicia Hart, Acting Chief of Facilities and Operations, shared information about the need to extend the SRO Program for the 2022-2023 school year in order to fully evaluate the program through the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) advisory group. She noted that funding for the SRO program ends on June 30, 2022, but time is necessary to fully develop, implement and receive recommendations from the SLEP advisory group on how to move forward with this program. Chair Alderton noted that she would be sending a letter to City Council formally requesting an extension of the SRO program for the 2022-2023 school year.

Board members asked questions about SRO training and the status of the Alexandria Police Department/Alexandria City Public Schools Memorandum of Understanding on the SRO program and current SRO assignments at ACPS schools.

New Business and Reports to the Board

There were no New Business agenda items.

Chair's Report

13. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton congratulated Dr. Hutchings for being named Virginia Superintendent of the Year for Region 4. She also reported on the upcoming Joint City Council/School Board Subcommittee Meeting on March 28, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings reported that Essential Workers Week was celebrated March 13-20. A celebration was held at Cora Kelly to express gratitude to firefighters, police, and school staff. He congratulated Dr. Lauren Holthaus, Assistant Principal at Cora Kelly, on being selected as the National Outstanding Assistant Principal of the Year from the Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals and the National Association of Elementary School Principals. Dr. Hutchings also noted ACPS presented Vision, Integrity and Passion (VIP) Awards this month to four employees selected from the support staff category nominations. They are:

- Kadysia Gibson, registrar at Patrick Henry K-8 School (Patrick Henry)
- Jennefer Martinez, administrative assistant at Charles Barrett Elementary School (Charles Barrett)
- Anna Spratt, paraprofessional at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School (Naomi L. Brooks)
- Andrea Styles, instructional assistant II at Alexandria City High School (ACHS) – King Street campus.

Dr. Hutchings congratulated the ACHS Science Olympiad Team which qualified for states in its first year of competition in the Virginia Science Olympiad and wished them well on their next stage of competition to be held on March 26 at the University of Virginia.

Lastly, Dr. Hutchings congratulated the Facilities and Operations team for their innovation and hard work. They were recently awarded a LEEDS Silver Certification for the Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School Gymnasium project. LEEDS (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) is a Green Building Rating System and the industry standard for environmentally-sound construction practices.

15. Announcements

Mr. Elnoubi reported on attending the Douglas MacArthur Career Day and thanked the staff for the rewarding experience. He also reported on attending the Ruby Tucker reading program on an invite from Vice Chair Greene and looks forward to returning for another visit. Lastly, he reported on a recent ride along with the Alexandria Police Department to get an appreciation of the work that they do.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

16. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of employment, performance, and contractual matters for ten specific public employees.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried. Ms. Booz was present for the vote.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 8:22 p.m.

17. 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 March 24, 2022.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 9:10 p.m.

18. Motion to Amend Agenda

Mr. Elnoubi moved to amend the agenda to add the item “Grievance Matter.”

Dr. Rief second the motion

Vote to amend the agenda to add “Grievance Matter” was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

19. Grievance Matter

Vice Chair Greene moved that in grievance no. 2022-1, I move that the Board convene a further hearing, and direct the Clerk of the Board, and the School Board Attorney, to make the necessary arrangements.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to hold a hearing on the grievance matter 2022-1 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Adjournment


20. Adjourn

On a motion by Dr. Rief and seconded by Mr. Bailey the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:14 p.m.



Meagan Alderton, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the April 21, 2022 School Board Meeting.