

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD WORK SESSION
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
July 13, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE WORK SESSION:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton (via Zoom)
Willie F. Bailey Sr.
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio (absent)
Michelle Rief (absent)
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Matt Smith, Dr. Peter Noonan, Ried Goldstein, Libby Garvey

Call the Work Session to Order

Chair Alderton called the Work Session to order at 6:39 p.m.

Discussion Topics

1. Panel Discussion on Staggered Term Elections

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, explained the purpose of the work session as an opportunity to hear from regional leaders who work in Divisions which have staggered terms. He emphasized that this would allow the Board to consider this information in order to make an informed decision on whether to transition to staggered term elections for Board Members. Mr. Smith noted that the Alexandria City School Board currently has three-year terms and each of the three voting districts in Alexandria is represented by three School Board Members. In this current election model, there is the potential for turnover of all nine board members after an election.

The Board identified two key areas of focus for the discussion:

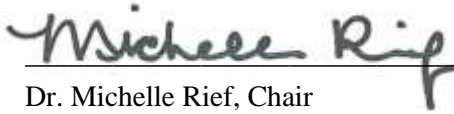
- Would staggered terms change/improve the continuity of operations?
- Would the change to staggered terms improve representation and accountability?

Mr. Smith introduced the three panelists: Dr. Peter Noonan, Superintendent, Falls Church City Public Schools; Mr. Reid Goldstein, Board Member, Arlington Public Schools; and Ms. Libby Garvey, Vice Chair, Arlington County Board.


The panelists were asked to provide information on the impact of staggered terms and addition of new board members on the consistency of operations, what is the ideal size and length of terms for School Board, and impact of staggered terms on voter turnout in their own jurisdictions. The panelists also gave insight to successful methods used in their own divisions for onboarding and engaging board members, as well as insight for working with council members.

Adjournment

The Work Session ended at 8:07 p.m.



Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the July 20, 2023 School Board Organizational Meeting.