

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

**August 24, 2023 (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 (via zoom)  
Christopher Harris  
Tammy Ignacio)  
Michelle Rief  
Ashley Simpson Baird

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin.

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Bailey who arrived during the Adoption of the Agenda.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Alexandria City High School (ACHS) JROTC Cadets presented the colors and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silence**

**3. Observe a Moment of Silence**

A moment of silence was observed.

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

**4. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the August 24, 2023 School Board Meeting**

Dr. Rief announced that she was reordering the agenda to move the Superintendent's Report and the Chair's Report to after Communications and Addresses to the Board.

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the August 24, 2023 School Board Meeting. Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Booz moved to amend the agenda to add the agenda item "Minnie Howard Dominion Right of Way Agreement" to the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

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

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for August 24, 2023 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

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

Vice Chair Booz made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Jacinta Greene has notified the Board that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting and Work Session due to a business matter specifically business travel; and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% of Board meetings by electronic means during 2023; and whereas Board Member Jacinta Greene requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference call where the conference call shall be heard by all participants in this Board room; 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 Board Member Jacinta Greene in this meeting by video conference call.”

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Ms. Greene to participate in the meeting by electronic means was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Greene joined the meeting via Zoom.

**Communications & Addresses to the Board**

**6. Public Comments**

Dr. Rief reviewed the processes for public speaking at School Board meetings according to policy BDDH/KD and regulation BDDH-R/KD-R. The speakers were as follows:

Ms. Deborah McKeeman, ACPS community member, supported the collaborative approach to collective bargaining, and commented on the staggered term election proposals and suggested that the Board take a non-partisan approach.

Major Mike Webb, community member, spoke about student learning loss, school focus on LBGTQ, and low occurrence of college acceptance.

Mr. David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the request to adopt collective bargaining in a transparent manner for the benefit of teachers and staff.

Mr. Dick Griffin, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of collective bargaining and gave several examples of how collective bargaining could have recently been applied for the benefit of staff members.

Ms. Bridget Manke, ACPS parent, spoke about equity issues related to special education services for students identified as autistic.

**7. Report by Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin**

Mr. Ricks thanked the Board for reappointing him as a retuning student representative. He is looking forward to the new school year, and was excited that he is officially an ACHS senior.

Ms. Yassin introduced herself as a new student representative and gave an overview of her time in ACPS. She is grateful for her appointment as a student representative and is looking forward to working with the School Board and other departments.

**8. Report by International Academy (IA) Student Representative Zahra Rahimi**

Ms. Rahimi, thanked the Board for her reappointment as the IA student representative. She shared that she has been with ACPS since eighth grade, and provided a welcome to all the new IA students and staff for this upcoming school year. Lastly, Ms. Rahimi wished all ACHS Titans a wonderful school year.

## **Superintendent's Report**

### **9. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt**

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Early start for Samuel Tucker Elementary School
- The Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) invitation to families to share their back-to-school posts using the hashtag #backtoschoolva or by emailing [communications@vsba.org](mailto:communications@vsba.org)
- Douglas MacArthur Ribbon Cutting and plaque presentation held on October 18, 2023
- Recruitment update and continuing efforts to fill positions
- Priority areas in the ACPS transition plan for the upcoming school year that includes academic achievement, community engagement, absenteeism and student engagement
- Meeting with the Special Education Advisory Committee on how to better support students
- Encouraged families to complete their new-student registrations early
- Speed cameras installed around schools in ACPS
- Completing back to school forms early online
- New ACPS Tip Line
- Welcome to new Executive Director of Specialized Instruction Programs, Amy Creed

Lastly, Dr Kay-Wyatt shared a back to school video about the first day of school.

## **Board Chair's Report**

### **10. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief**

Dr. Rief took a moment to thank the superintendent, chiefs, department staff, principals and ACPS staff for working hard to start the new school year. She also thanked school custodians, registrars, and facilities staff for their hard work preparing schools. Dr. Rief also reported about the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School Ribbon Cutting event and participating in first day of school visits with Dr. Kay-Wyatt and staff.

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

### **11. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz 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 two specific public employees. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the terms or scope of a contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

### **12. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz 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 August 24, 2023.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

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

The Board returned to open session at 7:38 p.m.

### **Consent Calendar**

**13. Personnel Actions July 20, 2023 to August 24, 2023**

**14. Re-Appoint Ryan Reyna to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)**

**15. Appoint Christina Hildebidle to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)**

**16. Appoint Abdulahi Abdalla to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)**

**17. Minutes for the July 20, 2023 School Board Organizational Meeting**

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

### **Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

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

**18. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(2) for the discussion of a matter that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a student. She further 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. Lastly, Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into Closed Session at 7:45 p.m..

**19. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz 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 August 24, 2023.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

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

The Board returned to an open meeting at 10:50 p.m..

### **Board Member Announcements**

**20. Announcements**

Ms. Booz spoke about the ribbon cutting event that was held at Douglas MacArthur, recognized the ACPS facilities team on their efforts on the school opening, as well as congratulating Principal Hairston on the new school.

Mr. Harris reported on feedback he had received from the Alexandria community on the new school opening. He noted their excitement and a new positive energy about the new school year.

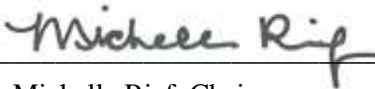
Dr. Simpson Baird spoke about a community partnership event that she and Mr. Elnoubi will be hosting over the weekend in collaboration with the Alexandria Soccer Association. The event, called "Soccer with School Board Members," will be held at Ft. Ward Park and invited community members and families to participate.

**Adjournment**

**21. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Elnoubi and seconded by Vice Chair Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 10:52 p.m.



Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the September 7, 2023 School Board Meeting.