

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

June 1, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)

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 (absent)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Alexander Duncan, Ana Bonilla, Rhea Butler, Kelly Church Connelly, Kelly Johnson, Emily Milton, Zahra Rahimi, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dominic Turner, Erika Gulick, Sophie Huemer, Theresa Werner, Matt Smith

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Elnoubi and Dr. Simpson Baird who arrived after the adoption of the agenda, and Ms. Ignacio, who was absent.

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 June 1, 2023 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the June 1, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for June 1, 2023 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight–ACHS/Minnie Howard

Mr. Alexander Duncan, Campus Administrator, and staff members Ana Bonilla, Social Worker, Rhea Butler, AVID Director, and Kelly Church Connelly, introduced programs held at Minnie Howard Campus. Students explained how programs such as the Minnie Howard Soccer Team, Tutoring and AVID, have positively affected them through their participation, increased their

sense of community in a safe environment, improved grades and empowered them to attend college and find their path for the future.

5. VIP Awards

Recipients for the fourth and final category of the 2022-23 Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) Vision, Integrity and Passion (VIP) Awards were recognized by the School Board in the leadership category which includes Central Office and building-level administration. ACPS' VIP recipients were:

- Ms. Marcella Ahern, Assistant Principal at Charles Barrett Elementary School
- Ms. Gladis Bourdouane, Assistant Director of Communications in the Department of School and Community Relations
- Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Director of Career and Technical Education in the Department of Teaching Learning and Leadership.
- Ms. Rebecca Pittman, Assistant Principal at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Mr. Christopher Speich, Campus Administrator at Alexandria City High School

ACPS is grateful for the dedication and service of the latest recipients of the division's 2023 VIP Awards.

6. Welcome to ACPS Video

The Alexandria City School Board viewed the newly produced video, "Welcome to ACPS", the second in a series to support ACPS' 2023 recruitment campaign "Join Our Equity Journey: Live. Impact. Grow." This brief video leads a digital journey through the City of Alexandria to provide a glimpse of the activities and attractions that can be enjoyed in Alexandria, including historic sites, natural beauty, restaurants and art installations.

7. Wear Orange Weekend–Gun Safety Awareness

Each year, the Alexandria City School Board reminds the public of its support of National Gun Violence Awareness Day, the first Friday in June, and Wear Orange Weekend, celebrated the first weekend in June. Orange has been the defining color of the gun violence prevention movement. In June 2022, the School Board updated its Resolution Against Gun Violence to support measures to reduce the number of guns and eliminate gun violence in our communities. Vice Chair Greene noted for the public the dramatic changes in the gun violence statistics in just one year's time. Ms. Kathy Johnson, of Moms Demand Action, also spoke about the importance of legislation to reduce the level of gun violence.

8. Public Hearing on ESSER III Fund Plan

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about on behalf of the expenditure of Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III funds. She recommended the funds be utilized for instructional support and personnel.

9. Public Comments

Ms. Hosai Rasuli, ACPS student, spoke about student mental health and possible solutions.

Mr. David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the need to adopt collective bargaining in ACPS in a timely manner.

Mr. Dick Griffin, ACPS staff member, spoke about the importance of adopting collective bargaining in order to attract and retain transportation staff.

Ms. Jovita Gill, ACPS staff member, spoke about the significance of collective bargaining services. She also addressed classroom capacity sizing, graduation rates, and the strategic plan vision.

Mr. Nicholas Hildebidle, ACPS staff member, spoke about the Encore staff re-assignments and collective bargaining.

Ms. Deborah McKeeman, community member, spoke about the ACPS strategic plan.

Ms. Laura Torchia, ACPS staff member, spoke about notice of the plan to re-allocate Encore staff.

Ms. Luisa Tio, ACPS parent, spoke about the Encore staffing and programming services.

Ms. Ashley Bender, ACPS staff member, spoke about the re-allocation of Encore staff.

10. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton reported on the following:

- Pride Month in recognition for ACPS students and staff
- Writer Festival Performance held at the ACHS auditorium held on June 2, 2023
- Mount Vernon Elementary School Spring concert held on May 30, 2023
- ACHS graduation held on June 3, 2023 at the Patriot Center

Mr. Ricks was absent.

11. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following.

- International Academy End of the Year Celebration
- Writer Festival Performance at the ACHS auditorium held on June 2, 2023
- NOVA RAFT (Resettling Afghan Families Together) summer tutoring program

Consent Calendar

12. Personnel Actions May 15 to May 26, 2023

13. Revisions to the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan

14. Updated Local Plan for the Gifted

15. 2023-2028 Technology Plan

16. Approval of Community Donation

17. Policy Adoption

18. 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Nominees

19. Appoint Brooke Curran Sydnor to the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB)

20. Re-Appoint J-Lynn Van Pelt to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

21. Minutes for the May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting and the May 18, and May 25, 2023 Work Sessions, the May 23, 2023 School Board Workshop and the May 31, 2023 School Board Retreat

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. 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

22. 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 2500 specific public employees. 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.

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 7:55 p.m.

23. 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 June 1, 2023.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 7-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Mr. Harris was not present for the vote.

The Board returned to open session at 9:50 p.m.

Old Business & Action Items

24. Alexandria City Public Schools/Alexandria Police Department Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief of Facilities and Operations, provided an updated final draft of the ACPS/APD MOU that requires review and approval every two years. The proposed updates were made from the signed October 2020 version of the MOU and feedback by the School Board and City Council Members was included. In order to maintain adherence to MOU review and approval requirement, the updated MOU must be signed no later than June 30, 2023.

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the ACPS/APD MOU.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the ACPS/APD MOU was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi and Mr. Harris were absent from the vote.

25. Adoption of the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget

As ACPS moves forward in its efforts to realize the mission and vision established in ACPS 2025 strategic plan, to prepare every student to have the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century through equitable access to opportunities, achieving academic excellence, where every school is high performing and every student succeeds, the adoption of the Combined-Funds Budget is an annual commitment to meeting these goals.

Vice Chair Greene made the following motion:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Alexandria City School Board approve the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget as follows:

- The FY 2024 Operating budget in the amount of \$333,442,978 for both revenues and expenditures. This includes other financing sources and uses, as well as a planned use of general fund balance in the amount of \$8,722,578, including a transfer out to the Capital Improvement Program of \$1,966,021, along with a \$1,200,000 transfer in from the Capital Improvement Program, and a transfer out of \$2,030,546 to the Grants and Special Projects Fund. The Operating budget includes 2,442.00 FTEs and

a total City appropriation of \$258,686,800. The \$1,966,021 transfer to the CIP shall be contingent upon the following actions from the City of Alexandria:

- The summer youth employment program grows to a minimum of 200 participants
- A partnership with ACPS is established to provide a minimum of 150 students with employment
- Explore increasing the salary for the program from \$12/hour to at least \$15/hour to ensure the Alexandria livable wage is met
- The FY 2024 Grants and Special Projects budget in the amount of \$17,850,779 for revenues and expenditures. This also includes a transfer of \$2,030,546 from the Operating Fund to provide supplemental funding support to the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) program. This budget includes a total of 111.45 FTEs.
- The FY 2024 School Nutrition Services budget totals \$12,600,871 for revenues and \$12,600,871 for expenditures. This budget includes a total of 121.00 FTEs.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board. Additionally, the School Board authorizes the encumbrances remaining as of June 30, 2023 to carry forward from FY 2023 to FY 2024 as an adjustment to the final budget.”

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

26. Adoption of the FY 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget

Based on the City of Alexandria’s Approved Budget, there were a few adjustments to the CIP, which resulted in a \$7.5 million reduction from the School Board's approved FY 2024 CIP Budget. The total adjusted FY 2024 CIP budget is now \$51,255,900, which matches the City Council Approved CIP Budget. Below are the adjustments which were incorporated into the FY 2024-2033 CIP:

- Defer leased space renovation for the Chance for Change facility from FY 2024, \$2M, to FY 2025 and from FY 2025, \$10M, to FY 2026 Reduce Patrick Henry completion from \$3.4M to \$2.9M based on bids received for this work
- Reduce FY 2024 funds for renovation of the 5th and 6th floors at Ferdinand T. Day from \$5.5M to \$0.5M to allow for re-initiation of design to start and move remaining funds with escalation to FY 2025, \$5.2M
- Re-allocate the \$2.0M proposed for William Ramsay HVAC to System-Wide HVAC to account for potential changes in ESSER funding and enable efficiency of the Educational Facilities team to get all proposed and in progress HVAC renovation projects completed
- Increase System-Wide Emergency Repairs account by \$0.05M

Vice Chair Greene made the following motion:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Alexandria City School Board adopt the FY 2024–2033 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the total amount of \$460,763,500, with \$51,255,900 in FY 2024.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.”

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

27. ESSER III Fund Plan Update

Mr. Dominic Turner, Chief Financial Officer, presented information on the use of ESSER III funding. The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation's students by addressing students' academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. ACPS was awarded \$34.8 million in ESSER III funds which was used to align with the following four Focus Areas: (1) Social, Emotional and Academic Learning, (2) Technology Infrastructure, (3) COVID-19 Prevention and Mitigation Projects, and (4) Human Capital Needs.

New Business and Reports to the Board

28. Boundary Analysis

As a follow-up to the boundary analysis proposed during the February 16, 2023 School Board meeting, staff presented an updated boundary analysis to the School Board for consideration. Ms. Erika Gulick, Executive Director of Facilities, and Ms. Sophie Huemer, Principal Planner, reviewed why ACPS is conducting a boundary analysis, current live-in and enrolled demographics of ACPS schools, development that will further impact the demographics of our school boundaries, and key findings. The School Board is being asked to review this information to determine if a redistricting effort would be needed.

29. Special Education Update

Ms. Theresa Werner, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction, presented information on disproportional practices in the identification of students for special education services. Comprehensive Coordinating Early Intervening Services (CCEIS) are services provided to students in kindergarten through grade 12 who are not currently identified as needing special education or related services, but who need additional academic and behavioral supports to succeed in a general education environment. These activities and services are designed to prevent referrals for special education services and address the disproportional identification of students as disabled.

30. Joint City Council/School Board SLEP Subcommittee

Dr. Alicia Hart, reported on the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Advisory Group recommendations which were shared at the February 27, 2023 Joint City Council/School Board Work Session. As part of the discussion, a recommendation was made to form a Joint City Council/School Board SLEP Subcommittee to continue to build upon the work of the SLEP Advisory Group.

Dr. Rief moved to approve the formation of the Joint City Council/School Board SLEP Subcommittee.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the formation of the Joint City Council/School Board SLEP Subcommittee was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried. Chair Alderton and Mr. Elnoubi did not vote as they were absent for the remainder of the meeting.

31. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reviewed policy revisions as part of the Board's continuing Equity Audit of School Board Policies, changes to the Code of Virginia, and the requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years. The following policies and regulations have been identified for revision:

- CLA- Reporting Acts of Violence and Substance Abuse
- EB- School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan

- EBB- Threat Assessment/Safety Teams
- EBB-R- Threat Assessment/Safety Team Regulations
- EBCA- Emergency Preparedness Response Drills
- EBCE- Emergency Services
- IC/ID-R- School Year Calendar Regulations
- IGBB- Programs for Gifted Students
- IGBG- Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
- IIBD- School Libraries/Media Centers
- IIBD-R- School Library Collections Regulations
- IIBEA- Responsible Computer System Use (Also GAB)
- IIBEA-R3- Student Use of Personal Mobile Devices
- IKEB- Acceleration
- IKEB-R- Acceleration Regulations
- KLB- Public Complaints About the Curriculum or Instructional Materials
- KLB-E- ACPS Request for Reconsideration of Learning Resources
- KLB-R- Process for Responding to Request for Reconsideration of School Resources
- KNAJ- Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities

These policies will return for approval at a future meeting.

Chair's Report

32. Report from Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

33. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Dr. Kay-Wyatt recognized the following accomplishments on behalf of students and staff.

- The promotion of Anika Buster-Singleton to the role of principal at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, effective May 15, 2023.
- The Scholarship Fund of Alexandria's Annual Awards Ceremony which celebrated the Alexandria City High School's (ACHS) graduating class of SFA recipients and the community that supports them.
- Ninth grade student, Allyson Castillo, at ACHS Minnie Howard Campus has been selected as a 2023 AVID Summer Institute student speaker.
- Fifteen ACHS students from the German Honor Society program took part in its annual awards ceremony and were awarded senior honor cards. This program provides selected young professionals from the United States and Germany to spend one year in each other's countries, studying, interning, and living with hosts as part of a cultural immersion program.
- First place honors were earned by the George Mason Elementary School's 5th grade Modern Band at the Six Flags Music in the Parks competition.

Board Member Announcements

34. Announcements

There were no announcements.

Adjournment

35. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Booz and seconded by Dr. Rief, the Board voted unanimously, 6-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 11:40 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the **XX** School Board Meeting.

DRAFT