

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

**November 30, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zeinab Yassin, Zahra Rahimi, Rachael Dischner, April Rodgers, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Dr. Marcia Jackson, Taneika Taylor Tukan, Rene Paschal, Kamika Valmond, Matt Smith

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except Mr. Harris, who arrived during Communications and Addresses to the Board. Mr. Bailey was absent.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

**2. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**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 November 30, 2023 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the November 30, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for November 30, 2023 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

**5. Approve Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means**

There were no Board Members participating virtually.

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

### **6. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight– Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School**

Principal Rachael Dischner introduced Ms. April Rodgers, Co-Founder of the Ferdinand T. Day Morning Movers running club. She shared a video of activities that students participate in before the school day begins.

### **7. Take Your Legislators to School Event**

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt shared slides of visits by Virginia legislators to ACPS. Senator Adam Ebbin, Delegate Charniele Herring, and a member of Elizabeth Bennett-Parker’s staff attended William Ramsay Elementary School and Alexandria City High School (ACHS) to view programs in our schools. The Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) recognizes Take Your Legislators to School Month to encourage school boards to use this opportunity to promote productive relationships between state legislators and schools.

### **8. Public Comments**

David Lagos, ACPS student, spoke about what leadership can do to improve the student rate of success for students of color.

Walter Montiel, ACPS student, advocated for more exposure to opportunities for students outside of the regular classroom in order to improve student success.

Ambyr Hinton, Community member, spoke about teacher retention.

Laurel Taylor, ACPS staff member, spoke about teacher retention and the importance of staff safety.

Sindy Carballo Garcia, community member, encouraged the Board to find proactive solutions to improve outcomes for students with a special focus on students of color.

Rosina Simmons, ACPS staff member, advocated for collective bargaining.

Kristy Shoaff, ACPS staff member, advocated for collective bargaining.

Jennifer Mock, ACPS staff member, thanked the Board for the tools and resources ACPS media centers have received and how this support has allowed library programs and staff to grow professionally.

Jessica Cuddy, community member, suggested that the upcoming proposed budget contain reinstatement of lost teacher salary steps for experienced ACPS teachers.

Catherine Eaton Clinger, Chair of Children, Youth and Families Collaborative Commission (CYFCC), advocated for increased staff compensation and reinstated lost salary steps for teachers.

Peter Plourde, ACPS parent, spoke about the modification of Advances Academic Services and the importance of STEM programs.

Kelley Organek, ACPS parent, spoke on the High School Project Academies and Pathways noting opportunities for certain programs, but asked for more information on programs which are not in a CTE or STEM academic pathway.

### **9. Report by Student Representative Zeinab Yassin and Torenzo Ricks**

Zeinab Yassin reported on the following upcoming events and recognitions.

- ACHS Swim and Dive Team won the All-City Championship Meet
- Upcoming Titan Gymnastics Team Meet.
- American Red Cross Club fundraising event held at ACHS
- The U.S. Navy Band hosted a concert at ACHS.

Mr. Ricks was absent.

## **10. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi**

Zahra Rahimi reported on the following:

- Increased diversity in the International Academy
- Assistance by the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria to guide International Academy students on the application process
- Thanked Dr. Campiglia, for her work at the International Academy and wished her well in her new role

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

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- New easy-to-navigate Academic Calendar
- Positive attendance and student engagement
- Winter Break dates: From December 18, 2023 through January 1, 2024
- Winter weather communications to families and staff
- “We Care About All of You!” Poster with resources for mental health awareness and substance abuse assistance.
- Board Member Jacinta Greene’s recent election as the VSBA Northeastern Regional Chair
- Board Member Meagan Alderton was chosen as a 2023 Leadership Honoree by the George Mason University regional Elected leadership Initiative
- Anne R. Lipnick Special Education Parent Resource Center virtual presentation on the Parent’s Role in Special Education
- Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health & Substance Abuse meeting at ACHS for middle and high school families. ACPS Office of Pupil Transportation and Fleet Management Open House.
- Online feedback is requested on the use of ESSER (Elementary and Secondary Emergency Relief)
- The Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy received the 2023 Purple Star Award from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunity for Military Children
- College Board recognition of ACHS students
- National Signing Day of five ACHS athletes to play at the college level
- ACHS PTSA Giving Tuesday Fundraiser
- ACPS Recruitment video for bus drivers, custodians, food service and other essential building staff

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

### **12. Closed Meeting**

### **13. Certification of Closed Meeting**

There was no closed session held.

## **Consent Calendar**

### **14. Personnel Actions for the Period of October 30 through November 20,2023**

### **15. Community Use of Facilities Report, October 2023**

### **16. Dominion Right of Way Agreement**

### **17. EPA Electric School Bus Rebate**

**18. Policy Adoption**

**19. Appoint Willow Darsie to the Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC)**

**20. Appoint Amanda Shapiro to the Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC)**

**21. Minutes for the November 13 and November 27, 2023 Special Called School Board Meetings**

Ms. Elnoubi moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

**Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

**Old Business and Action Items**

**22. Program of Studies for 2024-2025 for Secondary Schools: Academics and Pathways Development**

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the Program of Studies for 2024-2025 for Secondary Schools: Academics and Pathways Development

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

Dr. Pierrette Finney, Chief of Teaching, Leader and Leadership, and Ms. Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support, answered Board questions related to this agenda item.

The vote to adopt the Program of Studies for 2024-2025 for Secondary Schools: Academics and Pathways Development was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

**New Business and Reports to the Board**

**22. SY 2023-24 Fall Membership Transfer and Student Ratio Report (revised)**

Dr. Marya Runkle, Executive Director of Technology Services, presented the Fall Student Enrollment Report for the 2023-2024 School Year. This report is submitted annually to the VDOE and includes data on student membership, transfers, demographics, student-teacher ratios and class sizes. As of the end of October there were 16,071 students enrolled in ACPS.

**23. Redistricting Process and Timeline**

Dr. Marcia Jackson, Chief of Student Services and Equity, reviewed the process and timeline for the Redistricting process which is required every five years or after the opening of a new school. She highlighted redistricting criteria, potential decision points, opportunities for input and feedback from diverse stakeholder groups, policy impact and adoption and implementation of redistricting options.

**24. 2024 to 2027 Academic Calendars**

Ms. Taneika Taylor Tukan, Mr. Rene Paschal, and Ms. Kamika Valmond presented proposed options for the academic calendars for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years which prioritize student attendance and staff retention. The proposed calendars will return for adoption at a future Board meeting.

**25. Policy Revisions**

Mr. Matt Smith, ACPS Policy Consultant, presented proposed revisions to nine policies and regulations that reflect code changes, changes in the VSBA model policies, the code requirement

that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified by the Board and/or staff for review.

Revisions were recommended for the following policies and regulations:

- BBA - School Board Powers and Duties
- BDDH-R - Procedures for Public Communications with the School Board
- BDDL - Electronic Participation in Committee Meetings from Remote Locations
- JEC - School Admission
- JEC-R - School Admission (Regulations)
- JEC-R2 - Kindergarten and Grade One Placements
- JHCF - Student Wellness
- JHCF -R - Wellness and Guidelines for ACPS
- KBA -E- Rights and Responsibilities

These policies will return at a future Board Meeting for adoption.

### **Board Chair's Report**

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

Chair Rief reviewed upcoming School Board committee meetings which would be held prior to the next School Board Meeting on December 14, 2023. She also shared photos of the School Board's attendance at the VSBA Annual Conference.

### **Board Member Announcements**

#### **28. Announcements**

Ms. Ignacio announced the upcoming Superintendent Evaluation Criteria Development Committee Meeting.

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

#### **29. Closed Meeting**

#### **30. Certification of Closed Meeting**

There was no closed meeting held.

### **Adjournment**

#### **31. Adjourn**

On a motion by Ms. Greene and seconded by Dr. Simpson Baird, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:52 p.m.

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Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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