

School Board Candidate Information Session

June 26, 2021

Essential Questions

- What are the roles and responsibilities of a School Board Member?
- Which guidance documents/resources should be reviewed before running for School Board?
- Which school division policies relate to School Board campaigns?

School Board Member Roles & Responsibilities

Board Member Roles

- Oversight (Board) vs. Day-to-Day Operations (Superintendent)
- Liaison to Advisory Committees and Schools
- School Board Operates as a Continuous Body
 - No Individual Board Member Authority

Board Member Roles

- Board Members are Officers of the State
 - Standards of Conduct & Code of Ethics
 - Confidentiality
 - Conflicts of Interest
 - Nepotism
 - Legal Requirement for Impartiality re: Staff & Students
 - Compensation
- Communicating with the Public, Media & Staff
 - Individual Board Member Legal Liability

Board Member Responsibilities

- Commitment to Serve Alexandria's Students & Families
- Oversight of School Division
- Policy
- Annual Capital and Operating Budgets
- Obtain Public Comment

Board Member Responsibilities

- Appoint & Annually Evaluate Superintendent
- Meeting Preparation & Agendas
 - <https://alexandriapublic.ic-board.com>
 - Rules of Order & Bylaws ([Policy BDDE](#))
- Time Commitment

Guidance Documents for Candidates

Guidance Documents

- Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Candidate Guide
- Virginia Freedom of Information Act (VFOIA) Guidelines
- School Board Operating Procedures
- Standards of Conduct & Code of Ethics
- Rules of Order and Bylaws

Resources to Review

- ACPS Capital & Operating Budgets
- ACPS Enrollment Data
- Long Range Educational Facilities Plan
- Joint City-Schools Facilities Investment Task Force Final Report
- Grade-Level Configuration Study

Resources to Review

- Ed Specs
- Children & Youth Master Plan
- School Board Meeting Videos & Minutes (Electronic School Board)
- ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan

School Board Policies Regarding Campaigns

Essential Questions

- Policy GBG/KE: Staff Participation in Political Activities and School Board Election Campaigns
 - ACPS does not support or oppose any candidate or give the impression that it does
 - Staff time may not be used to support/oppose campaigns (during work hours)
 - School division resources may not be used to support/oppose campaigns
 - ACPS website, email, logos, social media platforms, and TV station may not be used to support/oppose campaigns

Essential Questions

- Policy KF: Distribution of Information/Materials
 - Prohibits distribution of campaign materials on school property
- Regulation KG-R: Community Use of School Facilities
 - Candidates may use school facilities outside of school hours when available (facilities use fees apply)
- Policy KJ: Advertising in the Schools
 - Prohibits use of pictures involving ACPS staff, students or facilities to promote any candidate

Questions?

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Superintendent

Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

School Board

Meagan L. Alderton, Chair
Veronica Nolan, Vice Chair

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