

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
December 15, 2022 (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 (via Zoom)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Emily Milton, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Heidi Haggerty Wagner, Dominic Turner, Dr. Marcia Jackson, Dr. Wendy González, Dr. Alicia Hart, John Crites, Rene Paschal, Julia Burgos, Simma Reingold, Dr. Marriam Ewaida, Matt Smith, Lilla Wise

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Bailey who arrived after the Adoption of the Agenda and Mr. Elnoubi who arrived during Communications and Addresses to the Board. Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom after approval by the Board.

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 December 15, 2022 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the December 15, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Greene moved to amend the agenda to add the agenda item “Allow Participation of Board Member Tammy Ignacio by Electronic Means” to Adoption of the Meeting Agenda and “Policy Revision—IIA and IIAB” to New Business and Reports to the Board.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for December 15, 2022 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

4. Allow Participation of Board Member Tammy Ignacio by Electronic Means

Vice Chair Greene made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Tammy Ignacio has notified the Board that she is unavailable to be physically present for today’s School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically family illness and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% of School Board Meetings by electronic means during 2022; and whereas Board Member Tammy Ignacio requests the opportunity to participate in the School Board Meeting by video conference call, where the video conference call shall be heard by all participants in this Board Room; and whereas a quorum of the School 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 Tammy Ignacio in this meeting by video conference call.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Ms. Ignacio to participate in the meeting by electronic means was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Mr. Bailey was present for the vote.

Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

5. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight—Early Childhood Center

6. Strategic Plan Video Vignette

The School Board unveiled its fourth in a series of Strategic Plan video vignettes. ACPS will be sharing monthly videos that provide staff, families, students and community members an inside glimpse into how the School Board works with the division to bring to life the mission, vision and goals of the ACPS 2025: Equity for All Strategic Plan. Board Member Tammy Ignacio narrated the video on the strategic plan goal Student Accessibility and Support which focused on the topic of Social Emotion and Academic Learning (SEAL).

7. Public Hearing on ESSER III Funds Plan

There were no speakers for the Public Hearing.

8. Public Comments

Rachel Cain, ACPS student, spoke about bringing back the Lunch and Learn program for the benefit of both students and teachers.

Kelly Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke about requesting some amount of required masking as reasonable modification.

Deborah McKeeman, community member, thanked Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt for assuming the role of interim superintendent, and complimented the TAG Advisory Committee for following Virginia state laws regarding TAG.

9. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton started off her report by wishing everyone a happy holiday during the winter break. She noted that with the winter break almost here, students are getting into the holiday spirit with fun decorations and outfits. She indicated it was Ugly Sweater day at ACHS, and the previous day was a cultural bazaar where students could showcase and share their heritage. Ms. Milton reported on two French language students who were able to welcome the French President Emmanuel Macron to the United States at the White House. She also reflected on the past year and said “Thank You” to the Board Members, has enjoyed getting to know the newer members, and for giving her this opportunity to be part of this Board. Ms. Milton also congratulated Virginia State Championship Volleyball coach, Danielle Thorne, who was name Coach of the Year for the Class Six Division. She thanked Bethany Bonetti, Minnie Howard Math Teacher, for her unique and highly engaging SEAL lessons that also incorporated math topics.

Mr. Ricks wished everyone a happy holiday. He noted that the ACHS Performing Arts Department put on a wonderful band, choral and orchestra concert led by Mr. Grant, Mr. Thorpe, and Ms. Jackson. Mr. Ricks reminded students, families and community members to fill out the Superintendent Search Survey by the December 21st deadline. The survey is available on the ACPS website in multiple languages. He noted that the ACPS Science and Engineering Fair will be held on January 26, at ACHS and that judges are needed. A sign-up form is available on the website. Mr. Ricks shared that the ACHS Choir will be performing the Star-Spangled Banner at an upcoming Board Meeting. He also thanked Minnie Howard teacher, Kelly Church-Connolly, for her diligent training and mentoring of new teachers, Coach Biggert for his creative ways of enforcing the principals of PBIS, and the new Academy 5 Principal, Mr. Roberts for doing a great job. In conclusion, Mr. Ricks thanked the Board Members for the opportunity to serve as a student representative, thanked Emily and Zahra for supporting him as fellow student reps, and thanked every teacher, substitute, principal, administrator, security guard for returning to their jobs after the pandemic.

10. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the new International Academy (IA) club, the Muslim Youth Union, whose goal is to unite and establish a community amongst Muslim and non-Muslim students by holding cultural and religious events. She announced a celebration by the ACHS Heart of Asia Afghan Group (HAAG) which will be holding a Yalda Night winter solstice celebration at William Ramsay Elementary School on December 21st. Yalda Night is celebrated in Afghanistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Iran. She also reported that HAAG has partnered with with Nova RAFT, an organization that helps Afghan refugees and does volunteer work for churches, synagogues, mosques, and businesses. Ms. Rahimi announced a project which will survey recreation centers to see how they are serving multi-lingual families. The survey is being created through the Digital Applications Class in the IA. Lastly, she relayed plans for the IA to start a marching band typical of Central America.

Consent Calendar

- 11. Personnel Actions from October 28 through December 9, 2022**
- 12. FY 2022 Preliminary End of Year Financial Report Ending June 30, 2022**
- 13. FY 2023 Preliminary Financial Report ending October 31, 2022**
- 14. Contract Change Order—Naomi L. Brooks Roofing Project**
- 15. Community Use of Facilities for November 2022**
- 16. Policy Adoption**
- 17. Re-Appoint David Mercer to the Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee**
- 18. Appoint Lillian Pace to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advisory Committee**
- 19. Appoint Ryann Morales to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- 20. Appoint Ruchir Nayaran to the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**
- 21. Minutes for the December 8 and December 13, 2022 Special Called School Board Meetings, the December 7, 2022 School Board Work Session, and the December 8, 2022 School Board Retreat**

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Bailey 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

22. Closed Meeting

23. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Old Business & Action Items

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

In preparation for the FY 2024-2033 CIP, the School Board discussed and voted on budget priorities to drive the CIP formulation process. The School Board held joint work sessions with City Council on October 12 and 18, 2022, to discuss joint facilities planning and ACPS's proposed plan for the CIP. Work sessions were held on November 14 and November 28. School Board Add/Deletes for the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget were discussed during the December 7th and December 13th work sessions. The Board submitted Add/Deletes requests and as a result, adjustments were made to the Superintendent's Proposed CIP Budget

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Alexandria City School Board adopt the FY 2024–2033 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the total amount of \$461,065,200, with \$58,707,600 in FY 2024. She further moved that the Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2024-2033 CIP Budget was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

25. ESSER III Update

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.

New Business and Reports to the Board

26. Safety Survey and SLEP Focus Group Feedback Results

Dr. Marriam Ewaida, Managing Director of K12 Professional Services from Hannover Research reported on the survey results regarding school safety and School Resource Officers (SROs) which was developed as part of the School Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) process. The survey was open to students, staff, parents and community members and was held from September 12 to October 9, 2022. There was a total of 5,238 respondents to the survey. Ms. Simma Reingold, of Thru Consultants, gave an overview of how the SLEP advisory group is using this data as part of their review process.

27. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, presented proposed revisions of 13 policies and regulations. 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 were reviewed for adoption at a future Board Meeting: BB, BBAA, BCA, CM, EF, EFB/JHCH, EFB-R/JCHC-R, EFD, EFE, IGBA, IIAA. Policies IIA and IIAB were reviewed and adopted in the next agenda item due to their timely nature.

28. Policy Revisions—IIA and IIAB

The Code of Virginia requires that ACPS adopt the revisions to policy IIA – Instructional Material and policy IIAB – Supplementary Materials Selection and Adoption by January 1, 2023. The policies are being presented for information on December 15, 2022 and the next Board Meeting will not be held until after the deadline. Staff are recommending the Board adopt these policies on December 15, 2022 to meet the state deadline.

Ms. Booz moved to adopt policy IIA and IIAB. Vice Chair Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the adoption of policies IIA and IIAB was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

29. 2023 ACPS Legislative Agenda

The Alexandria City School Board believes high-quality public schools are fundamental to keeping our local community and Commonwealth strong. To that end, each year we communicate the needs of our local school division to legislators in the Virginia General Assembly. Ms. Lilla Wise, Legislative Consultant, reviewed the proposed ACPS legislative positions for 2023-2024 school year, which align with the School Board's long-standing advocacy for increased state funding to support students, staff, and school facility modernization. In addition, the Board requests flexibility to manage resources and set policies at the local level that are in the best interest of the local community. The 2023 ACS Legislative Agenda will return for adoption at the Organizational Meeting on January 5, 2023.

Chair's Report

30. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton reported on upcoming meetings and highlighted work sessions related to the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget.

Superintendent's Report

31. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt let parents and students know that ACPS has a comprehensive plan in place when in-person instructions may not be possible during times of heavy snow, ice and extreme cold. She noted that detailed information may be found on the Winter Weather Communications webpage. Dr. Kay-Wyatt reminded families that in order for everyone to stay healthy, that students, families and staff who exhibit symptoms of illness should get tested for Covid before returning to school. Dr. Kay-Wyatt welcomed Dr. Jamila Mannie, new principal of the Northern Virginia Juvenile Detention Center School. She also expressed gratitude for the hard work of ACPS Social Workers who help to connect families in need with community partners who distribute resources to them. Dr Kay-Wyatt also noted that ACHS French Teacher Bridget Tomich along with students Deanna Kosinski and Francis Pena Cruz were able to attend the State arrival ceremony at the White House, honoring President Emmanuel Macron of France and his wife Brigitte. She congratulated 5 ACPS teachers who achieved 2021-2022 Wise Gold Star Award status with a 90% pass rate on the Wise Financial Literacy Certification Test. They are Shawnell Carmichael, David Cole, Greg Derogatis, Victoria Stowell and Beulah Willis-Brown. Dr. Kay Wyatt also congratulate the DECA students for their strong showing at the Virginia District Level Competition, students in the Northern Virginia Regional *We The People* competition who took home the Best Unit 4 Award, and the ACHS Swim and Dive team who won the Mayor's Trophy Cup at the Alexandria Tri-City Championship Meet. Lastly, Dr. Kay-Wyatt thanked students, staff and families for their support this year, and wished everyone a healthy and happy Winter Break.

Board Member Announcements

32. Announcements

Vice Chair Greene wished everyone a wonderful Winter Break.

Adjournment

33. Adjourn

On a motion by Dr. Rief and seconded by Ms. Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:40 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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