

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

October 5, 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 (virtual)
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris (absent)
Tammy Ignacio (virtual)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zeinab Yassin, Torenzo Ricks, Dominic Turner, Dr. Alicia Hart, Kamika Valmond, Margaret Browne, Rene Paschal, Matt Smith

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Bailey, who arrived after the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Ignacio and Vice Chair Booz attended the meeting virtually. Mr. Harris was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Alexandria City High School JROTC Color Guard presented the colors and led the audience in 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 October 5, 2023 School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the October 5, 2023 School Board Meeting. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for October 5, 2023 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried. Mr. Bailey voted orally.

5. Approve Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

Ms. Green made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Members Kelly Carmichael Booz and Tammy Ignacio have notified the Chair that they are unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically illness, and whereas Board Members Booz and Ignacio request the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference call from their respective homes 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 room; Therefore, I move, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 that the Board approve the participation of Board Members Kelly Booz and Tammy Ignacio in this meeting by video conference call.”

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.
Vice Chair Booz and Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Public Comments

Ms. Deborah McKeeman, community member, spoke about safety and security in ACPS schools.

Ms. Jennifer Topping, ACPS parent, spoke about teacher recruitment and retention.

Mr. David Paladin Fernandez, ACPS staff member, advocated for collective bargaining.

Ms. Kelly Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke about bathroom accessibility for students with medical conditions or experiencing their periods.

Ms. Kelley Organek, ACPS parent, spoke on staffing vacancies within ACPS.

Ms. Sarah Schultz, ACPS parent, spoke on how staffing vacancies are affecting student learning, class size and teacher workload.

Ms. Suzie O’Brien, ACPS parent, spoke about staffing vacancies within ACPS.

Ms. Bridget Shea Westfall, ACPS parent, commented on the appointment of an ACPS staff member.

Ms. Laurel Taylor, ACPS staff member, spoke about the students’ right to read a wide variety of materials and topics at Alexandria City High School (ACHS) and how it contributes to their success.

Mr. Brett Rice, ACPS parent, spoke on the need to speak about academics in the division.

7. Advisory Committee Comments–Athletic Hall of Fame

Ms. Jacinta Greene, Staff Liaison to the Athletic Hall of Fame, spoke about the upcoming Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to be held on October 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at ACHS.

8. Report by Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Mr. Ricks reported on the following:

- National Custodian Day
- Chance For Change Extracurricular Clubs and Activities
- ACHS Government Class Mock Elections
- Middle School Orchestra Students shadowing High School Orchestra Students and a combined chamber orchestra concert
- National Fishing Day
- Honor Society Students participated in a Meals on Wheels event
- Student art competition at the Del Ray Art on the Avenue event
- Youth and Caring Adult Summit
- Titan Athletics Student Recognitions

- Early Senior College Admission Deadlines

Ms. Yassin was absent.

9. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Zahra Rahimi reported on the following:

- PTA Golden Apple Award to Mr. Gabriel Elias
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Liberty Promise Non-Profit Collaboration

10. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Superintendent's Community Chat
- Disability Awareness Month
- National Bullying Prevention Month and Digital Citizenship Week
- Indigenous People's Day
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- National Custodians Day
- National School Lunch Week
- Partnership with Hazel Health
- Healthy Conversations at George Washington Middle School
- Community Budget Forum on October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
- Recognition of ACHS Advanced Placement Student Mohommed Abir Rahman
- Recognition of ACHS Student Joshua Smith for the Financial Literacy Ambassadors Award
- Recognition of ACPS' Department of Finance for the Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association. Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

11. Closed Meeting

12. Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting held.

Consent Calendar

13. Facilities Use Report, August 2023

14. Personnel Actions for the Period of September 19 through September 29, 2023

15. Policy Adoption

16. Minutes for the September 21, 2023 School Board Meeting and Work Session, and the September 28, 2023 Retreat

17. Re-Appoint Patrick Corr to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and Grant a Residency Waiver

18. Re-Appoint David Remick to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and Grant a Term Length and Residency Waiver

19. Application of Jacinta Greene for the VSBA Northeast Regional Chair Position

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Vice Chair Booz and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business and Action Items

20. Adoption of Budget Priorities for FY 2025 CF Budget and FY 2025-2034 CIP Budget

Budget priorities guide the upcoming budget process for the FY 2025 Combined Funds and the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget process and were developed with the School Board at a work session held on September 21, 2023. These priorities highlight specific areas for intentional prioritization and further the alignment to the FY 2025 Strategic Plan.

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Budget Priorities for the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget and the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Budget.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2025 Budget priorities was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Vice Chair Booz and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. HR Staffing Update

Ms. Margaret Browne, Director of Recruitment and Retention, gave a staffing update which provided information on 2023-24 recruitment and retention efforts, vacancies, and initiatives that are being implemented to resolved outstanding staffing issues. She also reviewed compensation of ACPS and neighboring jurisdictions, and successes achieved in hiring.

22. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant, presented proposed revisions of several policies and regulations. These policies have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee. The policies and regulations proposed for revision are:

- AF - Comprehensive Plan
- DB - Annual Budget
- DJF - Purchasing Procedures
- IKFB - Transfer Students and High School Credits
- JFCF_JFCI - Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) in Schools
- JFCF-R_JFCI-R - Alcohol and other Drugs (AOD) Abuse: Regulations

These policies will return for adoption at a future board meeting.

Board Chair's Report

27. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief highlighted the following upcoming events:

- Joint City Council/School Board SLEP Subcommittee Meeting, October 11, 2023
- Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission, October 11, 2023
- School Board Policy Review Subcommittee Committee, October 12, 2023
- Ad Hoc School Board Advisory Support Committee, October 12, 2023
- Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, October 14, 2023 at 2:00pm at ACHS
- Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee, October 17, 2023

- Community Budget Forum, October 16, 2023
- School Health Advisory Board, October 17, 2023
- Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee on October 17, 2023
- Gang Prevention Community Task Force, October 18, 2023
- PTA Council General, October 18, 2023
- School Board Meeting, October 19, 2023

Board Member Announcements

28. Announcements

There were no announcements by Board Members.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

29. Closed Meeting

Ms. Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(8) for the consultation with legal council employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice of such counsel. She further 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 2700 specific public employees.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Vice Chair Booz and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 7:39 p.m.

30. Certification of Closed Meeting

Ms. 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 are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on October 5, 2023.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 7-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Vice Chair Booz voted orally. Ms. Ignacio was not present for the remainder of the meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 9:36 p.m.

Adjournment

31. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Elnoubi and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. Vice Chair Booz voted orally.

The meeting ended at 9:37 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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