

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

**September 21, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**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 (absent)  
Tammy Ignacio (virtual)  
Michelle Rief  
Ashley Simpson Baird

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zeinab Yassin, Dominic Turner, Dr. Pierrette Finney, James Parker, Alexander Duncan, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Devin Vodicka, Dr. Alicia Hart

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Ignacio, who joined the meeting virtually, Ms. Alderton who joined the meeting after Old Business, and Mr. Harris who was absent for the meeting.

**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 September 21, 2023 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the September 21, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for the September 21, 2023 meeting was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

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

Ms. Booz made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Tammy Ignacio has notified the Board that she unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically illness, and whereas Board Member Ignacio requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference call from home 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 Member Tammy Ignacio in this meeting by video conference call.”

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom.

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

### **6. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight--Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School**

Students from Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School presented information about why their school is so amazing.

### **7. Public Comments**

Ms. Rosina Simmons, ACPS staff, spoke about concerns about the HVAC system at Hammond.

Ms. Tara Jean Kilfoyle, ACPS staff member, spoke about staff shortages in the STEM academy.

Mr. David Paladin Fernandez, ACPS staff member, advocated for the passing of collective bargaining in ACPS.

Ms. Gina Baum, ACPS parent, spoke about how open civil discourse influences public policy.

Dr. Shannon Waite, ACPS parent, spoke about concerns regarding enrollment capacity and capital improvements at Polk Elementary School.

### **8. Report by Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin**

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- The Teen Wellness Center Vaccination Workshop
- Back to School Nights for ACHS, Minnie Howard, Chance for Change, and Satellite campuses
- Yom Kippur
- FLEX advisory pilot held at ACHS
- FLEX advisory pilot held at ACHS
- Homecoming week at ACHS
- Middle School Student Representative announcements

Mr. Ricks was absent.

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

Ms. Rahimi was absent.

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

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Back to School Forms need to be completed by September 30, 2023;

- Applications for Free and Reduced Meals Priced Meals need to be completed by October 4, 2023 for Elementary School students and October 6, 2023 for secondary school students;
- The City of Alexandria's new School Zone Speed Camera Program is now active
- The Virginia Department of Education approved a three-year grant for ACPS;
- Congratulated ACHS students who were named National Merit Scholarship Program semifinalists;
- Congratulated Alexandria City High School (ACHS) students who earned academic honors from the College Board National Recognition Program;
- Substance Abuse Prevention Coalition of Alexandria held on September 27, 2023;
- DASH Advisory Committee Appointee;
- National Custodian's Day held on October 2, 2023;
- ACPS Calendar Committee Interest Form to be completed by September 29, 2023; and
- Remember the Titans Night at the varsity football game on September 29, 2023

### **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 from September 5 through September 18, 2023**

#### **15. FY 2023 Monthly Financial Report ending June 30, 2023**

#### **16. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending July 31, 2023**

#### **17. FY 2023 Budget Transfer Report Q4**

#### **18. FY 2025 Adoption of Budget Process Resolution and Rules of Engagement**

#### **19. Accept Resignation of Ruchir Narayan from the Special Education Advisory Committee**

#### **20. Accept Resignation of Rachel Dixon from the Special Education Advisory Committee**

#### **21. Minutes for the September 7, 2023 School Board Meeting and Work Session**

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Bailey 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. Adoption of FY 2025 Budget Calendar**

Ms. Simpson-Baird moved to adopt the FY 2025 Budget Calendar.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2025 Budget Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

### **New Business and Reports to the Board**

#### **23. Middle School Athletics and Activities**

Mr. James Parker, Executive Director of Athletics & Student Activities reported on the recommendation to begin middle school athletics and competitive student activity programs at Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Patrick Henry K-8 School, Jefferson-Houston Middle School, and George Washington Middle School. He also noted the introduction of forensics, scholastic bowl and debate to the middle school program to spark interest in these high school competitive programs.

#### **24. The High School Project Recommendations**

Mr. Alexander Duncan, Executive Principal at ACHS, reported on the continued work regarding educational programming of the The High School Project (THSP) in collaboration with The Learner-Centered Collaborative as consultants. There have been working groups meeting and recommendations moved forward to the Superintendent and Executive Leadership Cabinet for approval. The approval of these recommendations will shape further planning and support communication and engagement efforts with stakeholders about THSP.

#### **25. Safety and Security Update**

Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief Operating Officer, updated the Board on school safety data for Q3 and Q4 from the 2022-2023 school year. Collection and reconciliation of school safety data is a requirement of both school board policy and our School Law Enforcement Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU details the requirement to collect, review and reconcile specific data related to incidents on school campus grounds. It also requires ACPS to provide a summary of the quarterly meetings that occur with APD in regards to the SRO program. The most recent SRO/MOU Quarterly Meeting occurred on August 29, 2023.

#### **26. Policy Revisions**

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Services Consultant presented on proposed revisions of several policies and regulations. Summaries of the revision, including links to code changes where appropriate, are presented in the memo. Red-line changes and comments are included in the draft policies. 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.

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

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

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

Dr. Rief took a moment to highlight the following upcoming events.

- Joint City Council/School Board Law Enforcement Partnership Subcommittee on September 27, 2023 at 6:00pm
- Budget Advisory Committee, on September 27, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Special Education Advisory Committee on September 27, 2023 at 7:00pm
- School Board Policy Review Subcommittee on September 28, 2023 at 8:30am
- Board Retreat on September 28, 2023 at 6:30pm
- Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee on October 2, 2023 at 6:30pm
- School Board Meeting on October 5, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

### **Board Member Announcements**

#### **28. Announcements**

Mr. Abdel Elnoubi had the opportunity to attend several community meetings such as the PTA Council Meet and Greet events held at James K. Polk and Ferdinand T. Day Elementary Schools.

He also attended the Cameron Station Civic Association meeting to advocate for the Alexandria Community.

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

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

Vice Chair Booz 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 10 specific public employees.

Ms. Greene 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 8:52 p.m.

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

Vice Chair Booz 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 September 21, 2023.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 6-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Ms. Ignacio and Mr. Bailey did not return after the Closed Meeting.

The Board returned to open session at 9:38 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

#### **31. Adjourn**

On a motion by Mr. Elnoubi and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 6-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:41 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.