

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

April 25, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Tim Beaty
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Dr. Grace Taylor, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin, The Honorable Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, The Honorable Alfonso Lopez, The Honorable Charniele Herring, Kathy Burcher, Laura Gilbertson, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Kimberly Schell, James Parker, Matt Smith.

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. All members of the School Board were present.

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 April 25, 2024 School Board Meeting

Mr. Beaty moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 25, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for April 25, 2024 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no Board Members participating virtually.

Recognitions

6. “Simply The Best” School Spotlight–George Mason Elementary

The George Mason Elementary School teacher Curtis Donohue introduced the 4th and 5th grade music ensembles. Band teacher Vanna Tsiknias led the band in performing “George Mason

Dragon Fanfare” and orchestra teacher Leigh Elliott led her students in performing “Pachelbel’s Canon in D.”

7. General Assembly Proclamation Recognition

Ms. Greene introduced the General Assembly recognitions and proclamations being presented to ACPS students and staff that were put forth for recognition by the Virginia General Assembly by Virginia State Senator Adam Ebbin, and Delegates Elizabeth Bennett-Parker, Alfonzo Lopez and Charniele Herring. The honorees were:

Sydney Robasson, Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Senate Page to Adam Ebbin
Jada Ashun, Francis C. Hammond Middle School, Senate Page to Winsom Sears
Zahra Rahimi, Alexandria City High School, Girls Leading Change Honoree
Sara Woube, Alexandria City High School, Questbridge Scholarship Winner
Lucia Stakem, Alexandria City High School, Questbridge Scholarship Winner
Zuha Hassen, Alexandria City High School, Questbridge Scholarship Winner
Chloe Yokitis, Alexandria City High School, Posse Scholarship Winner
Zahra Rahimi, Alexandria City High School, Posse Scholarship Winner
Mohammed Rahman, Alexandria City High School, Posse Scholarship Winner
Krissia Rodriguez Rivera, Alexandria City High School, Posse Scholarship Winner
Yahney-Marie Sangare, Alexandria City High School, Harry Byrd Leadership Award
Nathan Herschberger, George Mason Elementary School Staff Member, 2022-23 ACPS
Teacher of the Year
Hope Bachman and Leslie Jones, Alexandria City High School Staff Members for 20 years of
Theater Partnership

Superintendent’s Report

8. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- ACPS was included in Forbes Magazine’s list as one of America’s Best-In-State Employers of 2023
- Public School Volunteer Week
- National Student Leadership Week
- Afterschool Professionals Appreciation Week
- Administrative Professionals Week
- National Arbor Day
- Earth Day
- ACHS Dell Scholarship Winners
- Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest
- GWMS Robotics Team advanced to the Sea Perch International Competition at University of Maryland, May 31-June 1, 2024
- ACHS Washington Post Winter Sports All-Met Honorees
- Amy Creed named as Executive Director of Specialized Instruction
- Kindergarten Registration for 2024-25 is now open
- Nominations for Anne R. Lipnick Awards for Specialized Instruction is open through April 28

Communications & Addresses to the Board

9. Report from Student Representative Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- Arab American Heritage Month

- National Poetry Month
- 2024-25 Cheer Interest Meeting
- Spring2ACTion fundraising event
- Writers Fest

10. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi remarked how grateful she was for the recognitions she received this evening. She further noted the following:

- International Night at ACHS
- Application for Student Representatives to the School Board is open until May 10.

11. Public Comments

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about the FY 2025 budget related to restorative practices.

Dawn Lucas, EAA President and staff member, spoke in appreciation of the recently adopted collective bargaining resolution.

Karla Walter, ACPS parent, spoke about a student incident at Jefferson-Houston that resulted in disciplinary action against the administrative staff.

Sarah Mehaffey, ACPS parent, spoke about the Superintendent’s disciplinary action against Jefferson-Houston staff.

David Paladin-Fernandez, staff member, spoke about his experiences working at Jefferson-Houston School.

Nora Lovrien Buehler, ACPS parent, spoke about the Jefferson-Houston incident and the negative outcomes that resulted.

Jennifer Schneider, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at James K. Polk Elementary School and related capacity policies/regulations.

Kate Moore Rodriguez, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at Polk and need for better communication on school capacity across the district.

Thayer Scott, ACPS parent, spoke about the foreign language program at ACHS.

Silda Nikaj, ACPS parent, spoke about accountability, transparency, and communication during a safety emergency.

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about safety and security measures.

Jakob Wolf Barnett, ACPS parent, spoke about crowding at Patrick Henry Elementary School.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

12. Closed Meeting

13. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Consent Calendar

14. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending February 29, 2024

15. Personnel Actions

16. Community Use of Facilities for March 2024

17. Policy Adoption

18. Minutes for April 11, 2024 School Board Meeting and the April 18, 2024 School Board Retreat and New Board Member Orientation

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was 8-0. The motion carried. Ms. Alderton was not present for the vote.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

19. Legislative Update

Ms. Kathy Burcher, Senior Director of Government Relations for Advantus Strategies, provided an update on Governor Youngkin's K-12 priorities on the bi-annual budget, expanded options on teacher licensure, JLARC study recommendations, interim efforts, and ongoing opportunities to influence educational decisions.

New Business and Reports to the Board

20. ACPS Virginia Literacy Act

Ms. Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support, and Ms. Kimberly Schell, K-12 Literacy Coordinator & Secondary Literacy Instructional Specialist, presented on ACPS' strategies and use of new evidence-based literacy resources and practices, what is being learned to inform the division's next steps, and what are the implications for moving to refinement and integration of the new resources while transitioning to full enactment of the Virginia Literacy Act.

21. Athletics Update

Mr. James Parker, Executive Director of Athletics and Student Activities, presented an overview on the Athletic Department that included academic advisement for athletes, coach education, Athlete of the Week and Month programs, scholarships, and middle school sports planning.

22. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant reported on the following policies for revision.

- CBG - Evaluation of the Superintendent
- CBEG/EBBA - First Aid CPR Certified Personnel
- GBL - Personnel Records
- GBL-R - Personnel Records Regulation
- GCPA - Reduction in Licensed Staff Workforce
- GCPA-R - Reduction in Licensed Staff Workforce Regulation
- GCQA - Nonschool Employment by Staff Members
- GCQAB - Tutoring for Pay
- IGAE/IGAF - Health Physical Education
- IGBD - Extended Day Opportunities
- IGBG - Homebound Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
- IGBGA - Online Courses and Virtual School Programs
- IGBGA-R - ACPS Online Learning Program
- IKH - Retaking SOL Assessments Regulations
- IM - Evaluation of Instructional Programs
- JEG - Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
- JEG-ER - Protocol on Religious Exemptions

These policies will return at a future meeting for adoption.

Board Chair's Report

23. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief reported on upcoming meetings from the School Board's calendar.

Announcements by Board Members

24. Announcements

There were no Board Member announcements.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

25. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz, moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(8) and 2.2-3711(A)(19) for discussion and consultation with staff and legal counsel employed by a public body pertaining to two public safety matters within Alexandria City Public Schools.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to go into a closed meeting was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a closed session at 9:41 p.m.

26. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, the Board will certify 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 April 25, 2024.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to certify the closed meeting was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 10:24 p.m.

Adjournment

27. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 10:25 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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