

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
December 1, 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
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Emily Milton, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Julia Burgos, Kurt Huffman, Avanda Williams-White, Krishna Leyva, Matt Smith, Rene Paschal, Kristin Donley,

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.

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 1, 2022 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the December 1, 2022 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for December 1, 2022 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Take Your Legislators to School Month

As part of the "Take Your Legislator to School Month" held each year in November, the Alexandria City School Board invited state legislators to visit our schools. Virginia State Senators George Barker and Adam Ebbin, along with Delegates Elizabeth Bennett-Parker and Charnielle Herring were hosted by Board Members Michelle Rief and Vice Chair Greene as they visited Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School. There was a short video of their visit.

5. Public Comments

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about diversity and racial equity.

Kellen Patterson, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding in ACPS Elementary Schools.

The following written comments were submitted:

Rhett Christenson, ACPS parent, submitted comments on behalf of Patrick Henry and Samuel Tucker Elementary Schools PTA Board. He wrote regarding overcrowding and under-utilized elementary schools in ACPS.

6. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Emily Milton congratulated the ACHS Varsity Girls Volleyball team who won its second state championship recently in Richmond. She noted that Dr. Kay-Wyatt and Vice Chair Green were there to witness their win. Ms. Milton also reported on attending the ACHS Signing Day where high school athletes commit to play and pursue their sport in college. She witnessed five outstanding female athletes commit to college sports in Soccer, Softball, Volleyball and Rowing. Lastly, Ms. Milton congratulated the ACHS Swim and Dive team on bringing home the city championship and the Titan DECA students in a competition against Wakefield and Washington and Liberty High Schools where they received number 1 rankings in 17 of the 19 categories, earning 23 second and third place winners.

Mr. Torenzo Ricks wished everyone a Happy Holiday season. He encouraged all students, families and community members to be on the lookout for holiday information from our schools including winter concerts put on by the middle and high school music departments. Mr. Rick thanked Dr. Marcia Jackson, Executive Director of Student Services, and Ms. Kennetra Wood, Executive Director of Alternative Programs and Equity, for coming to ACHS to meet with students and teachers regarding the re-implementation of a “Lunch and Learn” program. He also wanted to thank the students, staff and administrators who served on this committee and have worked hard to create a new and improved version. Mr. Ricks especially thanked Principal Balas for attending each meeting.

7. Report by International Academy (IA) Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Zahra Rahimi reported that she enjoyed attending the Student Representative Workshop by the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) held in Williamsburg. She thanked the local business, *Unwined*, for donating heritage turkeys for needy families in the International Academy. Ms. Rahimi also reported on Futsal teams in the IA which are organizing and fundraising, and that the IA boys soccer team won a Harvest Cup. She thanked Steve Nelson and Jim Dillon from the Alexandria Gang Prevention Task Force who visited with IA students and staff about recreational activities for students, and noted Donors Choose projects in the IA. Lastly, Ms. Rahimi reported on the Francis Hammond International Academy whose enrollment has grown to 210 students, and the Tech and STEM Night to be held on December 13th. She also noted that students are working on their mid-year portfolio presentations.

Consent Calendar

8. Community Donation – The Motley Fool

9. Appoint Jennica Patterson to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

10. 2021-2022 Talented and Gifted Advisory Committee (TAGAC) End of Year Report

11. Minutes for the November 10, 2022 School Board Meeting, the November 9 and November 14, 2022 Special Called School Board Meetings, and the November 14, 2022 CIP Work Session #1

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Dr. Rief 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

12. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the term or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board.

Mr. Enoubi seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 6:53 p.m.

13. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair 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 which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on December 1, 2022.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 7:06 p.m.

Old Business & Action Items

14. Program of Studies for 2023-2024 for Secondary Schools

The Program of Studies includes a comprehensive list of courses available to meet graduation requirements, provides opportunities to explore a wide range of disciplines, and meets diverse student needs and interests. Dr. Pierrette Finney, Executive Director of School Leadership, informed the Board of revisions to the 2023-2024 Program of Studies since the last meeting. She noted that there were adjustments made to page 31.

Ms. Booz moved to approve the 2023-2024 Program of Studies for Secondary Schools.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the 2023-2024 Program of Studies was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

New Business and Reports to the Board

15. Individualized Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Action Plan Blueprints for All ACPS Schools

Ms. Avanda Williams-White, Family Engagement Coordinator, and Krishna Leyva, Family and Community Engagement Manager, presented information on family engagement, how the work of FACE supports the ACPS 2025 Strategic Plan, progress that has been made toward the recommendations from the 2020 Family Engagement Evaluation and how the current FACE programs and strategies strengthen family-school partnerships. Lastly, they reviewed the family engagement action plan blueprints and how they ensure student success.

16. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reviewed changes to 9 Board policies and regulations to align with VSBA model policies, changes/amendments to the Code of Virginia, and standard changes

that have been identified through the Equity Audit of School Board Policies. The policies and regulations reviewed were: BBFA, BCF-R2, BDD, IGAE/IGAF, IGAG, IGAH, IGAH-R, IGAI, and JJAF.

17. Staff Wellness

Mr. Rene Paschal, Acting Executive Director of Human Resources, reviewed the ACPS Human Resources Department's staff wellness plan for the 2022-2023 school year. He noted that supporting the health of school staff impacts retention and recruitment of quality staff and also helps to support students' health and academic success. Mr. Paschal reviewed initiatives toward staff wellness that includes a staff survey, webinars, and resources available.

Chair's Report

18. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton reminded the public of upcoming CIP Budget Add/Delete Work Sessions on December 7 and 13, the School Board Retreat on December 8, and the December 15, 2022 School Board Meeting. She noted that the CIP Budget will be adopted at that meeting, as well as have a public hearing on the ESSER III Fund Plan. She noted that the public can sign up for the public hearing through the School Board Meeting webpage.

Superintendent's Report

19. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt shared updates since the last School Board Meeting. She congratulated the Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Girls Volleyball Team for their 2022 Volleyball State Championship. She noted that this was the first team to win a district, regional and state championship under the ACHS name. Additionally, Head Varsity Coach Danielle Thorne, an ACPS alumnus and former volleyball player, is the first female head coach at ACHS to win a state championship.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt congratulated the ACPS Finance team under the direction of Chief Financial Officer Dominic Turner for being awarded the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting, the highest form or recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. She also congratulated the Department of School and Community Relations which received five awards for communications projects at the Chesapeake Chapter of the National School Public Relations Association (CHESPRA). Dr. Kay-Wyatt announced William Ramsay Elementary School nurse, Jodi Bobbitt, was named the Virginia Association of School Nurses' (VASN) School Nurse of the Year. She also recognized Madelyn Giblin, CIS Site coordinator at Francis C. Hammond Middle School was awarded the All In for Kids Award by Communities in Schools (CIS) of Virginia for her excellence as an outstanding sit coordinator.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt welcomed the new Director of Pupil Transportation and Fleet Management, MeChale' Johnson to ACPS and also recognized Azjargal "Azuka" Bartlett in her new role as the Director of Capital Program, Planning and Design.

Lastly, Dr. Kay-Wyatt reminded families of student with disabilities to complete the annual Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) survey which is due by Friday, December 16th.

Board Member Announcements

20. Announcements

Ms. Ignacio reported that the School Health Advisory Committee (SHAB) is up and running.

Vice Chair Greene congratulated the ACHS Volleyball State Championship team and noted they will be celebrated at a future Board Meeting.

Adjournment

21. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Elnoubi and seconded by Mr. Bailey, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:37 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT