

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

February 22, 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, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zeinab Yassin, Zahra Rahim, Gabby Hopson, Dr. Ingrid Bynum, Cindy Hart, John Contreras, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dr. Marcia Jackson, Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Sarah Black, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Carmen Sanders, Steve Ray, Matt Smith.

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief

Chair Rief 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. Harris who arrived during the adoption of the amended meeting agenda.

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 February 22, 2024 School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the February 22, 2024 School Board Meeting. Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Booz moved to amend the agenda to add the item “The High School Project: Minnie Howard Redevelopment Change Order” to the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Beaty seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda to add “The High School Project: Minnie Howard Redevelopment Change Order” item to the consent calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended agenda was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris arrived in time for this vote.

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

No board members attended virtually.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight–Patrick Henry K-8 School

Student Gabby Hopson introduced a film that showcased how students “Work Hard to Get Smart!” The dance team performed for the Board, and Principal Ingrid Bynum noted Patrick Henry’s five-year anniversary as a K-8 school. She thanked the Board for their support.

7. Public Comments

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke in regards to the ACPS FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget, specifically on SEAL services.

Princess Moss, community member, spoke in support of a strong partnership between labor and management in the drafting of the collective bargaining resolution.

Mary Gaddis, ACPS staff member, spoke against the draft resolution for collective bargaining, specifically that it does not show considerations for staff.

Kristy Shoaff, ACPS staff member, spoke about the collective bargaining resolution draft, and advocated that the Board meet with EAA to redraft a fair resolution.

Ra Alim Shabazz, ACPS staff member, spoke about the unfairness and lack of transparency of the draft collective bargaining resolution and affirmed the EAA’s position to reflect ACPS’ values and goals.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke against the draft collective bargaining resolution, and noted lack of pay and respect in his profession.

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke on school security improvements.

Allyson McKowen, ACPS parent, spoke about safety and security improvements in schools.

8. Advisory Committee Reports

Ms. Cindy Hart, Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), reported on the committee’s scope of work which appears on the Consent Calendar for adoption. The 2023-2024 SEAC Scope of Work focuses on improved communication, improving City-Wide classroom experiences, and competitive hiring practices. She also announces that the Anne R. Lipnick Awards for Specialized Instruction nomination form will be open through early April for parents and staff to nominate outstanding specialized instruction staff.

Ms. Alderton thanked Ms. Hart for her leadership in SEAC.

9. Report from Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- School Board Appreciation Month
- ACPS School Board Clerks recognition
- The Band and Orchestra Pyramid Concerts held at Alexandria City High School (ACHS)The Equity for All Climate Survey is open through Sunday, February 25
- ACPS Poetry Contest deadline is March 1st
- The "Your Future Today” Mentoring Event on Saturday, February 24
- The Titans for Scholars bake sale at the Del Ray Farmers Market on February 24

Ms. Greene congratulated Student Representative Zeinab Yassin, on her induction into the National Honors Society.

Mr. Ricks was absent.

10. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahim

Ms. Rahim reported on the following:

- The International Career Exposure Program which educates groups of young ladies, ranging from the ages of 13-21 in the Arlington/Alexandria Virginia area
- Participation as a delegate at the annual State Department's Model United Nations Conference
- The 2024 applications for Model UN delegates is due on March 3, 2024
- Presentation by Civil Rights Icon Joan Mulholland at ACHS
- Senior Panoramic Picture Day

Superintendent's Report

11. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Equity for All Climate Survey which closes on Sunday, February 25, 2024
- The second annual "Your Future Today" mentoring event
- Bus and Monitor Appreciation Day
- Public Schools Week from February 26th to March 1st
- Technical Education Month observed in February to spotlight CTE programs of all ages
- Ribbon Cutting at the Titans Spirit Box
- Alexandria City High School "We the People Team" recognition
- ACHS JROTC drill team won top honors VSBA School Board Appreciation month
- School Board Clerk Appreciation Week

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. Personnel Actions for the Period of February 5 through February 16, 2024

15. Community Use of Facilities for January 2024

16. Policy Adoption

17. 2023-2024 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Scope of Work

18. Minutes for the February 8, 2024 School Board Meeting and Work Session

19. The High School Project: Minnie Howard Redevelopment Change Order

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Alderton 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

Old Business & Action Items

20. Motion to Adopt the FY 2025 Approved Combined Funds Budget

Vice Chair Booz made the following motion to approve the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget:

“Madam Chair, I move that the School Board approve the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget as follows:

- The FY 2025 Operating budget in the amount of \$355,157,195 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2, including the adjustments shown in the Memo, as discussed and supported by the School Board during the February 8, 2024 budget work session. This includes other financing sources and uses, as well as a \$6,964,795 planned use of general fund balance. The operating budget includes:
 - 2,465.40 FTEs, an increase of 0.9% from FY 2024
 - A total City appropriation request of \$279,571,300, an increase of 8.1% from FY2024
- The FY 2025 Grants and Special Projects budget in the amount of \$18,283,096 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2, including the adjustments shown in the Memo, as discussed and supported by the School Board during the February 8, 2024 budget work session. This budget includes other financing sources and uses, and a total of 110.30 FTEs, an increase of 2.4% from FY 2024.
- The FY 2025 School Nutrition Services budget totals \$13,175,983 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2, including the adjustments shown in Memo, as discussed and supported by the School Board during the February 8, 2024 budget work session. This budget includes 121.00 FTEs, which represents the same as FY 2024.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.”

The vote to adopt the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget was 7-2. The motion carried. Ms. Alderton and Mr. Harris voted against the motion.

21. SY23-24 Q1 and Q2 Safety and Security Update

Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief Operating Officer and Mr. John Contreras, Director of Safety and Security, provided safety data for incidents that took place during Q1 and Q2 of the current school year.

22. Weapons Abatement

Dr. Hart provided an update on the weapons abatement pilot program which reviewed metrics associated with the program, and comparison of weapons incidents to before the program was implemented. Dr. Hart noted that there has been a 71% decrease in incidents this school year. She also highlighted next steps which includes a survey of students and staff in the Spring. This item will return to a future board meeting with the results of the survey and a staff recommendation on the future of the weapons abatement program.

23. Updates to CTE & Workforce Development

Dr. Tricia Jacobs, Director of CTE and Workforce Development, presented an overview of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Workforce Development initiatives in ACPS. She reviewed CTE Annual Performance Report (APR) data, Academy Pathways, grants, Work-Based Learning (WBL), partnerships, and National CTE Month.

Mr. Harris read a Resolution by Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin recognizing February 2024 as Career and Technical Education Month in the Commonwealth.

New Business and Reports to the Board

24. DRAFT Collective Bargaining Resolution

Mr. Steve Ray, partner at the law firm IslerDare PC, explained the draft collective bargaining resolution which, if adopted, would determine the procedures and scope of collective bargaining within ACPS. The resolution is expected to return to the Board for a vote in March.

25. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, presented policies that 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.

Revisions were proposed for the following policies:

- JCE – Redistricting Implementation
- JCE-R – Redistricting Implementation Regulations
- KF - Distribution of Information Materials
- KF-R - Procedures for Distribution of Information Materials in Schools
- KG - Community Use of School Facilities
- KG-R - Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and Application
- KGA - Public Sales on School Property
- KH - Public Donations to the Schools
- KH-R - Regulations for Public Donations to the Schools
- KJ - Advertising in the Schools

These policies are proposed for adoption at the March 7, 2024 School Board Meeting

Chair's Report

26. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief shared with the public upcoming meetings from the Board's calendar.

Board Member Announcements

27. Announcements

Mr. Beaty attended a 5th grade student musical presentation at George Washington Middle School. He commented that it was wonderful and enjoyed by all who attended.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

28. Closed Meeting

29. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Adjournment

30. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 10:46 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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