

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
November 13, 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
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris (absent)
Tammy Ignacio (via Zoom)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt., Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Carmen Sanders,

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 Mr. Bailey who arrived during the Public Hearing, Ms. Ignacio who would join electronically, and Mr. Harris who was absent.

Pledge of Allegiance

1. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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 November 13, 2023 Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the November 13, 2023 Special Called School Board Meeting.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Booz moved to amend the agenda to add "Approve Participation of Board Member by Electronic Means" after "Adoption of the Agenda ."

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda as amended was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

4. Motion to Allow Participation of Board Member by Electronic Means

Board Vice Chair Booz made the following motion:

“Whereas Member Tammy Ignacio has notified the Chair that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s Special Called School Board Meeting due to personal matter specifically travel and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% Board Meetings by electronic means during 2023; and whereas Board Member Ignacio requests the opportunity to participate in the Special Called Meeting by video conference call from Delaware where the video 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 to approve participation of Board Member Ignacio by electronic means, was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom.

Consent Calendar

1. Minutes for the November 2, 2023 School Board Meeting and the November 6, 2023 School Board Retreat

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Communications & Addresses to the Board

2. Public Hearing on the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget

Perry Hodkins Jones, ACPS parent, spoke in support of fulfilling the energy manager position, fully funding green buildings for future projects, and developing and incorporating a climate resilience plan.

David Peabody, community member, spoke in support of making buildings “Net Zero” and including solar energy in new projects.

Bill Pugh, ACPS parent, community member, spoke in support of climate solutions and encouraged the Board to advocate for these in their CIP budget.

Samantha Adhoot, community member, spoke about the effects of global warming on her patients and advocated for fully funding George Mason and Cora Kelly schools in order to include measures to fight climate issues.

Liz Bartlett, ACPS parent, spoke in response to the budget reductions in the George Mason project and suggested the formation of an advisory committee.

Suzie O’Brien, ACPS parent, spoke about the George Mason Modernization Project and asked that ACPS be transparent on how the reduction of funds will affect the project.

Emily Turner, ACPS parent, spoke about the reduction of funds in the George Mason Modernization Project and advocated for improvement in communication with the school community.

David Paladin Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the CIP budget and advocated that the Board stand up to City Council to take the funds from City funds, not school funds.

Superintendent's Report

3. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt thanked the staff as they head into the Thanksgiving holiday and wished families, student and staff a safe and relaxing holiday.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

4. Closed Meeting

5. Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no Closed Meeting held.

Old Business & Action Items

6. Pathways Discussion

Ms. Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support gave the Board information about academy and pathways models, how they originated, and school divisions that currently have academies and pathways on a large scale. Ms. Brianna Hardaway, Director of School Counseling at ACHS reviewed the pathways offered in the Program of Studies and the impact of academies and pathways for all student at Alexandria city High School.

New Business and Reports to the Board

There were no new business items.

Chair's Report

7. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief reviewed the Board's schedule of upcoming meetings.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

8. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board go into closed session for consultation with legal counsel regarding actual litigation involving an alleged public nuisance and requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel, where such consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(7) of the Code of Virginia.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to go into the closed session was 8-0

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 8:02 p.m.

9. 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 which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on November 13, 2023.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

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

The Board returned to open session at 8:22 p.m.

Adjournment

10. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Alderton and seconded by Vice Chair Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 6-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:23 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT