

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
April 20, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Willie F. Bailey Sr. (absent)
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, Matt Smith, James Parker, Deborah Akinyele, John Finnigan, Azuka Bartlett, Erika Gulick

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton 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 was absent.

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 April 20, 2023 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 20th, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Strategic Plan Video Vignette

ACPS is sharing monthly videos that provide staff, families, students and community members an inside glimpse of how the School Board works with the division to bring the mission, vision and goals of the ACPS 2025: Equity for All strategic plan to life. In this video, Vice Chair Greene addresses our strategic resource allocation goal and how ACPS provides differentiated resources and support to schools and departments that lead to equitable outcomes for all students.

5. Public Hearing on School Board Staggered Elections

Marie Randall, community member, spoke in support of staggered term elections for School Board members.

6. Public Comments

Kai Krahehe, ACPS student, spoke about his experience as an exchange program student.

George Krahehe, ACPS parent, requested that ACPS develop a policy that allows students to exclude grades earned in a study abroad program.

Kelly Krahehe, ACPS parent, requested that ACPS develop a policy that allows students to exclude grades earned in a study abroad program.

Deborah McKeeman, community member, spoke about the 2025 Strategic Plan, Equity For All, focus and context.

Mai Trinh, ACPS parent, spoke about school and safety security measures within George Washington Middle School and the experiences of her son.

Greg Hittelman, ACPS parent, spoke about school and safety security measures within George Washington Middle School and the experiences of his son.

Jay Falk, ACPS teacher, is requesting a collective bargaining resolution on the agenda and shared additional context of a need for collective bargaining within the school district.

Rosina Simmons, ACPS community member, spoke about collective bargaining and the importance of retaining quality teachers to advance education for ACPS students.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the request to move forward with collective bargaining to support ACPS staffing within the district.

Jessica Andes, ACPS teacher, spoke about the request to proceed with collective bargaining rights and her experience as an ACPS teacher.

Jeremy Miller, ACPS parent, spoke about changes to TAG services his student is receiving, and offered recommendations based on committee meeting observations.

Christopher Fuller, ACPS teacher, spoke about collective bargaining and its importance in education.

Alejandro Kineen, ACPS teacher, inquired about the context of school emergency procedures.

Patrick Murat, ACPS teacher, spoke about the context and process of teacher retention in order to best serve our ACPS students.

7. Advisory Committee Public Comments: School Health Advisory Board

Deborah Akinyele, Chair of the School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), spoke about the work being done by SHAB and provided insight on the needs of ACPS students.

8. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton thanked local Virginia delegates who visited Alexandria City High School (ACHS) to honor the Volleyball State Champions with a state resolution. She reported on the Street Law Diversity Program who had members of the Alexandria Bar Association visit government classes at ACHS. Ms. Milton congratulated the ACHS robotics team who was in Texas to receive their first world championship award. She also recognized the Project Discovery program, which works with students from predominantly low to moderate-income households and/or are potential first generation post-secondary education attendees, for helping our students to reach their goal of becoming college students. Ms. Milton reported that April is Bilingual/Multilingual Advocacy Month and that April 23-29 is National Library Week. Lastly, she mentioned that the Student Representative applications have been posted on the ACPS website.

Mr. Ricks congratulated the ACHS Choir which performed at the Orlando, Florida music festival where they won the Grand Champion Award. He invited the public to attend the ACHS Theater Department's musical production of "Sister Act" on April 22, 23, 28 and 29. Tickets are available for purchase online. Mr. Ricks announced Senator Mark Warner's upcoming visit to ACHS on April 21, 2023. He also reminded that there is still time to nominate a teacher for the Northern Virginia Magazine Teacher of the Year Award. Mr. Ricks highlighted the "Your Future Today" mentoring event, which will be held April 29th, 2023 at Francis C. Hammond Middle School. He noted that the event focuses on the empowerment of African American males in grades 8-12. Lastly, Mr. Ricks announced that students have the opportunity to apply for the Student Representative positions until May 5th, 2023.

9. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi was not present at the meeting to give a report.

Consent Calendar

10. FY 2023 Preliminary Financial Report ending February 28, 2023

11. Personnel Actions March 23, 2023 through April 13, 2023

12. 2021-2022 Athletic Hall of Fame End of Year Report

13. 2021-2022 Athletic Hall of Fame Scope of Work

14. Minutes for the March 30, 2023 School Board Meeting and the April 13, 2023 Special Called School Board Meeting

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

Ms. Booz requested to pull the Resumption of Patrick Henry PreK-8 School and Recreation Center (Phase III) from the Consent Calendar.

The vote to adopt the amended Consent Calendar was 8-0. The motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

15. Resumption of Patrick Henry PreK-8 School and Recreation Center (Phase III)

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

Ms. Booz explained that she pulled this item to highlight that this contract will allow Patrick Henry to complete the final stages of their construction project which includes removing the old Patrick Henry School. The old school has been serving as the swing space for Douglas MacArthur during the new building construction.

The vote to approve the contract for the resumption of Patrick Henry PreK-8 School and Recreation Center was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

16. 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.

Dr. Rief 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 7:52 p.m.

17. 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 April 20, 2023.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to certify the closed meeting was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

The Board returned to an open meeting at 8:32 p.m.

New Business and Reports to the Board

18. Athletics Program Update

Mr. James Parker, Executive Director of Athletics and Student Activities, gave an overview of the athletics program that included technology-focused communication, innovative programs, new athletic awards and future plans.

19. FY 2023 CIP Quarterly Report for Q3

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities, presented a summary on the progress of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) work that progressed during the third quarter of FY2023 (January - March 2023). The highest percentage of the work noted was in the implementation phase (23 projects). The remainder of the projects were in the planning/design phase (20), close-out phase (10), pending close-out phase (7) and initiation phase (3).

Dr. Rief moved to accept the FY 2023 CIP Quarterly Report for Q3.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY23 CIP Quarterly Report for Q3 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Booz was absent for the remainder of the meeting.

20. FY 2023 CIP Reserve Report for Q3

Mr. Finnigan reported that the CIP Reserve Account balance remains unchanged at \$235,759.77.

21. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reviewed proposed revisions to seven ACPS policies and regulations for alignment with VSBA model policies, and Virginia Code, as well as for equity.

The policies and regulations reviewed were:

- BBFA - Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests
- BDDH - Public Participation at School Board Meetings (also KD)
- BDDH-R - Procedures for Public Communications with the School Board (also KD-R)
- FE - Playground Equipment
- IGAI - Character Education
- JRCA - School Service Providers' Use of Student Personal Information
- KKA - Service Animals in Public Schools

These policies will return for approval at a future meeting.

Board Chair's Report

22. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

23. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Dr. Kay-Wyatt highlighted the following celebrations for the month of April:

- National Volunteer Month
- Public School Volunteer Week
- National Assistant Principals Week
- National Arab American Heritage Month
- National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
- Noche de Ciencias (Night of Science)

Dr. Kay-Wyatt congratulated the following ACPS staff and students:

- Chance for Change Academy social studies teacher, Fara Leigh Cepak, has been awarded the 2023 James Madison Fellowship.
- ACHS special education teacher, Gregory Elliott, was recognized as being the recipient of Wammie Music AwardsThe Wammie awards program's 2023 Lifetime Achievement Award.
- The ACHS Titans Choir won the Grand Champion Award for the highest scoring ensemble during a recent competition.
- Winners of the Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest: Tasnia Rahman (elementary), Honey Lopez (middle school), and Sarah McBurney (high school) Farr Pickett Quinn, geometry and algebra teacher at Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 IB School, is among the finalists for the 2023 Virginia Educators Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching.

Board Member Announcements

24. Announcements

Dr. Rief reported that the VSBA Spring Forum Northeastern Regional Meeting will be held on May 8, 2023 at ACHS where school board members from 13 northern Virginia districts convene to talk about current topics. This year's speakers are Ms. Anne Holton and Dr. Ingrid Guerra-Lopez.

Dr. Simpson Baird announced that the survey on School Board staggered election terms will end April 26, 2023. She also announced that after the survey is completed, a work session would be held in May and the Board hopes to move forward with a resolution in June.

Adjournment

25. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Greene and seconded by Dr. Rief, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:56 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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