

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
May 18, 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
Tammy Ignacio
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Emily Milton, Torenzo Ricks, Dr. Patricia Zissios, Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Mark Eisenhour, Dr. Clinton Page, Dr. Temple Milner, Dr. Carmen Saunders, Mashari Whitfield, Matt Smith

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Vice Chair Greene 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. Harris, who arrived during the Communications and Addresses to the Board, and Chair Alderton who participated in the meeting virtually.

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 May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

4. Allow Participation of Board Member XX by Electronic Means

Dr. Simpson Baird made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Meagan Alderton has notified the Board that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically childcare; and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% of

Board meetings by electronic means during 2023; and whereas Board Member Meagan Alderton requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference call from Alexandria, Virginia 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 Meagan Alderton in this meeting by video conference call.”

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Board Member Meagan Alderton to participate in the meeting by electronic means was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

Chair Alderton joined the meeting via Zoom.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

5. “Simply the Best” School profile– Lyles Crouch Traditional Academy

Students from Lyles-Crouch shared the three components of Lyles-Crouch: character and citizenship, academics, and relationship building and community involvement.

6. 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, ACPS School Board Member Christopher Harris addresses how staff wellness and growth are critical in supporting ACPS’ vision to inspire students and address barriers to learning.

7. Public Hearing on ACPS/APD MOU

Deborah J. McKeeman, ACPS community member, spoke about the MOU and advocated cross learning between SROs and administrators, and use of restorative practices.

Cindy Carballo Garcia, ACPS community member, highlighted concerns of the proposed MOU changes between ACPS and the Alexandria Police Department (APD).

8. Public Hearing on FY 2024 Combined Funds (CF) and FY 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budgets

There were no speakers for the public hearing on the budgets.

9. Public Comments

Jennifer Ring, ACPS parent, spoke about core knowledge implementation at Lyles-Crouch Traditional Academy.

D. Olandt, Chair of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advisory Committee, spoke about her support for the proposed update to the ACPS Local Plan for the Gifted, as well as TAG recommendations.

Jeremy Miller, ACPS parent, spoke about TAG services and the Local Plan for the Gifted.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about collective bargaining and shared supporter interest in passing collective bargaining for ACPS.

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about safety and security measures and suggested that ACPS look at other jurisdictions with similar demographics to ACPS for solutions.

10. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton spoke about the importance of the relationship between APD and ACPS in regards to the Memorandum of Understanding. She also shared appreciation she has for Mr. Balas who recently indicated he would be leaving Alexandria City High School (ACHS). Lastly, Ms. Milton

provided feedback she received from peers about the implementation of the new weapons abatement process at ACHS.

Mr. Ricks gave feedback and suggested improvements about the newly installed weapons abatement systems. He also highlighted efficiencies of the overall impact it has had on the student body. Mr. Ricks reported on the Transition Fair for special education and students with disabilities recently held at ACHS. He also highlighted the Spring Choral Concert to be held on June 1, 2023 in the ACHS auditorium. Lastly, Mr. Ricks suggested implementing NARCAN training as part of the requirements for obtaining an advanced high school diploma.

11. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi was absent from the meeting.

Consent Calendar

12. Personnel Actions May 1-May 12, 2023

13. FY 2023 Preliminary Financial Report ending April 30, 2023

14. Monthly Facilities Use Report, April 2023

15. Monthly Facilities Use Report, March 2023

16. Minutes for the May 4, 2023 School Board Meeting, the May 4, 2023 Work Session, and the May 15, 2023 Joint City Council School Board Work Session

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris 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

17. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(19) for the discussion of plans to protect public safety as it relates to terrorist activity or specific cybersecurity threats or vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, legal counsel, or law-enforcement or emergency service officials concerning actions taken to respond to such matters or a related threat to public safety; discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 4 or 14 of Virginia Code § 2.2-3705.2 where discussion in an open meeting would jeopardize the safety of any person or the security of any facility, building, structure, information technology system or software program; or discussion of reports or plans related to the security of any governmental facility, building or structure, or the safety of persons using such facility, building or structure.

She further moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2 3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of employment, performance and contractual matters for ten specific public employees.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 7:35 p.m.

18. 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 May 18, 2023.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 7-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

Mr. Harris and Mr. Elnoubi were not present for the vote.

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

Old Business & Action Items

19. Technology Plan, 2023-2028

Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Chief Technology Officer, gave an update on the 2023-2028 Technology Plan which highlighted infrastructure, professional learning, and learning environments. The plan will help guide the work of technology services through alignment with other departmental plans and the ACPS 2025: Equity for All strategic plan.

20. Updated Local Plan for the Gifted

Dr. Tempel-Milner, Director of TAG Services, gave a presentation on the ACPS Local Plan for the Gifted which will be submitted to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) at the end of May. The work completed on the local plan was guided by the three steering committees: school-based and central-office based administrators; central office staff and school-based instructors; and parents and community members. Any changes from the previous local plan will use a phased-in approach to implementation beginning the 2023-2024 school year.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Nominees

Mr. Mark Eisenhour, Chair of the Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee, shared with the Board the 2023 Athletic Hall of Fame Nominees. He highlighted several of the nominees as well as reviewed the selection process used by the committee to select nominees from community-submitted nomination forms. He noted that the committee strives to represent multiple sports, current and former high schools, and equity in their selections. The induction ceremony for these nominees is scheduled for October 14, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. at ACHS.

22. Equity Climate Survey 2022-2023 Results

Dr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, discussed the results of the Equity Climate Survey that was provided to staff, students, and family from February 3 through February 26, 2023. The survey combined elements of a traditional climate survey and past ACPS equity audits to create an instrument that gauges school and division climate through the specific lens of equity. The results were consistent with the prior year for most survey items with 89% of responses across respondent groups falling within four percentage points of 2022. Data from the survey will be used to inform school and department improvement efforts for the coming school year by providing key data on critical climate areas that must be attended to in order to fulcrum improvement efforts.

23. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reviewed proposed revisions to five ACPS policies and regulations for alignment with VSBA model policies, Virginia Code, and equity. These revisions are part of the Board's continuing Equity Audit of School Board Policies in an effort to review policies every five years.

The policies and regulations reviewed were:

- EEFA- Vending Machines
- IFB- Approval Process for Research Studies
- IGAK- Alternatives to Animal Dissection
- IGBD- Homebound, Correspondence, and Alternative Means of Instruction
- IJD- College and Career Planning

These policies will return for adoption at a future Board Meeting.

Chair's Report

24. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton reported the following:

- May 25, 2023 Work Session on Collective Bargaining
- Upcoming School Board Retreat on May 31, 2023
- Public Hearing regarding ESSER III Fund Plan at the June 1, 2023 School Board Meeting
- ACHS Graduation on Saturday, June 3, 2023 at the GMU Eagle Bank Arena

Superintendent's Report

25. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Dr. Kay-Wyatt recognized the following accomplishments of students:

- Four ACHS graduates who accepted appointments at the United States Naval Academy, the United States Air Force Academy, and the United States Military Academy at West Point.s
- ACHS Television and Media Production whose video "Modern Day Slavery" won the C-Span StudentCam Video Competition.
- ACHS students placed in the SkillsUSA district and state competition in the broadcast news category under television media production.
- The second class of 65 graduating students from the Governor's Health Science Academy.
- ACHS Senior Class Nurse Aide students recognized at their May 12th nurses pinning ceremony.
- The ACHS Theogony announced their new editors for the 2023-2024 school year.
- School Communications Day was celebrated on May 12th
- ACPS schools and offices will be closed on Memorial Day on Monday, May 29, 2023.

Board Member Announcements

26. Announcements

Mr. Ricks gave an end of year update on AVID (Advancement via Individual Determination) students in which 33 of its seniors were awarded \$3.8 million in scholarships to colleges. He also announced that the ACHS Boys Varsity Soccer Team became the Patriot District winners.

Adjournment

27. Adjourn

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

The meeting ended at 10:04 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT