

**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
May 4 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, Zahra Rahimi, Will Olson, Kurt Huffman, Marisol Morales, Caitlin Brown, Dr. Alicia Hart,

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.

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 4, 2023 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 4, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for May 4, 2023 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Washington Post Principal of the Year--Dr. Liza Burrell-Aldana

Dr. Liza Burrell-Aldana, Principal at Mount Vernon Community School, was recognized for being named The Washington Post's Principal of the Year award recipient. The award recognizes principals who go well above their day-to-day demands to create an exceptional educational environment for their students. With more than 25 years of experience, Dr. Burrell-Aldana has been instrumental in ensuring that Mount Vernon's dual language curriculum fosters students' development of bilingualism and biliteracy skills through enriched educational experiences, and shown strong leadership and dedication to her students.

5. ACPS Teacher of the Year—Nathan Hershberger

Mr. Nathan Hershberger, fifth-grade math, science and social studies teacher at George Mason Elementary School, was recognized as the 2023 Alexandria City Public Schools Teacher of the Year. He works tirelessly to ensure the academic, social and emotional needs of every student by creating a challenging and enriching environment in the context of a nurturing, loving classroom. He was also singled out for this honor by his peers for his work in creating authentic activities to inspire both students and colleagues. The nominations for Mr. Hershberger painted a picture of the ideal teacher, saying he sees his classroom as a workshop of thinkers, learners, scientists, artists, mathematicians and historians.

6. Public Comments

J-Lynn Van Pelt, ACPS parent and member of SEAC, spoke about the stresses of being a special needs parent caused by staffing issues.

Ruchir Narayan, ACPS parent and member of SEAC, spoke about concerns he has for attracting special service provider staff for special needs students, lack of organized resources and additional communication needs.

David Palladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, urged the Board to move forward with collective bargaining for the benefit of staff.

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about ACPS's policy on suspension and expulsion of students.

Laura Rose, Committee Member and former Chair of the TAG Advisory Committee, spoke in support of the School Board fully funding the recommended updates to the Local Plan for the Gifted.

Clarence R. Griffin, ACPS bus driver, spoke on behalf of his fellow bus drivers in support of collective bargaining.

7. Advisory Committee Public Comments—Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Mr. Will Olson, Co-secretary of SEAC, reported on the work of SEAC whose primary purpose is to provide an opportunity for parents and other school board appointees to have a voice in the way school divisions provide services to students with disabilities. He provided an overview of SEAC's Equity and Inclusion Sub-Committee which is currently working on recommendations that SEAC will present in the committee's end of year report. He also highlighted areas of concerns that included staffing and communication.

8. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Milton reported on the following:

- Congratulations to her former principal, Dr. Burrell-Aldana
- National Decision Day at ACHS on May 1
- Teacher Appreciation Week
- ACHS Graduation on June 3
- Student Representative Applications for 2023-2024

Mr. Ricks reported on the following:

- Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Physical Education and Sports Week
- Spring Musical "Sister Act" at ACHS
- Experience as a Student Representative

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

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following:

- Heritage Night at Francis C. Hammond Middle School

- IA Digital Application class presented their survey on the Recreation Center at Patrick Henry for multilingual families
- Vision checks and free glasses for students through Communities in School of NOVA and Vision Care
- Third Quarter Honor Roll Ceremony in the International Academy
- Suggestion of using performance-based assessments to help IA students with language barrier issues to pass SOLs

Consent Calendar

- 10. Personnel Actions April 14, 2023 to April 28, 2023**
- 11. FY 2023 Preliminary Financial Report Ending March 31, 2023**
- 12. FY 2023 Quarterly Budget Transfer Report Ending March 31, 2023**
- 13. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant**
- 14. Policy Adoption**
- 15. Superintendent Contract**
- 16. Minutes for the April 20, 2023 School Board Meeting and the April 27, 2023 Special Called School Board Meeting**

Mr. Elnoubi 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.

Chair Alderton announce the selection of Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt as the Superintendent for ACPS, effective July 1, 2023. She and Board Members gave remarks congratulating Dr. Kay-Wyatt and they were looking forward to continuing to work with her.

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)(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 7:46 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 4, 2023.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi was not present for the vote.

The Board returned to open session at 8:36 p.m.

Old Business & Action Items

19. Proposed Updates, ACPS/APD School Law Enforcement Partnership MOU

Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief of Facilities and Operations, reviewed proposed changes to the ACPS/APD Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was last approved in October of 2020. The MOU requires review and approval every two years. She reviewed the process and collaboration to determine revisions or clarifications needed in the MOU, a summary of updates, and feedback received from the SLEP Advisory Group. Dr. Hart also reviewed the timeline for the MOU renewal process which includes a public hearing set for the May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting, and final approval by the School Board in June. The updated MOU must be signed no later than June 30, 2023.

20. Superintendent's Adjusted Approved Budget on the FY 2024 CF and FY 2024-2033 CIP Budgets

This item was scheduled to be discussed at the work session following the School Board Meeting so no discussion was held during the meeting.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. ACPS Out of School Time Update

Mr. Kurt Huffman, Executive Director of Community Partnerships and Engagement, reviewed with the Board the ACPS out of school time program (LINK Club), areas that have been implemented to enhance the current program, and how it aligns with the APCS 2025 Equity for All Strategic Plan, city plans and national research. Ms. Marisol Morales, Out of School Time Program Manager, and Caitlin Brown, Youth Network Support Manager for ACT for Alexandria, reviewed current sites, partners and the number of students served, data reflections, accomplishments and challenges, as well as collaborative work with the Youth Support Network. The group also presented the vision and sustainability plans for the future.

22. Policy Revisions

The policy revisions expected to be discussed at the May 4, 2023 meeting were tabled until the May 18, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Chair's Report

23. Report from Meagan Alderton

Chair Alderton did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

24. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt noted that May 5 is School Lunch Hero Day.

Board Member Announcements

25. Announcements

There were no announcements by Board Members

Adjournment

26. Adjourn

On a motion by Dr. Rief and seconded by Ms. Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Simpson Baird were not present for the vote. The meeting ended at 9:46 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT