

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

October 19, 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, Zeinab Yassin, Zahra Rahimi. Torenzo Ricks, Dr. Alicia Kingcade, Dr. Eric Coleman, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Carmen Sanders, Dr. Alicia Hart, John Finnigan, Matt Smith

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Greene, who arrived during the Communications and Addresses to the Board. Mr. Bailey was absent.

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 October 19, 2023 School Board Meeting

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the October 19, 2023 School Board Meeting. Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for the October 19, 2023 School Board Meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

5. Approve Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no members participating electronically.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. “Simply the Best” School Spotlight– John Adams Elementary School

Dr. Alicia Kingcade, Principal at John Adams Elementary School, provided information about the partnership between John Adams and the Alexandria Symphony Orchestra which provides music education as part of the CETA (Changing Education through the Arts) program. Students from grades Kindergarten through 2nd Grade performed an original song titled “Buenos Noches.”

7. Public Comments

Ms. Quinn McBride, ACPS student, spoke about safety and security at Alexandria City High School and the importance of feeling safe at school.

Ms. Lydia Newcomb-Widmer, ACPS student, spoke regarding safety and security and adopted measures which affect students.

Ms. Deborah McKeeman, community member, spoke in regard to safety and security and how it relates to the ACPS strategic plan.

Ms. Kelly Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke on behalf of the new Pathways Curriculum model, the STEM program, and lack of student support in Science.

Mr. David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, advocated for the implementation collective bargaining.

Mr. Jeremy Miller, ACPS parent, spoke about gifted services and the Local Gifted Plan.

Mr. Danny Organek, ACPS parent, spoke regarding staffing, recruitment and retention. of teachers for STEM and science programs.

Ms. Nancy Widmer, ACPS parent, spoke about concerns of proposed curriculum pathways.

Mr. Evan Wilson, ACPS parent, spoke about staff retention and the Local Gifted Plan.

Ms. Kelley Organek, ACPS parent, spoke on staffing issues and how it is impacting Advanced Academic Services and the proposed Program of Studies curriculum.

Ms. Willow Darsie, ACPS parent, spoke about concerns on the Local Plan for the Gifted.

Ms. Pam Townsend, ACPS parent, spoke about school safety, the High School project, teacher shortages, and communication.

8. Report from Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Mr. Ricks gave a report on the following:

- Alexandria Living Legends Recipients Patty Moran and Dr. Carolyn Lewis
- Project Discovery Fundraiser
- Engaging with students at Minnie Howard
- Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony
- Recognition of Student Rep Zahra Rahimi by First Lady Dr. Jill Biden at the White House as 1 of 15 from throughout the United States “Girls Leading Change.”

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- Homecoming Week events and
- Homecoming Game on Saturday
- Senior night held for the ACHS volleyball team

9. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Zahra Rahimi reported on the following:

- Partnership with Move to Learn and the Girls Soccer Program
- Halloween Celebration at William Ramsey Recreation Center

Superintendent's Report

10. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Community Budget Session held at ACHS
- Budget Season update
- Special Education Update
- The 2023 Climate and Energy Leadership Award
- ACPS' partnership with Dominion Energy's Electric School Buses Program
- STEM Competition Team Grant
- School Board Student Representative Recognition for Zahra Rahimi
- New additions and appointments of ACPS staff
- National School Bus Safety Week
- Red Ribbon Week
- Nominations for the ACPS Principal and Teacher of the Year Awards for The Washington Post's honor
- Participation in the Devereux Student Strengths Assessment (DESSA)

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

11. Closed Meeting

12. Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no closed meeting held.

Consent Calendar

13. FY2024 Monthly Financial Report ending August 31, 2023

14. Community Use of Facilities Report, September 2023

15. Personnel Action Report from October 2 through October 13, 2023

16. Policy Adoption

17. Re-Appoint Allen Lomax to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee

18. Appoint Paula Schnauffer to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee

19. Appoint Lakeesha Carr to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and Grant a Residency Waiver

20. Appoint Kelly Davis to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and Grant a Residency Waiver

21. Appoint Greg Wright to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee and Grant a Residency Waiver

22. Minutes for the October 5, 2023 School Board Meeting and Work Session and for the October 17, 2023 Special Called School Board Meeting and Retreat

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi was absent for the vote.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business and Action Items

There were no Old Business or Action Items.

New Business and Reports to the Board

23. School Nutrition Services Programming Update

Dr. Eric Coleman, Director of School Nutrition Services (SNS), presented an update on the School Nutrition Services Program. that included information about the vision and mission of SNS, meal programs and serving models, differences between Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) vs. non-CEP programs, and meal program offerings and initiatives. He noted that SNS provides high-quality, nutritionally balanced and affordable meals to more than 15,800 students daily across the division, including support for afterschool programming. that is in alignment with Federal, State and School Board Health and Wellness Policies.

24. 2024-2025 Program of Studies

The 2024-2025 Program of Studies outlines the approved Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) course offerings for grades 6-12 in Alexandria City Public Schools. ACPS continues to align curriculum and instruction to the VDOE curriculum standards. On a yearly basis, The Department of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership (TLL), and Department of Student Services, Equity, and Alternative Programs, work with the Department of Technology Services and the Office of Communications, secondary administrators and counseling teams to develop the proposed Program of Studies. Once the Program of Studies is approved, it will be published on the ACPS website in multiple languages for students, parents/guardians, and staff to view in January 2024.

25. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report, FY23 Q4 and FY24 Q1

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities, presented the combined quarterly report for FY 2023, Quarter 4 and FY 2024 Quarter 1, which summarized the CIP work that progressed during that time, CIP spending progress, available project funding balances. He also gave an update on capacity and non-capacity projects, and ongoing and upcoming project expected during FY 24, quarter 2.

Ms. Ignacio moved to accept the CIP Quarterly Report for FY23 Q4 and FY 24 Q1.

Dr. Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the CIP quarterly reports was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

26. Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Reserve Report, FY23 Q4 and FY24 Q1

On December 7, 2017, the School Board authorized the establishment of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Reserve Account which provides an additional option for CIP budget transfers. This reserve account allows the School Board to move budgeted funds between capital accounts. The current balance of the CIP Reserve Account is \$235,759.77.

27. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, presented revisions, of several policies and for alignment with Virginia Code and VSBA policies. They are also audited for equity and reviewed by staff, the Senior Leadership Team and the School Board Policy Subcommittee.

Revisions were recommended for the following policies and regulations:

- EFB/JHCH – ACPS School Nutrition Services
- EFB-R/JHCH-R – Regulations for School Meals and Snacks

- GBEF – Lactation Support (also JHCL)
- JN – Student Fees Fines and Charges
- JN-R – Regulations Tuition, Course, and Food Service Fees

These recommended revisions will return for approval at a future Board Meeting.

28. 2024 ACPS Legislative Agenda

Each year the Alexandria City School Board adopts a legislative agenda that advocates the needs of Alexandria City Public Schools. The School Board’s approved legislative positions are shared with legislators in the Virginia General Assembly. This proposed 2024 Legislative Agenda will return for approval at a future Board Meeting.

Board Chair’s Report

29. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Dr. Rief highlighted the following upcoming events:

- October 23, 2023 Joint City Council/School Board Subcommittee Meeting
- October 25, 2023 Joint City Council/School Law Enforcement Partnership Subcommittee Meeting
- October 25, 2023 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting
- November 1, 2023 Policy Review Committee Meeting
- November 1, 2023 Collective Bargaining Committee Meeting
- November 1, 2023 Joint City Council/School Board CIP Budget Work Session
- November 2, 2023 School Board Meeting

Announcements by Board Members

30. Announcements

Ms. Greene thanked Chair Mark Eisenhour and Vice Chair Kamilah Lawson, along with the Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee, who worked tirelessly to make selections. She also thanked the clerks for their help with the event.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

31. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting to discuss and consider personnel matters, specifically the performance, dismissal, and discipline of a specific public employee pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(1) of the Code of Virginia and to consult with legal counsel regarding a personnel matter pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 (A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, and to dispense with the attendance of the Superintendent or her designee pursuant to Section 22.1-69 of the Code of Virginia, during a portion or all of the closed session.

Ms. Alderton 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 10:08 p.m.

32. Certification of Closed Meeting

Board Member Jacinta 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 are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on October 5, 2023.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 10:20 p.m.

Vice Chair Booz moved to amend the agenda to add the item “Grievance Matter 2023-10-01” under Closed Meeting and Certification of the Closed Meeting.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion. The vote to amend the agenda was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

33. Grievance Matter 2023-10-1

Vice Chair Booz moved that the School Board Employee identified in closed session in Grievance 2023-10-1 be dismissed from employment from Alexandria City Public Schools.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the dismissal of the named employee from ACPS was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Adjournment

34. Adjourn

On a motion by Dr. Simpson Baird and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 8-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 10:24 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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