

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
Thursday, November 2, 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 (absent)
Tammy Ignacio
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Zahra Rahimi, Torenzo Ricks, Zeinab Yassin, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Dr. Marcia Jackson, Kennetra Wood, Carmen Sanders, Matt Smith

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. Mr. Bailey and Mr. Harris were absent. Mr. Elnoubi arrived after the Adoption of the Meeting Agenda.

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 November 2, 2023 School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the November 2, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

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

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no Board Members participating electronically.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. ACPS Vision, Integrity and Passion (VIP) Awards

The VIP Awards program, launched during the 2021-22 school year, honors outstanding employees who work every day to make a difference in our school division. The program recognizes staff throughout ACPS across all levels of employment.

The following recipients were recognized in the category of transportation, nutrition services and building engineers:

- Dennis Payne, bus driver for Charles Barrett Elementary School
- Keisha Wilson and Johnetta Wilhoit, bus driver and assistant of bus 204
- Jakeeya Veney, food and nutrition services manager at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School
- Jason Tepper, school nutrition services division-wide executive chef
- William Sharpe, building engineer at Alexandria City High School Minnie Howard Campus

7. Public Comments

Ms. Tara Rogle, ACPS parent, spoke about the excellent education her student has received in ACPS and shared concerns about the lack of alternative programs.

Kelly Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke about Board oversight and the pathways model.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of adopting collective bargaining.

Pam Townsend, ACPS parent, about concerns regarding violence in schools and staffing shortages.

Kelly Organek, ACPS parent, spoke about staffing issues.

Kristy Shoaff, ACPS staff member, spoke about the benefits of collective bargaining she experienced in Pennsylvania.

Dr. Jessica Priester, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of collective bargaining.

8. Report by Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Mr. Ricks reminded students and families that November 7th is a Professional Development Day as well as Election Day. He reminded students to send in their entry for the Red Ribbon Contest by Wednesday, November 15th. He congratulated the Superintendent on her selection to participate in the Virginia Special Education Group.

Ms. Yassin gave information about Red Ribbon Week held each year at the end of October. Started by the National Family Partnership, who is a national leader in drug prevention and advocacy.

9. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi was absent from the meeting.

Superintendent's Report

10. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- November is Family Engagement Month
- November is National Native American Heritage Month
- VSBA Be Kind Campaign
- National School Psychology Week
- National Education Support Professional Week
- Substitute Educators Day
- American Education Week

- Geography Awareness Week
- STEM Day on November 8
- Veteran's Day
- 80th Anniversary Celebration at Charles Barrett School
- Workshop on Cultural Perspectives on Mental Health and Substance Abuse
- Specialized Instruction Open House
- Public Hearing on FY 2025-2034 CIP Budget
- ACHS National Signing Day
- Elementary Parent Conferences
- Red Ribbon Week Contest
- Performance Matters Test History Portal
- Return to Eastern Standard Time

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. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending September 30, 2023

14. FY 2024 Budget Transfer Report Q1

15. Personnel Actions Report from October 16 through October 27, 2023

16. Policy Adoption

17. Appointments to Ad Hoc Proposal Review Committee

18. Appointments to the Ad Hoc Redistricting Committee

19. Appointments to the Joint City Council/School Board Law Enforcement Partnership (SLEP) Subcommittee

20. Appoint Clark Mercer to the Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee

21. Appoint Alexander Scioscia to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

22. Appoint Kristen Carter to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee

23. Appoint Ben Matthews to the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Advisory Committee

24. Minutes for the October 19, 2023 School Board Meeting

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

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

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

25. 2024-2025 Secondary Program of Studies

Ms. Carmen Sanders, Executive Director of Instructional Support, gave an update on changes to the Program of Studies (POS) since first presented to the Board on October 21, 2023. The Program of Studies includes information about diploma types and division practices that support student learning. The POS also includes a comprehensive list of courses available to meet

graduation requirements, provides opportunities to explore a wide range of disciplines, and meets diverse student needs and interests.

Ms. Alderton moved to approve the 2024-2025 Program of Studies.

Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the 2024-2025 Program of Studies was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

The vote was taken by roll call.

26. 2024 ACPS Legislative Agenda

The School Board presented the Legislative Agenda for the 2024 General Assembly session to begin in January 2024. The Board supports increased state funding to support students, staff, and school facility modernization. In addition, the Board requests flexibility to manage resources and set policies at the local level that are in the best interest of the local community.

Dr. Simpson Baird moved to approve the 2024 ACPS Legislative Agenda.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the 2024 ACPS Legislative Agenda was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

New Business and Reports to the Board

27. Social Emotional and Academic Learning (SEAL) Update

Ms. Kennetra Wood, Executive Director of Equity and Alternative Programs, presented an update on how ACPS is prioritizing the academic, social and emotional well-being of students and staff through the Social Emotional and Academic Learning (SEAL) program. The program incorporates the Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) framework which identifies five competencies that students should learn to demonstrate. The presentation also updated the School Board on the current implementation, monitoring and assessment of students acquiring the five CASEL competencies. Ms. Wood also shared how students are demonstrating their application of these competencies in classrooms and schools as a result of the SEAL program.

28. Release of the Superintendent's Proposed FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt presented Capital Improvement Program Budget (CIP) of \$313,957,900 for the next 10 years. The fiscal guidance presented by the City recommended that schools maintain the total amount of capital funding included in the approved CIP for years 2-10 (\$316 million), but distributed across the FY 2025 – FY 2034 planning window.

29. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, proposed revisions of several policies and regulations. The policies have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, were audited for equity, and reviewed by staff, leadership and the Policy Review Committee.

The following policies and regulations were reviewed:

- BBFA – Conflict of Interests and Disclosure of Economic Interests
- IL – Testing Programs
- IMG – Use of Animals in the Instructional Program
- IMG-R – Regulations for the Use of Animals in the Instructional Program
- LEB – Advanced Alternative Courses for Credit
- LEB-R – Advanced Alternative Courses for Credit Regulations

Chair's Report

30. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief mentioned that the CIP Presentation materials will be added to Electronic School Board after the meeting. She reminded the public about upcoming meetings of the School Board and highlighted the November 13, 2023 Budget Public Hearing and Work Session which also has information on employee compensation.

Board Member Announcements

31. Announcements

Vice Chair Booz commended the City Council and School Board for their productive conversations on the budget.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

32. Closed Meeting

33. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Adjournment

34. Adjourn

On a motion by Vice Chair Booz and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 9:25 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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