

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

March 7, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Tim Beaty
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 Rahim, Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Julia Burgos, Taneika Taylor Tukan, Marisol Morales, 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. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Greene who arrive during public comments.

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 March 7, 2024 School Board Meeting

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the March 7, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Mr. Beaty seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for March 7, 2024 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no Board Members attending virtually.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Public Comments

Emily Yarrison, ACPS staff member, spoke against the restructuring of the International Academy at Alexandria City High School (ACHS).

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the draft collective bargaining resolution and the staff restructuring at ACHS.

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke in regard to the FY 2025 budget report, questioning the statistics of internal programs, as well as allocation of funds for special educational services, and opportunities of academic excellence.

Kloe Cella, ACPS parent and Moms Demand Action volunteer, shared concerns of safety and security measures, requesting ACPS distribute safe gun storage information to all families in the district at least twice a year, add a gun violence prevention webpage, and develop preventative measures that may be implemented in schools.

Dr. Shannon Waite, staff member, spoke in regards to overcrowding at West End schools in Alexandria.

Katie Rodriguez, ACPS parent, spoke in regards to overcrowding at West End schools, missed instructional time, and classroom capacities.

Catie Brownback, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at James K. Polk Elementary School, and highlighted capacity increases, classroom cap recommendations, capacity transfers, and teacher retention.

Laura Rodriguez, ACPS parent and PTA President at Polk, spoke about overcrowding at James K. Polk noting teacher burnout, and requested alternative options to limit overcrowding.

Kursten Phelps, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at Patrick Henry Elementary School, large class sizes, capacity transfers, and tools to mitigate overcrowding until any new redistricting policies are implemented.

Silda Nikaj, ACPS parent, spoke about the Lyles Crouch safety incident, specifically a need for an action plan and communication strategies.

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about the Lyles Crouch incident and shared concerns of school and security measures.

7. Report from Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- Women's History Month
- National Social Workers Appreciation Week
- Black History Month Showcase on “African Americans in the Arts”
- Academic advisement
- Portfolio Review Opportunity
- ACHS Winter Dance
- The ACHS Spring Musical *Bring it On* opens on Friday, April 5th
- The PAVE Essay Contest and Scholarship Program closes on March 15, 2024
- Student Representatives and the Executive Principal Advisory Board are planning a town hall meeting at a future date

8. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahim

Ms. Rahim reported on the following:

- On March 5th, IA students including Ms. Rahim, visited the Virginia House of Delegates
- Noted the population increase to 837 students in the IA. A large increase came from students from Afghanistan and the IA makes up almost 20% of the students in the building.

Superintendent's Report

9. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- The Lyles Crouch incident
- Third Annual Alexandria City Essential Workers Appreciation Week
- National Nutrition Month and School Breakfast Week
- National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month
- Women's History Month
- International Women's Day
- National School Social Worker Week
- Youth Art Month and Music in Our Schools Month
- Middle Level Education Month
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School 5th grade student Thomas Nguyen Le took first place, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School's Emerson Hunte took 2nd place, and Malick Diallo placed third in the 2024 Virginia Black History Month Association Children's Writing Contest
- 45 DECA students traveled to Virginia Beach for the Student Leadership Conference
- Douglas MacArthur Elementary School's Career Day
- Dare to Dream Career Fair
- George Washington Middle School Math & Robotics Night
- Daylight Saving Time begins on Sunday, March 10

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

10. Closed Meeting

Ms. Booz moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(2), 2.2-3711(A)(8) and 2.2-3711(A)(19) for discussion and consultation with staff and legal counsel employed by a public body pertaining to student safety and disciplinary matters that involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a student of Alexandria City Public Schools. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(6) for discussion or consideration of the investment of public funds, specifically a change order of an existing contract related to telecom services for the Minnie Howard Redevelopment Project, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to convene the closed session was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

The Board moved into the Closed Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

11. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, the Board will certify 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 March 7, 2024.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

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

The Board returned to open session at 8:16 p.m.

Consent Calendar

- 12. Personnel Actions February 19 through March 1, 2024**
- 13. Minnie Howard Telecom Change Order**
- 14. Policy Adoption**
- 15. Re-Appoint Bridget Baron as the Student Representative to the School Health Advisory Board**
- 16. Minutes for the February 22, 2024 School Board Meeting, the February 28, 2024 Joint City Council/School Board Work Session on the CIP Budget, the February 29, 2024 Public Hearing on the Collective Bargaining Resolution and the February 29, 2024 School Board Retreat**

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi was not present for the vote.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business & Action Items

There were no Old Business & Action Items.

New Business and Reports to the Board

17. Technology Plan Update

Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Chief Technology Officer, provided an update to the ACPS Technology Plan that was adopted in June 2023. She reported on major projects and programs in the areas of learning environments; infrastructure; safety, security and privacy; and professional learning that have been completed, are in progress, or are ongoing.

18. LINK Club- Out of School Time Program Sustainability Planning Update

Ms. Taneika Taylor Tukan, Executive Director of Community Partnerships, and Ms. Marisol Morales, Out of School Time Manager, provided a sustainability planning update on the comprehensive out of school time (OST) program, LINK Club. This program provides high quality and comprehensive after school services with an emphasis on academic support, enrichment, social-emotional support, health and wellness and family engagement to high-need, economically-disadvantaged students and their families.

19. Community Partnerships Overview

Ms. Taylor Tukan provided an update on work to build broad-based, innovative partnerships that strengthen all ACPS students' education. Currently, ACPS has 187 signed partnership agreements, memoranda of understanding or memoranda of agreement with a wide range of city agencies, non-profit organizations, programs and businesses.

20. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, presented policies that have been reviewed for code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee.

Revisions were presented on the following policies:

- BDDE – Rules of Order and By-Laws
- BF – Board Policy Manual
- BFC – Policy Adoption
- BFE-CHD – Administration in Policy Absence
- CH – Policy Implementation
- DJB – Petty Cash Funds
- DJB-R – Petty Cash Fund Regulations
- IGE – Adult Education
- IGE-R – Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (ISAEP)

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

Chair’s Report

21. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief reported on upcoming meetings from the Board’s calendar.

Board Member Announcements

22. Announcements

Ms. Greene congratulated Student Representative Zahra Rahimi for being accepted into the Madam Ambassador International Affairs Program held each year by the Black Professionals in International Affairs, a non-profit organization committed to increasing the involvement of African-Americans and other Africans in international affairs. The Madam Ambassador seminar is designed to provide education and training to girls ages 13-21 to careers in international affairs, emphasizing individual development by creating youth engagement in community, civil and international events.

Mr. Beaty asked for information on how the process will work for the work session on the draft Collective Bargaining Resolution being held on March 14, 2024. Dr. Rief indicated the process would be similar to an add/delete work session.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

23. Closed Meeting

24. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Adjournment

25. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 10:12 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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