

MINUTES
ORGANIZATIONAL SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
January 5, 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 (on Zoom)
Tammy Ignacio (on Zoom)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Emily Milton, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Dominic Turner

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Alderton

Chair Alderton called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio who would join the meeting electronically.

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 January 5, 2023 Organizational School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the January 5, 2023 Organizational School Board Meeting. Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for the January 5, 2023 Organizational School Board Meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

4. Allow Participation of Board Member Christopher Harris by Electronic Means

Vice Chair Greene made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Christopher Harris has notified the Board that he is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to a personal matter, specifically illness and whereas Board Member Harris requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting by Video Conference Call from Alexandria, Virginia where the conference call shall be heard by all participants in this Board

room; and whereas a quorum of the Board is physically assembled in this Board room;

Therefore, I move, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 that the Board approve the participation of Board Member Christopher Harris in this Board Meeting by video conference call.”

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion. The vote to allow Mr. Harris to join the meeting electronically was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

Mr. Harris joined the meeting via Zoom.

5. Allow Participation of Board Member Tammy Ignacio by Electronic Means

Vice Chair Greene made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Tammy Ignacio has notified the Board that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to personal matter, specifically a family issue and whereas she has not participated in more than two or 25% of Board meetings by electronic means during 2023; and whereas Board Member Ignacio requests the opportunity to participate in the Meeting by video conference call from out of state 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 Board room;

Therefore, I move, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 that the Board approve the participation of Board Member Tammy Ignacio in this meeting by video conference call.”

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion. The vote to allow Ms. Ignacio to join the meeting electronically was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Ignacio joined the meeting via Zoom.

Nominations for Chair

Chair Alderton turned over the gavel to Interim Superintendent Kay-Wyatt to oversee the Election of the Chair of the Alexandria City School Board.

6. Nominations for School Board Chair

Dr. Kay-Wyatt opened the floor for nominations for Chair of the Alexandria City School Board for 2023.

Mr. Harris nominated Meagan Alderton for Chair.

There were no further nominations.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt asked if Board Members wished to make any comments about the candidate.

Mr. Bailey thanked Ms. Alderton for continuing in the role as Chair for another period of time. He acknowledged the time that is required to be Chair and as well as the time spent away from her family and job. He shared his belief that by keeping the same Chair, the Board can remain focused on the important tasks at hand.

Mr. Harris indicated that he nominated Ms. Alderton because he believes that she is a leader and a great person, and also noted all the work that she puts into the role.

There were no further comments.

Election of Chair

7. Election of School Board Chair

Dr. Kay-Wyatt indicated Susan Neilson, Clerk of the Board, will call the vote by roll call.

Ms. Neilson asked Board Members to indicate “Yes” in support of the nominated candidate for the Chair position, or to indicate “Pass” if they do not wish to support the candidate. A roll call vote was taken.

Board Members voted unanimously in favor of Ms. Meagan Alderton as Chair. There were no abstentions.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt congratulated Ms. Alderton as Chair of the Alexandria City School Board for 2023.

Chair Alderton presided over the remainder of the meeting.

Nominations for School Board Vice Chair

8. Nominations for School Board Vice Chair

Chair Alderton opened the floor for nominations for Vice Chair of the Alexandria City School Board.

Mr. Elnoubi nominated Jacinta Greene for School Board Vice Chair.

There were no further nominations.

Chair Alderton asked if Board Members wished to make any comments about the candidate.

Mr. Elnoubi noted that Ms. Greene has been a collaborative leader who is willing to listen and work with everyone. He also mentioned that he had the pleasure of working with Ms. Greene outside of the School Board volunteering for a program that she runs and could see her dedications to our students and their well-being.

Mr. Bailey thanked Ms. Greene for continuing in the Vice Chair role and appreciated that he could reach out to her at a moment’s notice to answer questions.

Lastly, Chair Alderton commented that Ms. Greene reminds her to keep the fun in the work of the Board, to be sure the kids are included and celebrate our accomplishments. She thanked Ms. Greene for her support and energy.

There were no further comments.

Election of Vice Chair

9. Election of School Board Vice Chair

Chair Alderton indicated that the Clerk will call for the vote by roll call.

Ms. Neilson asked Board Members to indicate “Yes” in support of the nominated candidate for the Vice Chair position, or to indicate “Pass” if they do not wish to support the candidate. A roll call vote was taken.

Board Members voted unanimously in support of Ms. Jacinta Greene as Vice Chair. There were no abstentions.

Chair Alderton congratulated Ms. Greene as Vice Chair of the Alexandria City School Board for 2023.

Designees of the Division Superintendent

10. Appoint Designees of the Division Superintendent

Vice Chair Greene moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation of Dr. Wendy Gonzalez, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, to serve as the Superintendent's Designee in her absence.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to approve Dr. Gonzalez as the Designee of the Division Superintendent was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

Superintendent's Recommendation for Clerk of the Board

11. Superintendent's Recommendation for Clerk of the Board and Deputy Clerk of the Board

Vice Chair Greene moved to approve Ms. Susan Neilson as Clerk of the Board and Ms. Alexandra Bourdouane as Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to approve Ms. Neilson as Clerk of the Board and Ms. Bourdouane as Deputy Clerk of the Board was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

Each year at the Organizational Meeting, the Board reaffirms its Code of Ethics, Standards of Conduct, Rules of Order and Bylaws.

12. Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct

Board Members took turns reading aloud the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct as required in the Code of Ethics.

Vice Chair Greene moved to affirm the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to affirm the Code of Ethics and Standards of Conduct was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

13. Rules of Order and Bylaws

Vice Chair Greene moved to affirm the Rules of Order and Bylaws.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to affirm the Rules of Order and Bylaws was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

14. Report by Student Representatives Emily Milton and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Emily Milton congratulated Chair Alderton and Jacinta Greene for their reappointments and wished all of ACPS a Happy New Year. She was excited for the next semester to start and was looking forward to ending the year strong.

Mr. Torenzo Ricks welcomed everyone back to school. He congratulated Chair Alderton and Vice Chair Greene for their reappointments and wished all of ACPS a Happy New Year.

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

Ms. Rahimi was unable to give a report due to a technical difficulty on Zoom. Her report was posted to the agenda and gave the following information.

Ms. Rahimi acknowledged Mr. Bailey's recent fundraiser which gave away over 1000 toys, 250 new coats, and \$700 in gift cards for families in the community. She also recognized the IA students at Francis C. Hammond Middle School who presented their mid-year portfolio projects and noted the 7th Annual IA Holiday Giving Program which delivered winter clothes to 193 IA students in Hammond. Lastly, Ms. Rahimi recognized the Student International Committee which is a new club for students both in and outside the IA program. Their goal is to get more inclusive cultural events and voices in the community and school operations.

Consent Calendar

16. Appoint Designees of the Division Superintendent

17. 2023 ACPS Legislative Agenda

18. SY 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Calendar

19. Policy Adoption

20. Minutes for the December 1 and December 15, 2022 School Board Meetings

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Bailey seconded the motion.

Chair Alderton asked if there were any items to pull from the Consent Calendar. No items were pulled.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. Presentation of the Superintendent's FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget

Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt proposed a FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget in the amount of \$359.9 million, that aims to focus on the efforts to realize the mission and vision established in the ACPS 2025: Equity for All strategic plan, and to prepare every student to have the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st century. The proposed combined funds budget is in line with the Board's adopted budget priorities. The Board will further review and discuss the proposed FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget at the January 12 and January 19, 2023 Budget Work Sessions, and the February 9, 2023 Add/Delete Work Session. The combined funds budget is scheduled to be adopted at the February 16, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Board Chair's Report

22. Report from the Chair

Chair Alderton acknowledged the efforts of the finance team to ensure that the FY 2024 Combined Funds Budget was put together in a timely manner. She reminded the public of the upcoming work sessions to be held on January 12th and January 19th, 2023. Chair Alderton also noted that there will be a public hearing on the combined funds budget at the January 19th, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Superintendent's Report

23. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Dr. Kay-Wyatt shared updates since the last Board Meeting. She noted that ACPS would be honoring the civil rights icon, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., on January 16th. She urged everyone on this National Day of Service to recommitted to making our community welcoming and inclusive for all. Dr. Kay-Wyatt thanked ACPS leadership and acknowledged Principal Appreciate Week which is celebrated the week of January 16th. She remarked on all that principals do for our students and schools. January also marks National Technology Day on January 6th, and Data Privacy Day on January 28th.

Dr. Kay-Wyatt congratulated ACHS student, Usman Mohammed who was awarded a full-tuition Posse scholarship during a ceremony held at the Lincoln Theater. She further recognized Patrick Henry K-8 fourth grade teacher, Felicia Paschal-Gilmore, who was recognized during the Military Bowl on December 28th as part of the Military Bowl Foundation and the College Football Playoff Foundation Extra Yard Teachers program. Ms. Paschal-Gilmore will receive grant money which she plans to use for much-needed school supplies and curriculum materials.

Jefferson-Houston Pre K-8 IB School staged its first Family Science Night with the Children's Science Center in December. Dr. Kay-Wyatt reminded the ACPS community to nominate a local crossing guard to be recognized as Virginia's Most Outstanding Crossing Guard of 2022. Nominations must be submitted by January 20th. Lastly, she reported that the 2023 ACPS Science and Engineering Fair is looking for volunteers for the event scheduled for Thursday, January 26 at Alexandria City High School. Details are in the *Express*.

Announcements by Board Members

24. Announcements

Ms. Booz noted her appreciation towards the Alexandria community for the care and tenderness that they value towards the ACPS school community. She relayed seeing a former teacher recognize a family of one of her former students and was warmed by their reconnection.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed

25. 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 one specific public employee and 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 vulnerabilities and briefings by staff members, 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; 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.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to go into the closed session was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The Board moved into the Closed Session at 7:38 time.

26. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Greene moved that Pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, that the Board 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 January 5, 2023.

Dr. Rief seconded the motion. The vote to certify the closed session was unanimous, 9-0. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The Board returned to open session at 9:28 p.m.

Adjournment

27. Adjourn

On a motion by Vice Chair Greene and seconded by Dr. Rief, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. Mr. Harris and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

Meagan Alderton, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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