

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

May 9, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton (absent)
Tim Beaty
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi (virtual)
Jacinta Greene
Christopher Harris
Tammy Ignacio (virtual)
Michelle Rief
Ashley Simpson Baird

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin, Jasibi Crews, Tiffany Lee-Clark, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Anna Harvin, Dr. Bethany Nickerson, Carmen Sanders, Jane Richardson, Dr. Alicia Hart, Sophie Huemer, 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. Alderton who was absent. Ms. Ignacio and Mr. Elnoubi joined the meeting electronically.

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 May 9, 2024 School Board Meeting

Mr. Harris moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the May 9, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for May 9, 2024 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

Vice Chair Booz made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Members Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi and Tammy Ignacio have notified the Board that they are unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting and Work Session due to a personal matter, specifically illness; and whereas Board Members Elnoubi and Ignacio request the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference

call from home where the conference call shall be heard by all participants in this 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 Members Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi and Tammy Ignacio in this Meeting by video conference call.”

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Ms. Ignacio and Mr. Elnoubi to participate electronically was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Ignacio and Mr. Elnoubi joined the meeting via Zoom.

Recognitions

6. ACPS Principal of the Year: Jasibi Crews

Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS) recognized Ms. Jasibi Crews from Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology as its Principal of the Year for 2024.

7. ACPS Teacher of the Year: Tiffany Lee-Clarke

ACPS recognized Ms. Tiffany Lee-Clarke, a third-grade teacher at Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School, as its Teacher of the Year for 2024.

Superintendent’s Report

8. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Virginia School Boards Association 28th Annual Showcases for Success
- ACHS National Merit Scholarship Recipients
- Mental Health Awareness Month
- National Physical Fitness and Sports Month
- National Children’s Mental Health Awareness Day
- Resilience Week Virginia
- National Bike and Roll to School Day
- School Lunch Hero Day
- National Teacher Appreciation Week
- National School Nurse Day
- School Communicators Day
- Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month
- Jewish American Heritage Month
- National Military Appreciation Month
- National Speech-Language-Hearing Month
- Children’s Book Week and National Music Week
- Standards of Learning Testing
- Preparing for Your Future: Transition Fair
- Handling Public Comments at School Board Meetings

Communications & Addresses to the Board

9. Report by Student Representative Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- Teacher Appreciation Week
- The ACHS Band Performance at the Chantilly Jazz Festival
- The Black Student Union Field Day
- Ethiopian and Eritrean Club End of Year Celebration
- The AVID Class of 2024 Senior Celebration
- Recognition of Dell Scholarship Recipients
- QuestBridge Summer Program

10. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following:

- Senor Experience Begins for Seniors
- ACHS Senior Prom
- Student Representative to the School Board Application Deadline

11. Public Hearing on the FY 2025 Combined Funds and FY 2024-2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, requested that the Board allocate funds towards response to safety matter in schools.

12. Public Comments

Potter Hopfensperger, ACPS student, spoke about the loss of in-person Latin classes.

Huxley Hopfensperger, ACPS student, asked the Board to restore in-person Latin classes.

Asher Bernstein, ACPS student, spoke about the benefits of taking Latin and urged the Board to return the in-person Latin class to the curriculum.

Deborah McKeeman, community member, commented in support of the Superintendent's handling of a school matter.

Willow Darsie, ACPS parent, spoke about The High School Project.

Silda Nikaj, ACPS parent, spoke about an ACPS communication plan during a school safety matter.

Chris Hopfensperger, ACPS parent, spoke about concerns of the removal of Latin classes from the curriculum.

Michael Kleeman, ACPS parent, spoke about discrimination, bullying, and safety in schools.

Carrie Fairmon, ACPS parent, spoke on behalf of her students about safety and security issues.

David Palladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about allocation funds to schools by central office.

Ricardo Roberts, APCS parent, spoke about representation by School Board Members.

Jennifer Schneider, ACPS parent, asked the Board about capacity and cluster reassignments.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

13. Closed Meeting

14. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Consent Calendar

15. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending March 31, 2024

16. FY 2024 Budget Transfer Report Q3

17. Personnel Actions from April 20 through May 3, 2024

18. Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Grant

19. Policy Adoption

20. Minutes for the April 25, 2024 School Board Meeting and the May 2, 2024 Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. Office of English Learner Services Updates

Dr. Bethany Nickerson, Executive Director of English Learner Services, presented an overview of the English learner (EL) student population, EL Office supports, and EL best instructional practices, including Project GLAD.

22. Early Childhood Education Update

Ms. Jane Richardson, Early Childhood Coordinator, provided Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) demographic data, student development data, and shared about the professional learning and instructional supports provided to Early Childhood staff. She also highlighted efforts to build family and community engagement through local partnerships.

23. FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Quarterly Report for Q3

Dr. Alicia Hart, Chief Operating Officer, and Ms. Sophie Huemer, Director of Capital Programs, Planning & Design, presented the FY 2024 CIP Quarterly Report for Q3 which contains a summary of the Capital Improvement Program work that progressed during the third quarter of FY2024.

24. CIP Quarterly Reserve Report, FY 24 Q3

Dr. Hart presented the CIP Quarterly Reserve Report for FY24 Q3. The CIP Reserve Account balance has remained unchanged \$229,141.09.

25. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reported on suggested revision to the following policies:

- CBB - Appointment and Term of the Superintendent
- CBD - Superintendent's Compensation and Benefits
- CBE - Superintendent's Severance Benefits
- GBO - Virginia Retirement System
- GCBA - Staff Salary Schedules
- GCBC - Staff Fringe Benefits
- GCBEA - Leave Without Pay
- IGBH - Alternative School Programs
- IGBH-R - Alternative School Programs Regulations
- INDC - Religion in the Schools
- KC - Community Involvement in Decision Making

- LEA - Student Teaching and Internships
- LEA-R - Student Teaching and Internships Regulations

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

Board Chair's Report

26. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief acknowledged teachers for their hard work as part of Teacher Appreciation Week. She also reported on upcoming meetings from the School Board's calendar and noted the new meeting time for the May 23, 2024 School Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m..

Announcements by Board Members

27. Announcements

Mr. Beaty announced the [2025 Children and Youth Master Plan](#) on the Children, Youth, and Families Collaborative Commission's website that provides resources for students and families. He also noted the Economic Opportunities Commission's [Alexandria Community Needs Assessment report](#) on areas of need in childcare, healthcare, and housing. Finally, Mr. Beaty mentioned a Washington Post article related to student improvement when cell phone use was limited in schools.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

28. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(1), 2.2-3711 (A)(1), 2.2-3711 (A)(2), and 2.2-3711(A)(8) to discuss the performance and salaries, of specific public employees; and review disciplinary matters for specific students that would involve the disclosure of information contained in the scholastic record for individual students; and to receive legal advice regarding the same; and to dispense with the attendance of the Superintendent from a portion of this meeting in accordance with Code of Virginia Section 22.1-69.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to convene a Closed Meeting was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The Board moved into the Closed Meeting at 9:18 p.m.

29. 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 May 9, 2024.

Mr. Beaty seconded the motion.

The vote to certify the closed meeting was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried. Mr. Elnoubi and Ms. Ignacio voted orally.

The Board returned to open session at 11:10 p.m.

30. Student Matter

Vice Chair Booz moved that the School Board affirm the disciplinary decision of the Superintendent's Designee regarding the student identified in Closed Session in Matter 05-24-01.

Mr. Beaty seconded the motion.

The vote to affirm the decision of the Superintendent's Designee on the student disciplinary matter was 6-2. Mr. Harris and Mr. Elnoubi voted against the motion. The vote was taken by roll call.

The motion carried.

Adjournment

31. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 11:12 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT