

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

**June 6, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

**BOARD MEMBERS:** Meagan L. Alderton  
Tim Beaty (virtual)  
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, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin, Anika Buster-Singleton, Dominic Turner, Dr. Alicia Hart, Dr. Pierrette Finney, Carmen Sanders, Marya Runkle, Alexander Duncan, Michael Burch, Dr. Grace Taylor, Dr. Clinton Page, Dr. Anthony Sims

**Call to Order**

**1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Rief**

Chair Rief called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Beaty who joined the meeting virtually and Ms. Booz who arrived during the “Simply The Best” School Highlight.

**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 June 6, 2024 School Board Meeting**

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the June 6, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for June 6, 2024 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

**5. Approve Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means**

Ms. Greene made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Timothy Beaty has notified the Board that he is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board Meeting due to a personal family matter, and where he has not participated in more than two or 25% of Board meetings by electronic means during 2024; and where Board Member Beaty requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting by video conference call from South Carolina, where the conference call shall be heard by all participants in this Board room; and where a quorum of the Board is physically assembled;

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

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to allow Mr. Beaty to participate in the meeting by electronic means was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

Mr. Beaty joined the meeting via Zoom.

## Recognitions

### 6. Anne R. Lipnick Awards for Specialized Instruction

Anne R. Lipnick Awards for Specialized Instruction are annual awards which honor staff members who have consistently provided outstanding service to advance the success of students receiving special education services.

This year’s honorees were:

- Kelly Cheeks, Support Staff Employee, Early Childhood Center
- Gisela Colon-McKinney, K-12 Special Education Teacher, William Ramsay
- Jerylen Daniels, Administrator, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School
- Jessica Hatfield, Related Service Provider, Speech Language Pathologist
- Andrae Jones, Instructional Assistant, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science & Technology
- Wendy Morciglio, General Education Teacher, Mount Vernon Community School

### 7. “Simply the Best” School Highlight–Francis C. Hammond Middle School

Principal Anika Buster-Singleton, introduced the STEM extracurricular programs held at Francis C. Hammond that included the Hammond U.S. Drones Soccer Team and the Hammond U.S. Rocketry Team. Students from both teams presented information about the programs and their recent competitions.

### 8. ACPS 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 support staff:

- Vanessa Duenas, Administrative Assistant, Department of Facilities and Operations
- Victor Espinosa Sanchez, Language Access Manager, Department of Teaching, Learning and Leadership
- Andrae Jones, Special Education Instructional Assistant, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology
- Natlie Riley, division-wide Technology Integration Specialist (TIS)
- Brian Tolliver, Special Education Instructional Assistant, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School
- Betel Yosef, division-wide Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) administrative assistant/VPI registrar

## Superintendent's Report

### 9. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

- ACHS Commencement Ceremony held on June 1, 2024
- ACHS Minnie Howard Campus Ribbon Cutting
- The Shanita Burney Award for District Leadership in Family and Community Engagement was awarded to Krishna Leyva, ACPS' Assistant Director of the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center
- Alexandria City High School's Benjamin D. Turney is among the college-sponsored Merit Scholarship recipients announced by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation
- 2024 ACPS Celebrations of Learning event
- National Gun Violence Awareness Day will be held on June 7, 2024 at Market Square in Old Town and Wear Orange Weekend will be celebrated from June 7-9
- ACPS schools and offices will be closed in celebration of Juneteenth, held on Wednesday, June 19th
- ACPS will celebrate the following during the month of June:
  - ◉ Pride Month
    - National Immigrant Heritage Month
    - National Caribbean-American Heritage Month
- Feedback on the Student Code of Conduct is due by Friday, June 14
- Preparation for the 2024-2025 school year has begun and will focus on enrollment
- Samuel Tucker Elementary School's first day of school is July 19
- Reminder of the end of the year early dismissal days for high school students on June 7, and all students on June 10-12.

## Communications & Addresses to the Board

### 10. Report from Student Representative Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on the following:

- The Champions of Children Awards Ceremony will be held on June 12th at the Del Pepper Community Resource Center
- ACPS Celebrations of Learning event held on June 5th, 2024 at the King Street Campus where students were able to share their projects with the Alexandria community and families
- Announcement of Final Exams Week for ACHS students

### 11. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following:

- ACHS Commencement Ceremony held at George Mason University on June 1, 2024
- The Champion of Children Awards awarded to two ACHS teachers who have supported students in the International Academy

### 12. Public Comments

Deborah McKeeman, community member, spoke about absenteeism and dropout rates.

Kloe Cella, ACPS parent, spoke about the Gun Awareness resolution and the weapons abatement survey results.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke about the administrative restructuring at Alexandria City High School (ACHS).

Brooke Glisson, community member, thanked the Board for the adoption of the resolution, the gun safety webpage and their continued collaboration with community partners.

Silda Nikaj, ACPS parent, spoke about gun safety in schools.

Jennifer Schneider, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at Polk Elementary School.

Laura Rodriguez, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding in Title 1 schools.

Aaron Thomas, ACPS parent, spoke about west end capacity and overcrowding concerns at Polk Elementary.

Kathy Keenoy, community member, spoke about the loss of the translator registrar position in the EL Office.

Kate Moore Rodriguez, ACPS parent, spoke about the effects of overcrowding on students and learning.

Allyson Paytas, ACPS staff member, spoke about ACHS leadership changes.

Dawn Lucas, ACPS staff member and EAA President, spoke about the collective bargaining agreement, the election of EAA as bargaining unit representative and next steps.

Lara Nemark, ACPS parent, spoke about the Gun Awareness Resolution and weapons abatement for elementary schools.

Jakob Wolf-Barnett, ACPS parent, spoke about overcrowding at Patrick Henry School.

Kursten Phelps, ACPS parent, spoke about policies and procedures related to overcrowding at west end schools.

Meena Baluch, community member, spoke about the importance of having a Farsi School Registrar for international families.

### **Consent Calendar**

**13. Personnel Actions for May 20 through May 31, 2024**

**14. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending April 30, 2024**

**15. Community Donation**

**16. Title IV, Part A Federal Grant**

**17. Policy Adoption**

**18. 2024 ACPS Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees**

**19. Minutes for the May 23, 2024 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Beaty voted orally.

### **Old Business and Action Items**

**20. Resolution of National Gun Violence Awareness and Safe Gun Storage**

Each year the School Board supports and highlights Gun Violence Awareness Day and Wear Orange Day held on the first Friday in June. ACPS provides resources on its website about secure firearm safety, talking to your children about guns, and firearm suicide. The Alexandria City School Board first adopted a Resolution Against Gun Violence on March 8, 2018 and has reaffirmed the resolution each year.

Board members took turns reading parts of the resolution for the community.

Mr. Elnoubi moved to adopt the resolution.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Resolution of National Gun Violence Awareness and Safe Gun Storage was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Beaty voted orally.

## **21. Adoption of FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget**

The adoption of the Combined-Funds Budget is an annual commitment to programs and activities for ACPS and reflects all School Board and Superintendent recommended budget adjustments since the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget adoption on February 22, 2024.

Ms. Booz made the following motion:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Alexandria City School Board approve the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget as follows:

- The FY 2025 Operating Fund budget in the amount of \$349,289,067 for both revenues and expenditures. The Revenue includes the use of general fund balance in the amount of \$6,968,267 as well as the addition of \$1,200,000 Transfer-In from the Capital Improvement Program. Expenditures will include a Transfer-Out of \$1,824,856 to the Grants and Special Projects Fund. The Operating budget includes 2,474.00 FTEs and a total City appropriation of \$273,034,300.
- The FY 2025 Grants and Special Projects budget in the amount of \$18,133,096 for revenues and expenditures. The Revenue includes a Transfer-In of \$1,824,856 from the Operating Fund to provide supplemental funding support to the Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI) program. This budget includes a total of 110.70 FTEs.
- The FY 2025 School Nutrition Services budget totals \$12,575,978 for revenues and \$12,575,978 for expenditures. This budget includes a total of 121.00 FTEs.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board. Additionally, the School Board authorizes the encumbrances remaining as of June 30, 2024 to carry forward from FY 2024 to FY 2025 as an adjustment to the final budget.”

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2025 Combined Funds Budget was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Beaty voted orally.

## **22. Adoption of the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget**

The FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget is presented with adjustments made by the superintendent since its adoption in December 2023 which matches the City Council approved CIP Budget. Ms. Booz made the following motion:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Alexandria City School Board adopt the FY 2025–2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the total amount of \$379,506,300 with \$107,608,600 in FY 2025.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.”

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the FY 2025-2034 CIP Budget was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. Mr. Beaty provided his vote orally.

## **23. The High School Project Update**

The High School Project (THSP) team has worked to fully develop the School Board approved academy structure. The Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Administrative team presented information on how the connected high school network led to the development of academies at ACHS, how the most recent educational programming updates focuses on positive student and

staff outcomes, and what strategies will be implemented to foster and progress monitor the implementation of the academies at ACHS.

### **New Business and Reports to the Board**

#### **24. Draft Division Priorities for SY 2024-2025**

Dr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, presented key formative division-level data from SY 23-24 and the draft ACPS Priority Areas for the 2024-2025 school year. The Priority Areas and their direct alignment into the SY 24-25 Division Support Plan allow for clear organizational alignment, prioritization, and cohesion of work across the entire system.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **25. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief**

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

### **Board Member Announcements**

#### **26. Announcements**

There were no Board Member announcements.

### **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)**

#### **27. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia sections 2.2-3711(A)(6) and 2.2-3711(A)(29) for discussion and consideration of specific public contracts and the investment and expenditure of public funds where bargaining or competition is involved, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board, regarding: (1) proposed amendments to agreements regarding the 1703 North Beauregard Swing Space project; (2) building renovations; (3) Board operations; and (4) an Architectural and Engineering Services contract. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with staff and legal counsel employed by a public body pertaining to personnel matters related to promotion, demotion, performance and appointment of specific public employees.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Mr. Beaty voted orally.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 10:38 p.m.

#### **28. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, 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 June 6, 2024.

Mr. Elnoubi seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 11:47 p.m.

**Adjournment**

**29. Adjourn**

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 11:48 p.m.

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Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

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