

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

**September 7, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**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 (absent)  
Jacinta Greene  
Christopher Harris  
Tammy Ignacio (absent)  
Michelle Rief  
Ashley Simpson Baird

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Torenzo Ricks, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin, Dr. Clinton Page

**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 Mr. Bailey, Mr. Elnoubi, and Ms. Ignacio, who were all absent for the entire meeting.

**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 September 7, 2023 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the September 7, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Booz moved to amend the agenda to add "Recognition of Board Members Meagan Alderton and Jacinta Greene" before Communications and Addresses to the Board.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda to add the recognition of Ms. Alderton and Ms. Greene was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the agenda as amended was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

**5. Recognition of Board Members Meagan Alderton and Jacinta Greene**

Chair Rief presented recognition gifts to Meagan Alderton for her service as Chair of the Alexandria School Board from 2021-2023, and to Ms. Jacinta Greene for her service as Vice Chair from 2022-2023. Fellow Board Members gave remarks on their behalf.

**Communications & Addresses to the Board**

**6. Public Comments**

Ms. Deborah McKeeman, ACPS community member, spoke about student safety at Douglas MacArthur Elementary School.

Mr. David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, advocated for ACPS to adopt collective bargaining.

Mr. Dick Griffin, ACPS staff member, spoke about the urgency to adopt collective bargaining for the benefit of transportation staff.

Ms. Kate Kelley, ACPS staff member, spoke about the benefits of adopting collective bargaining.

Ms. Gina Baum, ACPS parent, spoke about the importance of the Board engaging in meaningful dialogue on important matters such as staff salaries.

Mr. Matthew Carr, ACPS parent, spoke about the teacher shortage at the Minnie Howard Campus of Alexandria City High School (ACHS).

Ms. Amy Hillis, ACPS parent, spoke about transparency procedures.

**7. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi**

Ms. Rahimi spoke about student activities and academics, specifically about collaboration between the International Academy (IA) and English Language Learners (ELL) groups. She also spoke about the APA and SOL preparation team that was successful in Summer School that has continued planning for credit recovery and SOL prep for these students. Ms. Rahimi reported on the Internationals Network for Public Schools (INPS), a program which aims to ensure that students receive social and emotional support along with instruction that promotes language development and academic skills. Lastly, she reported on student advisory, collaboration with community partners, and making social media more inclusive for IA students.

**8. Report by Student Representatives Torenzo Ricks and Zainab Yassin**

Mr. Ricks spoke about the first meeting of the student advisory group he is heading in collaboration with the ACPS equity department where students discuss various topics. He noted that ACHS football season has begun, and recognized ACPS registration staff for their efforts. Mr. Ricks reported on the ACPS GED programs offered at central office as well as the ELL offices. Lastly, he mentioned that recruitment is ongoing to fill the middle school student representative positions.

Ms. Yassin spoke about personal goals she would like to achieve this year serving as a student representative. She recognized the importance of student engagement, ensure student voices are heard, and implementing solutions for substance abuse.

**Superintendent's Report**

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

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Upcoming Back to School Nights
- National Hispanic Heritage Month
- Superintendent's Community Chat on October 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at ACHS

- Substance abuse workshops for families and students
- Completing the community survey for the Community Budget Forum to be held on October 16, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
- COVID guidelines and protocols can be found on the ACPS website
- ACPS teachers wishlists' are available through Donors Choose
- Congratulations to the ACPS Financial Services Team for the award of a Certificate of Excellence
- VIP Award nominations
- Student Enrollment
- VDOE Accreditation results for the 2022-2023 School Year
- Increased SOL test results for 2022-2024
- VDOE state-wide attendance campaign

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

##### **10. Closed Meeting**

##### **11. Certification of Closed Meeting**

There was no Closed Meeting held.

#### **Consent Calendar**

##### **12. Personnel Actions Report from August 25 to September 1, 2023**

##### **13. Title IV, Part A, Bipartisan Safer Community Act - Federal Grant**

##### **14. Appoint Matthew Henry to the Advanced Academic Services (AAS) Advisory Committee (formerly TAGAC)**

##### **15. Accept Resignation of Jim Clark from the Athletic Hall of Fame (AHOF) Advisory Committee**

##### **16. Re-Appoint Bridget Shea Westfall to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)**

##### **17. Minutes for the August 24, 2023 School Board Meeting and Work Session**

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

#### **Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar**

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

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

##### **18. ACPS Priority Areas SY 2023-2024**

Dr. Clinton Page, Chief of Accountability and Research, reviewed information about ACPS Priority Areas that were first discussed at the August 24th Work Session. Priority areas were arrived upon through the utilization of data-informed decision making and are delineated into areas focused on the instructional core, and governance areas that support the instructional core.

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the ACPS Priority Areas for the 2023-2024 school year.

Ms. Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the ACPS Priority Areas for the 2023-2024 school year was unanimous, 6-0.

The motion carried.

#### **Board Chair's Report**

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

Dr. Rief took a moment to highlight the following upcoming events.

- Joint City Council/School Board Subcommittee Meeting on September 18, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at City Hall.
- School Board Meeting on September 21, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.
- JROTC 9/11 Remembrance Event on September 11, 2023 at 10:30 a.m. at ACHS.
- Citizenship Day in Old Town Alexandria on September 12, 2023

## **Board Member Announcements**

### **19. Announcements**

There were no announcements by Board Members.

## **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

### **20. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz 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 2700 specific public employees. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(8) for consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed meeting at 7:41 p.m.

### **21. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 22-3712, that 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 September 7, 2023.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote was unanimous, 6-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 8:47 p.m.

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

There were no New Business and Reports to the Board items.

## **Adjournment**

### **22. Adjourn**

On a motion by Ms. Greene and seconded by Ms. Alderton, the Board voted unanimously, 6-0, to adjourn. The motion carried.

The meeting ended at 8:48 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.

DRAFT