

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

December 14, 2023 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Alexandra Bourdouane, Zeinab Yassin, Zahra Rahimi, Julia Burgos, Krishna Leyva, Taneika Taylor Tukan, Avanda Williams-White, Dominic Turner, Arthur Carpenter-Holmes, Dr. Alicia Hart, Erika Gulick, Matt Smith

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. Elnoubi, who was absent and Ms. Greene, who joined electronically.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Pledge of Allegiance

The Alexandria City High School JROTC Cadets presented the colors and led the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

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 December 14, 2023 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the December 14, 2023 School Board Meeting.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the agenda for December 14, 2023 was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

5. Approve Participation of Board Member, Jacinta Greene by Electronic Means

Vice Chair Booz made the following motion:

“Whereas Board Member Jacinta Greene has notified the Chair that she is unavailable to be physically present for tonight’s School Board meeting due to a School Board matter, specifically travel; and whereas Board Member Greene requests the opportunity to participate in the meeting via video conference call from Charlottesville, Virginia, 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;

Madam Chair, I move, pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3708 that the Board approve the participation of Ms. Greene in this meeting by video conference call.”

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the participation of Board Member Jacinta Greene was unanimous, 6-0. The motion carried.

Ms. Greene joined the meeting virtually.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Public Comments

Deborah McKeeman, community member, reported on noted progress made by ACPS over the last year.

Mary Gaddis, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of fair compensation, benefits and working conditions for instructional assistants.

David Paladin-Fernandez, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of collective bargaining.

Bill Pugh, ACPS parent, spoke about climate solutions and advocated for sustainability measures in the CIP Budget.

Peter Watkins, ACPS parent, encouraged the School Board to ask for what they need from City Council in order to make the district as good as it could be.

7. Report by Student Representative Zeinab Yassin and Torenzo Ricks

Ms. Zeinab Yassin reported on the following upcoming events and recognitions.

- ACHS “We The People” Team advanced to the State Finals at Randolph Macon College
- The Titans Choir Annual Winter Concert
- Awards earned by the ACHS Color Guard
- ACHS Model UN Conference

Mr. Ricks was absent.

8. Report from International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

- Screening of the documentary “Desperate” at Mark Center Del Pepper Auditorium.
- Thanked the Alexandria Donors Choose community for their donations and support to the International Academy which allowed them to purchase books

9. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- Superintendent safety message in the Express
- Reading is Fundamental Northern Virginia in alliance with Amazon for their donation of 2 books to every student
- Introduced new ACPS Chief of Staff Dr. Grace Taylor
- Troops to Teachers Partnership virtual event on January 11th
- George Mason University Annual Regional Leadership Awards Luncheon which honored Meagan Alderton as a 2023 Leadership Honoree

- 2023 Titans Fall Sports Awards Ceremony
- Danielle Thorne, volleyball coach, alumnus, and staff member, was named the ACHS Fall Coach of the Year
- 2023 Virginia School Boards Association’s Signs of Success video
- Reminded families that Winter Break ends on January 2nd.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

10. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz made the following motions:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract regarding smartboards in middle school classrooms within Alexandria City Public Schools involving the expenditure of public funds, and discussion of the term or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board; and

Madam Chair, I move that the Board go into closed session for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel regarding appointments to committees and subcommittees, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia; and

Madam Chair, I move that the Board go into closed session for consultation with legal counsel regarding specific legal matters pertaining to specific students requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Sections 2.2-3711(A)(2) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia.”

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to convene a close meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Greene voted orally.

The Board moved into a closed session at 7:02 p.m.

11. Certification of Closed Meeting

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 December 14, 2023.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to certify the closed meeting was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Greene voted orally.

The Board returned to open session at 8:32 p.m.

Consent Calendar

12. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending October 31, 2023

13. FY 2023 Monthly Financial Report ending June 30, 2023

14. Contract Approval: Smartboards

15. Personnel Actions, November 23 through December 8, 2023

16. Community Use of Facilities, November 2023

17. Community Donation: Amazon.com Services LLC

18. Community Donation: Safeway Foundation

19. Community Donation: Reading is Fundamental

20. Community Donation: Microsoft Company

21. Social Media Litigation - Determination of Counsel Representation

22. Policy Adoption

23. Minutes for the November 30, 2023 School Board Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Greene voted orally.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business and Action Items

24. Adoption of the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget

Vice Chair Booz made the following motion:

“Madam Chair, I move that the Alexandria City School Board approve the FY 2025–2034 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the total amount of \$379,555,400, with \$107,657,700 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. Ignacio seconded the motion. The vote to adopt the FY 2025-2034 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Greene voted orally.

25. School Year 2024-2026 Academic Calendars

The proposed 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Academic Calendars were reviewed at the November 30, 2023 School Board Meeting and were presented for adoption at this meeting. The calendars prioritized student attendance and staff retention. The calendar committee made recommendations to the superintendent based on regulations approved by the Board on June 15, 2023.

Vice Chair Booz moved to adopt the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 Academic Calendars.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the academic calendars for 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried. Ms. Greene voted orally.

26. Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Update

Chief Financial Officer, Dominic B. Turner, presented on the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds Update. The purpose of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER III) Fund is to help safely reopen and sustain the safe operation of schools and address the impacts of COVID-19 on the nation’s students by addressing students’ academic, social, emotional, and mental health needs. ACPS has been awarded \$34.8 million in ESSER III funds. Each school division must make publicly available updates on its plan.

New Business and Reports to the Board

27. Update on New ACPS Logo

Chief of School and Community Relations, Julia Burgos, presented two versions of a potential new ACPS Logo. The Office of Communications will be launching a new community feedback form on the logo options in the December 8, 2023 “Express” and “Insider.” The form will be open from Friday, December 8 to December 18, 2023 at 11:59 p.m. Following this feedback

period, the superintendent will share the final recommendation to the School Board at a January meeting for acceptance.

28. Minnie Howard Building Update

Senior Capital Program Manager, Arthur Carpenter-Holmes, presented on The High School Project: Construction Update which focused on the construction of the new Minnie Howard building. Construction has been ongoing since the spring of 2022 and is on track to be completed this spring for occupancy in August 2024.

29. Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center Update

Assistant Director of Family Engagement, Krishna Leyva, and Family Engagement Coordinator, Avanda Williams-White, presented the Family and Community Engagement (FACE) Center update on the progress of the multi-year roll-out of school-based family engagement blueprints across the division. The family engagement blueprint leverages the power of families and family-school partnerships to influence student outcomes, including attendance, social-emotional well-being, grades and behavior.

30. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reviewed the proposed policy revisions. Candidate policies for revision are drawn from code changes, changes in the VSBA model policies, the code requirement that policies are reviewed every 5 years, and policies and regulations that have been identified by the Board and/or staff for review.

Revisions were recommended for the following policies and regulations:

- DJ - Small Purchasing
- DJA - Purchasing Authority
- KBE - Internet Privacy
- KBE-R - Internet Privacy Policy
- KBH - Website Accessibility
- KBH-R - Website Accessibility Regulations

Board Chair's Report

31. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief reported that the next meeting of the School Board would be on January 4, 2024. She also reminded the public that there is a special election on January 9, 2024 for the vacancy on the Board for District A. Dr. Rief also reported on an upcoming candidate forum sponsored by the PTA Council (PTAC) on January 3rd.

Announcements by Board Members

32. Announcements

There were no board member announcements.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

33. Closed Meeting

34. Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no closed meeting held.

Adjournment

35. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:59 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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

DRAFT