

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

April 11, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Meagan L. Alderton
Tim Beaty
Kelly Carmichael Booz
Abdel-Rahman Elnoubi (absent)
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, Melvina Crawl, Dr. Marcia Jackson, Dr. Victor Martin, Kennetra Wood, Dr. Carmen Saunders, Dr. Clinton Page, Dr. Anthony Sims, Amy Creed, Matt Smith

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. Elnoubi who was absent. Jacinta Greene arrived during the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Alderton arrived during Public Comments.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) JROTC Cadets presented the colors and led the meeting in 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 April 11, 2024 School Board Meeting

Ms. Booz moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 11, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Ignacio seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for April 11, 2024 was unanimous, 7-0. The motion carried.

5. Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no Board Members participating virtually.

Recognitions

6. National Board-Certified Teachers

National Board Certification is one of the most well-respected professional certifications available in education which was designed to develop, retain and recognized accomplished teachers and general on-going improvement in schools. Fifteen ACPS teachers/staff earned or renewed their NBCT certification.

The following ACPS teachers were recognized for earning National Board Certification:

- Brandy Bowles, Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, Academic Interventionist, Literacy-Reading and Language Arts—Early to Middle Childhood
- Megan Gibiser, Douglas MacArthur Elementary School, EL Teacher; English as a New Language—Early to Middle Childhood
- Andrea Houston, Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School, Advanced Academic Services Teacher; Literacy-Reading and Language Arts—Early to Middle Childhood
- Jessica Raugitinane, Central Office, EL Curriculum Specialist; English as a new Language—Early to Middle Childhood
- Luisa Tio, Naomi L. Brooks Elementary School, Art Teacher, Art—Early to Middle Childhood

The following renewed their National Board Certification:

- Nancy Bolling, ACHS-King Street, English/EL Teacher; English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Trisha Christopher, ACHS-King Street, Science Teacher; Science/Adolescence to Young Adult
- Kelly Davis, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, Kindergarten Teacher, Early Childhood Generalist
- Gabriel Elias, ACHS-King Street, EL Teacher; English as a New Language/Early Adolescence to Young Adult
- Laura Gernt, Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology, Student Improvement Teacher; Literacy-Reading Arts-Early to Middle Childhood
- Suzanne Lank, Central Office, English Language Assessment Specialist; Early Childhood Generalist
- Megan Landmeier, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, Lead Special Education Teacher; Exceptional Needs Specialist/Birth to Adult
- Brandy Loomis, Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School, Student Improvement Teacher; Literacy-Reading Arts-Early to Middle Childhood
- Rejane Martins, Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, EL Teacher; English as a New Language-Early to Middle Childhood
- Aimee Molihan, Central Office, Technology Integration Specialist; Exceptional Needs Specialist/Birth to Adult

Superintendent's Report

7. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- National Volunteer Month
- Public School Volunteer Week
- Spring2ACTion Giving Day

- National Assistant Principals Week
- School Library Month and National Library Week
- National Poetry Month
- National Arab American Heritage Month
- National Bilingual/Multilingual Learner Advocacy Month
- Month of the Military Child
- “Purple Up! For Military Kids” day
- VSBA Workforce Readiness Month and Workforce Readiness Day
- Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship Recipients
- Madelyn Anderson Memorial Scholarship Recipients
- VHSL State Final Tournament in Policy Debate Participants from ACHS
- New Director of School Health Services, Holly Jackson
- New Director of Compensation & Benefits, Carlton Nettles
- ACPS Gun Safety Webpage Launch
- National Gun Awareness Month and Wear Orange Weekend in June
- Community Engagement Meeting on Academics at ACHS on April 18
- PTAC Golden Apple Awards deadline is April 19
- The Anne R. Lipnick Awards for Specialized Instruction closes on April 28
- ACPS Kindergarten Registration begins on on April 17
- ACPS Virtual Learning deadline is April 12
- Summer Learning Programs deadline is May 5
- College Readiness Family Workshop for Dari-Speaking Families on April 16
- Survey feedback on the current pilot weapons screening equipment program closes on April 19

Communications & Addresses to the Board

8. Public Comments

Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about the FY 2025 budget allocation for Specialized Education.

Khloe Cella, ACPS parent, spoke about the secure firearm storage resolution and survey on weapons abatement.

La Gina Gross, staff member, spoke about school library week and month, and how budget funding support directly benefits ACPS students.

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

Laurel Taylor, staff member, spoke about library month and advocated for continued support for additional library staff members.

Silda Nikaj, ACPS parent, spoke about safety and security measures.

David Paladin-Fernandez, staff member, spoke about the overcrowding inequities between east and west end schools.

Kursten Phelps, ACPS parent, spoke about inequity and overcrowding in West End Schools.

Laura Rodriguez, APCS parent and Polk PTA President, spoke about overcrowding at James K. Polk.

Jennifer Mock, staff member, spoke about school libraries and the Strategic Plan.

Kelly Johnson, community member, spoke about secure firearm storage resolution.

Kate Noor Rodriguez, spoke about overcrowding at James K. Polk.

9. Report by Student Representatives Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on:

- The Alexandria Youth Ambassadors Program applications being accepted until April 30
- The musical “Bring It On” held at ACHS through April 13
- National School Librarian Day on April 4
- National Assistant Principal and Dean week

10. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following:

- Eid al Fitr Event
- College Readiness Workshop Program for Afghan families and students on April 16
- Town Hall Meeting by the Student Representatives and the Executive Principal Advisory Board on April 24, 2024

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

11. Closed Meeting

12. Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no closed meeting held.

Consent Calendar

13. Personnel Actions for the Period of March 18 through April 5, 2024

14. 2024-2025 Local Perkins V Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE) Federal Funds

15. Policy Adoption

16. Minutes for March 21, 2024 School Board Meeting and Work Session

Ms. 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.

Dr. Simpson Baird was not present for the vote.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

17. SEAL Implementation Update

Dr. Marcia Jackson, Chief of Student Services and Equity, Ms. Kennetra Wood, Executive Director of Equity and Alternative Programs, and Dr. Victor Martin, Executive Director of Student Support Teams (SST) provided an update on the Social Emotional and Academic Learning (SEAL) program.

18. Specialized Instruction Updates

Ms. Amy Creed, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction, presented an update on Specialized Instruction for the first three quarters of the 2023-2024 School Year.

New Business and Reports to the Board

19. Accountability Update: Division and School Improvement

Dr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Office, and Dr. Anthony Sims, Executive Director of School Improvement, reported on continuous improvement efforts through the Priority Improvement Planning (PIP) process and the School Improvement Monitoring and Support structures and actions.

20. Policy Revisions

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, reported on the following policies for revision.

- GAH – School Employee Conflict of Interest
- GBM – License Staff Grievances
- GBMR – Licensed Staff Grievances
- GBMA – Supportive Staff Grievances
- GBMA-R – Support Staff Grievances Regulation
- GBN – Application for Positions
- GC – Licensed Staff
- GCDA – Effect of Criminal Conviction or Founded Complaint of Child Abuse or Neglect
- GCE – Part Time and Substitute Licensed Staff Employment
- GCF – Part Time Licensed Staff Employment
- GCL – Professional Staff Development
- GCPF – Suspension of Staff Members
- GCQB – Staff Research and Publishing
- GD – Support Staff
- GDB – Support Staff Employment Status
- GDG – Support Staff Probationary Period

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

Board Chair's Report

21. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

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

Announcements by Board Members

22. Announcements

Ms. Greene announced that the student representative application is available on the ACPS School Board website through May 10, 2024.

Mr. Beaty asked a question regarding changes to the governor's budget.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

23. Closed Meeting

Ms. Booz moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) to discuss with Division Counsel specific legal matters involving collective bargaining; and, that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Code of Virginia Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1), 2.2-3711(A)(1), 2.2-37(A)(2) with staff and legal counsel employed by a public body pertaining to probable litigation pertaining discipline of specific public employees and matters of student safety that involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a student of Alexandria City Public Schools.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to go into a closed meeting was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a closed session at 10:09 p.m.

24. Certification of Closed Meeting

Ms. 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 April 11, 2024.

The Board returned to open session at 11:48 p.m.

Adjournment

25. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 11:50 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the DATE School Board Meeting.

