

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD

February 8, 2024 (6:30 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

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

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Susan Neilson, Zahra Rahimi, Zeinab Yassin, Michael Covington, Remi Omisore, Matt Smith, John Finnigan, Jasibi Crews, Kelley Organek.

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 Abdel Rahman Elnoubi who arrived during the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

2. Pledge of Allegiance by Alexandria City High School JROTC Cadets

The Alexandria City High School (ACHS) JROTC Cadets presented the colors and led the audience 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 Agenda for the February 8, 2024 School Board Meeting

Mr. Beaty moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the February 8, 2024 School Board Meeting.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

Mr. Elnoubi moved to amend the agenda to add a “Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC) Interim Recommendation to School Board” after Public Comments under Communications and Addresses to the Board.

Dr. Simpson Baird seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the meeting agenda was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda for February 8, 2024 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

5. Approve Participation of Board Members by Electronic Means

There were no Board Members participating electronically.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

6. Simply the Best School Spotlight—Cora Kelly School for Math, Science and Technology

Principal Jasibi Crews gave an overview of the school and its various programs. Ms. Kelley Organek, Student Improvement Teacher, spoke on the STEM Learning Program, and along with students, explained how they use critical thinking skills, problem solving, and creative thinking.

7. Public Comments

Ms. Alessandra Guevara, ACPS student, spoke in support of additional funding for academic support, mental health and restorative practices.

Ms. Kelly Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke about equity and ableism.

Ms. Deborah J. McKeeman, community member, spoke about the loss of ESSER funding for ACPS positions.

Ms. Jovita Gill, ACPS staff member, spoke about concerns about the draft collective bargaining resolution.

Mr. James Rutigliano, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of a fair collective bargaining resolution.

Ms. Monica Pendergast, ACPS staff member, spoke about collective bargaining and encouraged the board to meet with EAA to draft a resolution all could support.

Mr. Jeremy Miller, ACPS parent, spoke about gifted learners and classroom staffing.

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

Ms. Sindy Carballo Garcia, Youth Organizer for Tenants and Workers United, spoke in support of add/deletes proposed by school board members that support psychologists, counselors, and restorative practices.

Mr. Nick Hildebidle, ACPS parent and staff member, spoke in support of a collective bargaining resolution that encouraged collaboration.

Ms. Christina Bohringer, ACPS staff member, spoke in support of the authorization of collective bargaining, and encouraged a collaborative effort to create a fair and democratic collective bargaining resolution for all ACPS staff.

Ms. Kristy Shoaff, ACPS staff member, encouraged the Board to meet with EAA to draft a collective bargaining resolution that all staff could support.

Ms. Dawn Lucas, EAA President, spoke on the collective bargaining resolution and asked for a resolution that would include all ACPS staff and the ability to bargain over terms and conditions of employment.

Ms. Gina Baum, community member, spoke about the ACPS Organizational Chart and the need for more information for parents.

Ms. Mary Beth Walker, ACPS parent, urged the school board to support full staffing for the gifted local plan.

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, encourage the School Board to allow the Superintendent to investigate student behaviors in schools.

Mr. James Lewis, alumnus, encourages the board to work with EAA and teachers to draft a fair collective bargaining resolution.

Ms. Princess Moss, Vice President of the National Education Association, spoke in support of collective bargaining and creating a strong partnership with educators. She advocated that ACPS remove limitations on subjects that staff would be allowed to bargain on.

8. Advanced Academic Services Advisory Committee (AASAC) Interim Recommendation to School board, February 2024

Mr. Elnoubi shared a memo with recommendations from AASAC that highlighted critical staffing and resource needs to meet the division's commitment and responsibilities to provide services for gifted students and their families.

9. Report by Student Representatives Torengo Ricks and Zeinab Yassin

Ms. Yassin reported on:

- Black History Month
- Titan Boys and Girls Basketball Senior Night
- Athletic Department looking for Spring sports managers
- Winter Sports Awards Ceremony on March 5
- Your Future Today Mentoring event on February 24
- ACPS Equity for All Climate Survey
- Career Fair on February 13

Mr. Ricks was absent.

10. Report by International Academy Student Representative Zahra Rahimi

Ms. Rahimi reported on the following:

- Ms. Jovita Gill, IA teacher, wins Tanger Grant
- IA Leadership Club hosted an alumni panel
- Screening of the documentary "Desperate" at George Mason University
- George Mason University giving direct admission to ACHS students who have 3.7 or higher GPA

Superintendent's Report

11. Report from Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt

Superintendent Kay-Wyatt reported on the following:

- ACPS Celebrates the 100th Day of School
- Shared Video on Shelter in Place
- February is Black History Month
- February is School Board Appreciation Month
- School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, February 12-16
- School Counseling Week, February 5-9
- Crossing Guard Appreciation Day, February 7
- School Resource Officer Day, February 15
- Parent Teacher Association's Founder's Day, February 17
- ACPS Honors 14 National Board-Certified Teachers
- Student Yahney-Marie Sangare is Recipient of the Harry F. Byrd Junior Leadership Award
- Documentary Film "Desperate" at George Mason University
- High School Project Community Meeting on Understanding Academic Advisement, February 15 via Zoom
- ACPS Mentoring Event
- Division-Wide Poetry Contest
- Early Release for Parent Teacher Conferences, February 15 and 16

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

12. Closed Meeting

13. Certification of Closed Meeting

No Closed Meeting was held.

Consent Calendar

14. Personnel Actions for the Period of January 15 through February 2, 2024

15. FY 2024 Monthly Financial Report ending December 31, 2023

16. FY 2024 Budget Transfer Report Q2

17. Policy Adoption

18. Approve Nancy Drane as the ACPS Representative to City's Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (BFAAC)

19. Re-Appoint Joseph Pisciotta to the Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee

20. Re-Appoint Aly Khan Johnson to the Athletic Hall of Fame Advisory Committee

21. Minutes for the January 18, 2024 Public Hearing, School Board Meeting and Work Session

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar.

Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

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

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar

Old Business & Action Items

22. Authorization of Collective Bargaining

Dr. Rief gave an overview of the Collective Bargaining process to date. In October, the Board received a Certification of Support from EAA indicating that the majority of licensed personnel supported collective bargaining in ACPS. The 120-day deadline to consider adopting a resolution to authorize collective bargaining in ACPS is February 13, 2024. Therefore, the Board must vote on the Resolution to Authorize Collective Bargaining at this meeting.

Dr. Simpson Baird read the proposed resolution for the Authorization of Collective Bargaining in ACPS and moved to adopt the resolution.

Vice Chair Booz seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Authorization of Collective Bargaining Resolution was unanimous, 9-0.

The motion carried.

The School Board will have 60 days to adopt a Collective Bargaining Resolution. A draft resolution will be presented at the February 22, 2024 School Board Meeting, followed by a Public Hearing on February 29th, a Work Session on March 14th, and a vote on the Collective Bargaining Resolution at the March 21, 2024 School Board Meeting.

New Business and Reports to the Board

23. FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report

Mr. Michael Covington, Director of Accounting, introduced the FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) on financial activities that occurred in ACPS for FY 2023. Mr. Remi Omisore, CPA, Principal at CliftonLarsonAllen auditors, reviewed the auditor's report, and indicated that ACPS received an "unmodified" or "clean" opinion indicating that the financial statements fairly represented the financial position of ACPS as of June 30, 2023.

Mr. Beaty moved to accept the FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report.

Mr. Harris seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

24. Policy Revision

Mr. Matt Smith, Policy Consultant, presented policy and regulation revisions recommended by staff. The revisions include code changes, code alignment and VSBA model policy alignment, were audited for equity, edited by a team of staff members, and reviewed by the SLT and the Board Policy Subcommittee.

The following policies and regulations were presented for revision:

- JEA-R/JED-R – Attendance Regulations
- JEA-R2/JED-R2 – Attendance Codes
- JED – Student Absences/Excuses/Dismissals
- JEG – Exclusions and Exemptions from School Attendance
- JEG-R – Protocol for Addressing Requests for Religious Exemption

These revisions are proposed for adoption at a future School Board Meeting.

25. FY 2024 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report for Q2

Mr. John Finnigan, Director of Educational Facilities, presented the FY 2024 Q2 Quarterly Report which contained a summary of the Capital Improvement Program work that progressed during the second quarter of FY 2024 (October - December 2023). The highest percentage of the work noted was in the implementation phase (21 projects). The remainder of the projects were in the planning/design phase (15), pending close-out phase, and close-out phase (2).

Dr. Simpson Baird moved to accept the CIP Quarterly Report for FY2024 Q2.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the CIP Quarterly Report for FY 2024 Q2 was 8-0. Mr. Elnoubi abstained. The motion carried.

26. CIP Quarterly Reserve Report, FY 24 Q2

On December 7, 2017, the School Board authorized the establishment of a Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Reserve Account which provides an additional option for CIP budget transfers. This reserve account allows the School Board to move budgeted funds between capital accounts using a two-step process. The CIP Reserve Account balance remains unchanged at \$235,759.77.

Chair's Report

27. Report from Dr. Michelle Rief

Chair Rief reported on upcoming meetings on the School Board's calendar. She also thanked the Clerks for all they do and noted that School Board Clerk Appreciation Week is celebrated February 12-16.

Board Member Announcements

28. Announcements

Vice Chair Booz reported on an open house event at George Washington Middle School. She commended the school and staff on the welcoming event for transitioning to middle school.

Ms. Ignacio commended Dr. Robin Wallin, Director of Health Services, for her time here at ACPS working with the School Health Advisory Board and staff. She also reported on attending two PTA meetings and the topics discussed at those.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

29. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3711(A)(1) and 2.2-3711(A)(8) for discussion and consultation with legal counsel regarding the resignation, promotion, performance and supervision of specific public employees; and pursuant to Virginia Code section 2.2-3711(A)(2) for discussion regarding student disciplinary and scholastic matters which would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record; and pursuant to Virginia Code Section 2.23711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel pertaining to actual litigation concerning a student within Alexandria City Public Schools where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to approve moving into a closed session was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

30. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Booz moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, 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 which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on February 8, 2024.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

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

The Board returned to open session at 10:16 p.m.

Adjournment

31. Adjourn

Chair Rief adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Dr. Michelle Rief, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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