

MINUTES
VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
July 17, 2020 (12:00 p.m.)

Meeting held via Zoom

On March 12, 2020, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and Acts of Assembly Chap. 1283 § 4-0.01(g), virtual School Board meetings held during the State of Emergency are limited to:

- addressing the public health emergency declared on March 12, 2020 (Va. Code § 44-146.17); and
- business that is necessary to continue school division operations and to discharge the School Board's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Notice of any virtual School Board Meetings will be posted on the ACPS Calendar and on the School Board Meeting web page, where the public may link to join or watch live meetings. Virtual Special Called School Board Meetings may also be watched live in Alexandria on Comcast Channel 71. Video recordings and minutes for these meetings are posted online as soon as available after the meeting.

ROLL CALL

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS: Cindy Anderson
Veronica R. Nolan
Meagan L. Alderton
Ramee A. Gentry (absent)
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Natalie Hall, Simma Reingold, Cristina Strunk, Dr. Julie Crawford, Clinton Page, Dr. Gerald R. Mann Jr., Julia Burgos

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. A roll call was taken and all members of the School Board were present at the meeting except for Ms. Gentry, who was away on travel. Vice Chair Nolan joined the meeting during the adoption of the meeting agenda.

Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

2. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the July 17, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the July 17, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Nolan moved to amend the agenda to add the item “Supplemental Personnel Actions” under the Consent Calendar. Dr. Rief seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda to add the “Supplemental Personnel Actions” was unanimous, 8-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the amended meeting agenda was unanimous, 8-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

3. Public Comments

Written public comments were received on the topics of the Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0 (re-opening of schools) and the renaming of T.C. Williams High School.

Chair Anderson reminded the public to submit comments using the online form by Thursday at noon for inclusion in the Friday meeting’s public comments.

Consent Calendar

4. Minutes for the March 5, 2020 School Board Meeting and the July 9 and 10, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meetings

5. Supplemental Personnel Actions

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

There were no items pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business & Action Items

6. Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0 Update

Dr. Hutchings remarked on the large volume of community feedback that he and the School Board had received on the reopening of schools. He emphasized the importance of analyzing the school division’s needs and the implications for school reopening recommendations. Dr. Hutchings noted that the health and safety of students and staff come first, while also considering the various needs of families and staff.

Dr. Mozingo, Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Leadership, was joined by various Cross-Functional Planning Team (CFPT) members to provide highlights from the CFPT’s work since the July 10, 2020 School Board meeting. Dr. Mozingo reviewed preliminary themes related to various scheduling models, as well as recent survey results from ACPS staff and families on whether they would like to return to a hybrid or completely virtual model. Dr. Mozingo emphasized efforts to include the voices of many diverse stakeholders through Community Chats to be held during the week of July 27. She also previewed the upcoming deliverables related to the ACPS reopening plan.

Board Members asked questions about staff and student safety, social distancing guidelines in specialized instruction classrooms, modifications for Individualized Education Programs (IEPs)

to incorporate virtual learning and how to meet the needs of parents, students and staff. There were additional questions regarding communication, staff scheduling, providing professional learning regarding virtual teaching and learning, and the effects of decisions made by neighboring divisions on ACPS staff and families.

Dr. Hutchings emphasized that ACPS will make its decisions based on the feasibility of various instructional models, considering Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations regarding physical distancing, capacity, transportation and the number of families and staff who wish to return for in-person learning versus virtual learning. He also indicated the planning teams are examining several instructional models to develop the most flexible plan. He reminded the School Board to look for upcoming Board Briefs with additional information regarding the ACPS reopening plan.

Superintendent's Report

7. School Board Weekly Q&A with Dr. Hutchings

Dr. Hutchings answered Board Member questions related to Summer Learning.

Ms. Alderton also gave remarks regarding the T.C. Williams High School renaming process. In reaction to community disappointment to the length of the renaming process, Ms. Alderton stated that the School Board will adhere to its process in order to get feedback from all groups and that students should be at the center of the process. She emphasized that the ACPS racial equity work addressing the root causes of racism will take priority over the renaming process, and that the community should allow the processes, systems and sustainable infrastructure already in place to guide the renaming process.

Dr. Hutchings reminded the community that the renaming process will begin on August 27th at a School Board Work Session.

Chair's Report

8. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson reminded the public about the Public Hearings scheduled for August 6th at 7:00 p.m. and August 7th at noon. The public should visit the School Board Meeting webpage to sign up to speak at the public hearing or contact the Clerk of the Board. She also encouraged the public to continue to send in written public comments by noon on Thursday for posting at each meeting.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

9. Closed Meeting

Ms. Alderton 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 35 specific public employees.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 8-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 2:00 p.m.

10. Certification of Closed Meeting

Mr. Suarez 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 July 17, 2020.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried. Vice Chair Nolan experiences technical difficulties and was unable to rejoin the meeting.

The meeting returned to open session at 4:48 p.m.

Adjournment

11. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Lorber and seconded by Ms. Greene, the Board voted unanimously, 7-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 4:50 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the August 7, 2020 Virtual School Board Meeting.