

MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
August 6, 2020 (7:00 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
Jacinta Greene
Margaret Lorber
Michelle Rief
Christopher A. Suarez
Heather Thornton

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

Moment of Silence

2. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

3. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the August 6, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the August 6, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Public Hearing on the Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0

Ms. Carolyn Meza, ACPS parent, encouraged more frequent communication between teachers and parents during virtual learning, and asked that ACPS consider learning pods when making class assignments.

Mr. Jeremy Flachs, ACPS parent, commented that ACPS made the right decision by choosing a virtual model for the fall. He also hoped for a smooth experience that includes more structure, oversight, and feedback. Mr. Flachs asked ACPS to make plans for those who do not have the option to stay home with their children.

Mr. Kyle Martin, ACPS parent, indicated that he and his wife are full-time, essential, in-person workers and asked the School Board to address how families such as his can make the 100% virtual model work for them. He also asked that ACPS provide detailed information about the child care options mentioned in the Virtual Plus plan.

Superintendent's Report

5. Report from Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.

Superintendent Hutchings did not give a report.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

6. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan 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. She further moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board.

Ms. Gentry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 7:20 p.m.

7. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan 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 August 6, 2020.

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

The Board returned to an open session at 8:37 p.m.

8. Grievance Matter #20-01

Vice Chair Nolan made the following motion:

“In the grievance that was discussed in closed session, I move that the Board dismiss the grievance as withdrawn and authorize the Chair to issue a letter to that effect.”

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

The vote to dismiss the grievance as withdrawn was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Adjournment

9. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Lorber and seconded by Ms. Alderton, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the August 14, 2020 School Board Meeting.