

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
February 22, 2018 (6:00 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS: Ramee A. Gentry (arrived during the closed session)
Cindy Anderson
Ronnie Campbell (arrived during the closed session)
William E. Campbell
Henry E. Cardwell
Karen Graf (arrived during the closed session)
Christopher J. Lewis
Margaret Lorber
Veronica R. Nolan

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Lois Berlin, Jennifer Abbruzzese, Susan Neilson, Jay Falk, Betty Demissie, Michael Herbstman, Richard Jackson, Debra Yap, Elijah Gross, Clinton Page, Natalie Mitchell, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Rachael Dischner

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Gentry

Vice Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:06 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Graf, Ms. Campbell, and Chair Gentry, who arrived during the closed session.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

2. Closed Meeting

Mr. Lewis moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711 (A)(3) for discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board. He further moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a contract involving the expenditure of public funds, and discussion of the scope of such a contract, where discussion in open session would adversely affect the bargaining position of the Board.

Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0, to convene a closed meeting. Ms. Graf, Ms. Campbell and Chair Gentry were not present for the vote.

The Board moved into a closed meeting at 6:10 p.m.

3. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Anderson moved that pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3712, that the Board 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 February 22, 2018.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the closed meeting. The Board reconvened in open session at 7:15 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Jefferson-Houston PreK-8 School. Art Teacher Hannah Brownell and students shared a video about the artwork they create at Jefferson-Houston and why the students like art. They set up an art display in the Board room for viewing by the audience and Board Members.

Moment of Silence

5. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed in remembrance of those who recently lost their lives in the school shooting in Florida.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

6. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the February 22, 2018 School Board Meeting

Ms. Lorber moved to adopt the agenda for the February 22, 2018 School Board Meeting. Dr. Cardwell seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Anderson moved to amend the agenda to add the agenda item 'Motion to Increase FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget Request' to Old Business and to add the agenda item 'Resolution Against Gun Violence' to New Business. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to add 'Motion to Increase FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget Request' to Old Business and 'Resolution Against Gun Violence' to New Business was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda as amended was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

7. Public Comments

Boyd Walker, citizen, spoke in support of naming the West End Elementary School as the Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School and stressed that there may not be another opportunity to recognize him.

J-Lynn Van Pelt, parent and West End Elementary School Naming Committee Member, spoke in support of honoring the committee's recommendation to name the West End Elementary School as the Day-Ochoa Elementary School.

Paul Friedman, citizen and Executive Director of the VTV Family Outreach Foundation, spoke in support of Ferdinand T. Day as the sole name for the new West End Elementary School.

McArthur Myers, citizen, spoke in support of naming the new West End Elementary School after Ferdinand Day only, and recounted Mr. Day's many accomplishments throughout the Alexandria community.

8. Report from Student Representatives Betlehem Demissie and Jay Falk

Ms. Falk reported on the Hammond and International Academy Town Halls that were recently held. She noted common themes students brought up between the different meetings, including the desire for more inclusion. Ms. Falk also spoke about how student leadership should be redefined to be more representative of the entire school, and suggested a Principal's Leadership Committee at the middle school level.

Ms. Demissie reported that International Academy students at the Town Hall also asked for the return of Titan Time, especially for students preparing for college, and indicated they would also like to take more AP classes. The middle school students noted that they would like more opportunities to interact with the Minnie Howard campus prior to their arrival in the fall.

Old Business & Action Items

9. Motion to Increase FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget Request

Mr. Michael Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer, presented information to increase the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget Request to incorporate the School Board's three additional funding requests into the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget. These additional requests will increase the City's appropriation by \$752,602 to a total of \$224,920,003. A two-thirds majority vote by the School Board is required to amend the language in the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget.

Vice Chair Anderson made the following motion:

Madam Chair,

WHEREAS, the FY 2019 Alexandria City School Board Budget Process Resolution, as amended February 8, 2018, states that "Any School Board Member's add-delete proposal, motion or amendment that explicitly increases, or which is estimated by staff to increase the City Appropriation above that contained in the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Combined Funds or Capital Program Budgets shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the Board at the time of budget adoption, prior to the "Motion to Adopt the Budget," and

WHEREAS, three additions were made to the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Combined Funds Budget which explicitly increase the requested City Appropriation by a total of \$752,602 above the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Budget, and

WHEREAS, the three additions were as follows:

- i. Restore grades 3-5 reading program texts and libraries in the amount of \$612,500;
- ii. Fund the implementation of recommendations from the specialized instruction evaluation in the amount of \$125,000; and
- iii. Fund rugby head coaching and assistant coaching stipends totaling \$15,102.

Madame Chair, I therefore move that the Alexandria City School Board approve increasing the requested City Appropriation by \$752,602 from the Superintendent's Adjusted Proposed Combined Funds Budget. The total requested City Appropriation following this change will be \$224,920,003.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The motion to increase the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget Request as described in the motion was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

10. Adoption of the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget

The Adoption of the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget included the additions and deletions to the Superintendent's Recommended Adjusted Proposed Budget for the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget from the Final Add/Delete Work Session held on February 20, 2018.

Vice Chair Anderson made the following motion:

Madam Chair, I move we approve the FY 2019 Combined Funds Budget as follows:

- The FY 2019 Operating budget in the amount of \$276,463,766 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2, including the adjustments shown in Memo, as discussed and supported by the School Board during the February 20, 2018 budget work session. This includes other financing sources and uses, as well as a \$5,206,249 planned use of general fund balance. The operating budget includes:
 - 2,382.89 FTEs, and increase of 2.7% over FY 2018

- A total City appropriation request of \$224,920,003, an increase of 5.1% over FY 2018
- The FY 2019 Grants and Special Projects budget in the amount of \$13,802,854 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2. There are no adjustments recommended to the proposed budget presentation. This budget includes other financing sources and uses, and a total of 86.25 FTEs, a decrease of 0.3% from FY 2018.
- FY 2019 School Nutrition Services budget totals \$10,681,143 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2. There are no adjustments recommended to the proposed budget presentation. This budget includes 111.0 FTEs, which represents no change from FY 2018.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote to adopt the FY 2019 Approved Combined Funds Budget was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

11. Performance Audit Staff Update: Facilities

Mr. Richard Jackson, Director of Educational Facilities, reviewed the Facilities Audit Report recommendations from the facilities audit conducted from April 2017 through August 2017. He also gave management responses and target action dates for addressing those recommendations.

12. Selection of West End Elementary School Name

On February 8, 2018, the West End Elementary School Naming Committee presented its recommendations to the School Board. The names proposed were:

- Katherine Johnson Elementary School
- Day-Ochoa Elementary School
- Sonia Sotomayor Elementary School
- Barack and Michelle Obama Elementary School

Vice Chair Anderson moved that the West End Elementary School be named Day-Ochoa Elementary School. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Mr. Campbell moved to amend the motion to change the recommended name from Day-Ochoa Elementary School to Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School. Ms. Graf seconded the motion.

The vote to approve amending the motion to recommend naming the West End Elementary School the Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School was 6-3. Chair Gentry, Vice Chair Anderson, and Ms. Lorber voted against amending the motion. The motion carried.

The vote to approve the amended motion to name the West End Elementary School as the Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School was 8-1. Ms. Lorber voted against the motion. The motion carried.

Consent Calendar

13. Minutes for the February 8, 2018 School Board Meeting and the February 15, 2018 Special Called School Board Meeting

14. Personnel Actions for the Month of January 2018

15. Contract for Exterior Renovations at George Washington Middle School

16. Appoint Brooke Sydnor Curran to the School Health Advisory Board

Ms. Graf moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Vice Chair Anderson seconded the motion.

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

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

No items were pulled from the Consent Calendar.

New Business and Reports to the Board

17. FY 2018 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Q2 Report

Mr. Elijah Gross, Director of Planning, Design and Construction, reviewed the FY 2018 CIP Quarter 2 Report, which outlined the progress and budget status of all projects in the CIP roster. The report is organized by school site and contains project status data through December 2017.

Ms. Graf moved to accept the FY 2018 CIP Quarter 2 Report. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote to accept the FY 2018 CIP Quarter 2 Report was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

18. Quarterly Update on CIP Reserve Account

Mr. Michael Herbstman, Chief Financial Officer, gave the quarterly update on the CIP reserve account, which provides an additional option for CIP Budget Transfers and allows the School Board to move budgeted funds between capital accounts. There is currently a balance of \$257,992 in the CIP Reserve Account and no transfers in or out of the reserve account are recommended at this time.

19. Status Report on Development of the West End Elementary School

Ms. Rachael Dischner, Principal of the new Ferdinand T. Day Elementary School, provided a status report on the new school, which is being developed as a STEM program school. She reviewed research supporting the value of STEM, how STEM is aligned to state and national best practices, provided updates about parent and community outreach, STEM design principles, an overview of STEM curriculum and the instructional program, and how STEM prepares students for careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

20. Virginia Accreditation Accountability Update—Sample Results

Mr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, gave an update to the School Board on the new Virginia Accreditation Accountability system and provided sample results of how schools would have performed within the new accountability system based on SY 2016-2017 data. These sample results were informational only and would have no impact on schools' current or future accreditation ratings. They are intended to help facilitate planning within the division for the future accountability system transition.

21. Resolution Against Gun Violence

The School Board reviewed a proposed Resolution Against Gun Violence, given recent school safety discussions in the community and around the country. The Board wished to make further revisions on the proposed resolution and will bring this item back at the next School Board meeting.

Chair's Report

22. Report from Ramee A. Gentry

Chair Gentry invited the community to attend the upcoming PTA Council Annual Camp Fair, which will be held at T.C. Williams High School on Wednesday, February 27, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. She also commented on the proposed Resolution Against Gun Violence, and assured the community how seriously the Board takes the safety of all students.

Ms. Gentry noted that this was School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, and presented flowers and gifts to Ms. Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board and Policy Liaison, and Ms. Neilson, Deputy Clerk of the Board, in recognition of their hard work.

Superintendent's Report

23. Report from Dr. Lois F. Berlin

Interim Superintendent Berlin reported on the roll-out of the new ACPS TV Channel, which can be viewed on Comcast on Channel 71. Dr. Berlin also remarked on the importance of the safety of all students and staff. She enumerated steps being taken in schools and across the division, as well as resources for parents that are available on the ACPS website through the ACPS Express.

Announcements

24. Announcements

Ms. Lorber reported on attending the recently held ERG Sprints at T.C. Williams, which included athletes participating in the International Indoor Rowing Championships from 33 countries. She also noted that the recent topic of school safety has replaced the plight of DACA students in the news, who are at great risk if returned to their home countries.

Mr. Campbell reminded the community that the Girls Varsity Basketball Team will play on Friday in the Regional Semi-Finals, and that the Regional Indoor Track and Field Championships will be held at the Boo Williams Complex in Norfolk on Friday and Saturday.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

25. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Anderson moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of employment, performance and contractual matters for five (5) specific employees.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a closed meeting.

The Board moved into a closed meeting at 11:17 p.m.

Vice Chair Anderson moved that pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3712, that the Board 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 February 22, 2018.

Mr. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the closed meeting.

Adjournment

26. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Graf and seconded by Dr. Cardwell, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 11:26 p.m.



Ramee A. Gentry, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the March 8, 2018 School Board Meeting.