

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
December 20, 2018 (7:00 p.m.)

ROLL CALL

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

BOARD MEMBERS: Ramee Gentry
Cindy Anderson
Ronnie Campbell
William Campbell
Hal Cardwell
Karen Graf
Christopher Lewis
Margaret Lorber
Veronica R. Nolan

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Jennifer Abbruzzese, Susan Neilson, Ewan Thompson, Bridget Williams, Jim Loomis, Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr., Mignon Anthony, Dr. Julie Crawford

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Gentry

Chair Gentry called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

2. Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Anderson 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. Lewis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a closed meeting. The Board moved into a closed meeting at 7:10 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 December 20, 2018.

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

The meeting returned to open session at 7:34 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by safety patrols from Matthew Maury Elementary School. They shared their favorite memories as students at Maury.

Moment of Silence

5. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

6. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the December 20, 2018 Called School Board Meeting

Dr. Cardwell moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the December 20, 2018 School Board Meeting. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Ms. Anderson moved to amend the meeting agenda to add “Confidential Legal Settlement” to the Consent Calendar. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

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

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

Communications & Addresses to the Board

7. Public Comments

Anaiis Gorehn, ACPS student, spoke about mold issues and replacement of the HVAC system at Mount Vernon Community School.

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about school safety issues.

Kelley Smith, ACPS parent, spoke about communication and facility issues related to mold, roofing, and the HVAC replacement at Mount Vernon Community School.

Kenneth Warren, CURE founder and ACPS student, spoke about the CURE organization and its efforts to form a partnership with ACPS to address environmental and sustainability issues in the schools.

Ryann Morales, ACPS parent, spoke about facility issues at Mount Vernon Community School and her disappointment in the plans for remediation of those issues.

8. Report from Student Representatives Ewan Thompson and Bridget Williams

Mr. Thompson reported that he and Bridget have been meeting with the incoming School Board Members and thanked those Board Members who were leaving. He expressed his pleasure at having worked with them. Mr. Thompson also updated his progress on launching a middle school representative program, reported that he is continuing to reach out to middle school principals, and hopes to have their support by the end of January.

Ms. Williams also expressed her thanks to the outgoing Board Members and noted that she would be sad to see them leave. She also reported that the Town Hall Meeting has been postponed until January and that there is a new suggestion box from the Superintendent’s Student Leadership Committee (SSLC) to gain student input. Ms. Williams also reminded the Board about a previous suggestion for student/teacher evaluations, citing how important it is for students to give teacher feedback.

9. Recognition of Outgoing School Board Members

Chair Gentry invited outgoing School Board Members to the podium to give remarks and thanked them for their knowledge and wisdom on behalf of the students and families of Alexandria. She presented them with gifts for their service.

Dr. Hutchings also expressed his thanks to the outgoing School Board Members and congratulated them on their accomplishments.

Old Business & Action Items

10. Adoption of the FY 2020-2029 CIP Budget

Dr. Hutchings reported on the CIP Budget and the tough decisions made throughout the process.

Vice Chair Anderson made the following motion:

“Madam Chair:

Whereas, through the joint facilities master planning effort to take place in FY 2019, the School Board would like to explore the feasibility of building elementary modernizations on adjacent public open space and/or City-owned land to accelerate modernizations. If this is possible, the Douglas MacArthur modernization should be advanced to begin earlier in the CIP budget; and

Whereas, even with the projects included in the FY 2020-2029 CIP, a significant capacity and building condition need will remain unaddressed. There is no solution for middle school capacity needs included in the CIP. The School Board intends to best use its funding and available information to pursue interim measures to meet the growing enrollment and maintain aging facilities. The School Board requests that the City Council also make schools a priority and work with the School Board to identify the resources to address the need beyond the CIP; and

Whereas, the School Board requests that City Council work with the School Board, City and ACPS staff to create a mechanism, such as a reserve fund, designated for urgent renovation projects, that could be similar to the reserve fund already created for land/property acquisition for the City and ACPS, as recommended by the Ad-Hoc Joint City-Schools Facilities Investment Task Force; and

Whereas, ACPS understands that a significant amount of joint planning is underway and will be continued in FY 2020. Land acquisition, grade level configuration, community input, site suitability, feasibility studies, best use of City and ACPS assets and urgency of need will all impact projects and timeline. ACPS is committed to these joint planning efforts and understands that projects and funding may be adjusted as a result of future CIPs; and

Whereas, the approved CIP expenditures for FY 2020-2029 incorporate all of the adjustments discussed at the School Board’s add/delete work session on December 13, 2018; and

Whereas, the Superintendent is granted the authority to make any necessary minor changes to comply with the intent and policies of the School Board;

Madam Chair, I therefore move that the Alexandria City School Board approve the FY 2020-2029 Capital Improvement Program Budget in the total amount of \$478,530,584.00, including \$42,609,638.00 in FY 2020.”

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Mr. Lewis made comments regarding his difficulty for voting in favor of this budget and disappointment that the Board is offering a motion listing areas which cannot be funded.

Mr. Campbell commented that he is struggling with the idea that ACPS is not asking for enough money to fully fund all the CIP issues currently facing ACPS.

The vote to adopt the FY 2020-2029 CIP Budget was 8-1. Mr. Campbell voted against the motion. The motion carried.

11. 2019-2020 Academic Calendars

Mr. Jim Loomis, Director of Employment Services, presented the 2019-2020 Academic Calendars that incorporated feedback from the December 6, 2018 School Board meeting. Changes included an additional conference day during the first semester, changing the professional development day to March 3, 2020, which is also a primary election day when students do not have school, and eliminating the Veteran's Day holiday in November 2019 to allow for the last day of school to end on a Friday, instead of Monday. He also noted a color change denoted on the calendar during the K-Prep week in August, so that one day is a teacher prep day followed by 4 days of K-Prep.

Mr. Campbell moved to approve the 2019-2020 Academic Calendars. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion.

Mr. Lewis moved to amend the 2019-2020 Academic Calendars, to eliminate January 2nd and 3rd as winter break holidays and end the school year two days earlier, on June 18, 2020.

Dr. Cardwell seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the 2019-2020 Academic Calendars to eliminate January 2nd and 3rd as winter break holidays and end the school year on June 18, 2020 was 2-7. Ms. Anderson, Ms. Campbell, Mr. Campbell, Ms. Gentry, Ms. Graf, Ms. Lorber and Ms. Nolan voted against the motion. The motion failed.

The vote to approve the 2019-2020 Academic Calendars was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

12. 2019-2020 Program of Studies

Dr. Gerald Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Education, indicated that the Program of Studies had minor edits since it was last presented to the School Board, but that there were no substantive or programmatic changes.

Ms. Graf moved to adopt the 2019-2020 Program of Studies. Vice Chair Anderson seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the 2019-2020 Program of Studies was 8-0. Ms. Lorber was not present during the vote. The motion carried.

13. High School Project Update: Cost Estimates and Site Discussion

Ms. Mignon Anthony, Chief Operations Officer, presented additional information regarding potential cost implications for the high school project as requested at the December 6, 2018 School Board Meeting. Comparative costs between a new comprehensive high school and a Connected High School Network, including capital and operating costs, were discussed to develop a strategy to address capacity needs at the high school level.

The School Board considered a Connected High School Network, another comprehensive high school, and a centralized high school with off-site specialized programs.

Mr. Lewis requested that the High School Education Specifications be updated to reflect the current recommendations presented by Ms. Anthony.

This item is expected to return for a vote at a future Board Meeting.

Consent Calendar

- 14. Personnel Actions for the Month of November 2018**
- 15. FY 2018 Monthly Financial Report Ending June 30, 2018**
- 16. FY 2019 CIP Q1 Report**
- 17. Athletic Hall of Fame (AHoF) Advisory Committee Bylaws**
- 18. School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) End of Year Report (2017-2018)**
- 19. Minutes for the June 21, 2018 and December 6, 2018 School Board Meetings and the December 13, 2018 Special Called School Board Meeting**
- 20. Confidential Legal Settlement**

Mr. Lewis 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

21. Policy Revisions: BBFA, CLA, DJ, JFCD, JFCF, JFCI, and KBA, and Regulations JFCF-R/JFCI-R and KBA-R

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Clerk of the Board and Policy Liaison, presented revisions to the above listed policies and regulations resulting from changes to the Code of Virginia and the needs of the school division. Dr. Julie Crawford provided information regarding Policy JFCI, which is recommended for deletion so that it may be incorporated into Policy JFCF: Drugs in Schools.

Dr. Cardwell requested the addition of alcohol to the possible grounds for expulsion listed in Policy JFCF.

Mr. Lewis suggested that the language in Policy KBA discussing who may make FOIA requests was too restrictive, and that it excluded national and out-of-state public interest advocacy groups. Ms. Abbruzzese indicated that there would be a follow-up Board Brief on this information. Ms. Lorber asked whether legal residents are considered citizens of the Commonwealth. Ms. Abbruzzese indicated that documentation regarding residency status is not required for FOIA requests.

Vice Chair Anderson moved to approve the revisions to policies BBFA, CLA, DJ, JFCD, JFCF, JFCI, and KBA, and regulations JFCF-R/JFCI-R and KBA-R, with the addition of alcohol as possible grounds for expulsion in Policy JFCF and that follow-up information be provided on Policy KBA. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion.

Mr. Lewis suggested delaying voting on Policy KBA. Ms. Lorber asked whether Policy KBA could be brought back for further revision if additional language was requested beyond the statutory revisions. No motions were made.

The vote to approve the revisions to the above listed policies and regulations was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

22. 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Calendar

Ms. Susan Neilson, Deputy Clerk of the Board, presented the proposed 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Calendar for review, which was developed to align with the academic calendar, key budget dates and other School Board obligations. A July meeting date is included for summer approval of contracts and will be marked "if needed," but is not intended to be a full meeting. The calendar will return for adoption at the January 7, 2019 Organizational Meeting.

Chair's Report

23. Report from Ramee A. Gentry

Chair Gentry thanked all the outgoing Board Members, and welcomed the new Board Members in the audience as well as former student representative Jay Falk. She wished families, staff and students a restful break.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings also thanked Board Members and staff for their hard work. He wished families and students a safe and restful winter break.

Announcements

25. Announcements

Ms. Lorber reported on attending a leadership training for the basketball team at T.C. Williams and indicated that it was very interesting.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

26. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

There was no closed meeting held.

Adjournment

27. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Graf and seconded by Mr. Lewis, the Board voted, 8-1, to adjourn. The motion carried. Mr. Campbell voted against the motion. The meeting ended at 11:15 p.m.



Ramee A. Gentry, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the February 7, 2019 School Board Meeting.