

**MINUTES**  
**Meeting of Certain Board Members**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**January 23, 2019 (7:30 p.m.)**

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**ROLL CALL**

UPON THE ROLL BEING CALLED, THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT:

**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, Ewan Thompson

**Call to Order**

**1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson**

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

**Discussion**

**2. High School Project Community Meeting**

Chair Anderson welcomed the community to the Charles Houston Recreation Center for the Board to hear comments on the High School Project. She noted that some community members had already indicated their desire to speak, but that there would also be an opportunity to hear comments from others present. She limited speakers to 3 minutes each in order to hear from as many people as possible. She noted that the School Board would not be responding to the discussion, as this meeting was for the purpose of hearing public opinion.

Community members spoke on the following topics and concerns related to the High School Project:

- Requests for research and data to support the proposed Connected High School Network model
- Questions about funding and requests for cost analyses
- The need for another high school building
- The perception of a lack of transparency in the process and a request for more information/data/research
- Requests to slow down the School Board vote
- An education focus on innovation
- Housing different academies at multiple locations may result in equity issues
- Concerns that students are not at an age to make big decisions regarding which path to take
- Questions about the Minnie Howard rebuild timeline and moving that process forward
- Questions on equity and race resulting from a second high school

- Concerns about repeating this process if this doesn't work
- Potential transportation costs and logistics of separate learning locations
- Perceptions that the Connected High School Network plan is not ready

After the public comments, Dr. Hutchings addressed some of the concerns mentioned by the speakers. He expressed the vision to create a different learning environment from T.C. Williams. He intends to create pipelines for students to become more successful. The Connected High School Network model will address capacity issues quickly. He clarified that the Board's vote on January 24<sup>th</sup> would be a vote to authorize the Superintendent to move forward to explore land options and other learning environments for students to succeed.

### 3. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 8:40 p.m.



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Cindy Anderson, Chair



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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

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