

**MINUTES  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
January 24, 2019 (6:30 p.m.)**

---

**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

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

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Jennifer Abbruzzese, Susan Neilson, Ewan Thompson, Bridget Williams, Mignon Anthony

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Greene and Ms. Gentry, who arrived during the closed meeting.

**Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

**2. Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Nolan 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, where discussion of the scope of such a contract in open session would adversely affect the bargaining position of the Board.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 7-0, to convene a closed meeting. Ms. Greene and Ms. Gentry were not present for the vote.

The Board moved into a closed meeting at 6:37 p.m.

**3. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Vice Chair Nolan 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 January 24, 2019.

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the closed meeting. The motion carried. The Board resumed the meeting in open session at 7:05 p.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

### **4. Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from George Mason Elementary School. Students shared information about summer library visits, getting their own library cards and being able to check out books. They ended with “George Mason Dragons love to read!”

## **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 January 24, 2019 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the January 24, 2019 Board Meeting. Ms. Gentry seconded the motion.

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

## **Communications & Addresses to the Board**

### **7. Public Hearing on the FY2020 Combined Funds Budget**

Marien Fuentes, ACPS student, spoke in support of Restorative Justice Practices and encouraged ACPS to expand the budget for this program in order to fund a Restorative Justice Coordinator.

David Frimpong, ACPS student, shared his experiences with Restorative Justice Practices and encouraged funding, training and evaluation tools for teacher and student input.

Jamar Hines, ACPS employee, spoke about his concern that the privatization of custodial jobs in ACPS will cause hardship to current custodial employees.

Ernest Ward, ACPS employee, spoke about how the privatization of custodial services will cut jobs and the difficulties it will cause for those affected.

### **8. Public Comments**

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about school violence prevention.

Ms. Marie Randall, ACPS parent, spoke about the High School Project.

### **9. Report from Student Representatives Ewan Thompson and Bridget Williams**

Ms. Williams reported on the Town Hall Meeting held at T.C. Williams on January 17<sup>th</sup>. She noted that students are interested in bringing back the Titan Ambassador program and they also discussed the High School Project.

Mr. Thompson reported on working with principals regarding creating a Middle School Student Representatives to the School Board program. He will be working toward next steps in February. He also recognized students who participated in Science Fair, and

thanked the administrators, volunteers, and teachers who help make this program successful.

## **Old Business & Action Items**

### **10. High School Project**

Dr. Hutchings gave an update on the options being presented for the High School Project. He highlighted educational benefits and how the Connected High School Network provides students with choice, flexible learning environments, and greater opportunities for equity and collaboration. He also addressed the impacts on capacity, facility flexibility and costs.

Ms. Lorber made the following motion regarding the High School Project:

“The School Board empowers the Superintendent to:

- Move forward immediately with the design and build of a new high school building on the Minnie Howard site as part of a Connected High School Network strategy; and
- Continue to work on additional elements of the network, including expansion of the T.C. Williams Satellite campus, and implementation of the middle college program on the NOVA campus.

The connected high school network will be guided by the following priorities:

1. Preference for co-location of multiple programs in order to maximize flexibility, enhance cross-program interactions and reduce logistical obstacles;
2. All programs within the proposed high-school model (including currently existing programs) are administered equitably, such that all children have a fair opportunity to participate in the full range of programmatic options available;
3. A high level of flexibility in programs that allows students to change their academic path after initial selection;
4. New program offerings will be data driven;
5. Students have the option of fulfilling graduation requirements in one building; and
6. Continued community engagement through the Define and Evaluation phases of the process.”

Ms. Gentry seconded Ms. Lorber’s motion.

Mr. Suarez, in an effort to highlight equity, offered a friendly amendment to Ms. Lorber’s motion after priority #2 that read, “All programs within the proposed high school model, including current existing programs, are administered equitably, such that all children have a fair opportunity to participate in the full range of programmatic options available.”

Ms. Lorber seconded Mr. Suarez’ motion to amend her original motion.

Dr. Rief, in an effort to pursue the feasibility of adding a second high school, offered further amendment of Ms. Lorber’s motion:

“At a date specified by the Board, the Superintendent shall provide multiple preliminary design proposals for the Board’s consideration, including one or more

proposals that incorporate the creation of a second comprehensive high school. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a comparative cost-benefit (or SWOT) analysis that incorporates considerations of at least the following:

- a. Academic literature/research;
- b. Qualitative references to comparable high schools/high school models that can inform planning and decision making;
- c. Financial impacts of the proposed design;
- d. Impact of design on student achievement, including impact of the design on subgroups (e.g., EL students, SPED students, underrepresented minorities);
- e. Impact of design on access to academic and extracurricular programs;
- f. Impact of design on interpersonal and social-emotional skills; and the
- g. Strategy to allow staff to continue to explore site and program options.”

After discussion, it was determined that Dr. Rief’s amendment would be offered as a separate motion. Dr. Rief concurred.

Chair Anderson clarified that in accordance with *Robert’s Rules of Order*, the Board would vote on Mr. Suarez’ amendment before considering additional amendments. The hand vote was unanimous, 9-0, to approve Mr. Suarez’ amendment to Ms. Lorber’s motion. The amendment inserted the language, “All programs within the proposed high school model, including current existing programs, are administered equitably, such that all children have a fair opportunity to participate in the full range of programmatic options available,” after priority #2 in Ms. Lorber’s original motion. The motion to amend carried.

Dr. Rief’s earlier proposed amendment to Ms. Lorber’s motion was then offered as a separate motion, and was seconded by Ms. Thornton.

Ms. Lorber offered revised language to Dr. Rief’s amendment. Chair Anderson indicated that Dr. Rief’s amendment could not be changed, as it would be amending an amendment.

Mr. Suarez echoed the desire by some Board Members to incorporate a timeline into Dr. Rief’s amendment. He suggested a friendly amendment to Dr. Rief’s amendment, replacing “At a date specified by the Board,” with “by May 2019.” Chair Anderson reiterated that an amendment cannot be amended, and proposed that if Dr. Rief withdrew her motion to amend Ms. Lorber’s original motion, a new motion could be made that would incorporate a timeline.

Dr. Rief concurred and withdrew her amendment.

Mr. Suarez then moved to amend Ms. Lorber’s motion by adding:

“By May 2019, the Superintendent shall provide multiple preliminary design proposals for the Board’s consideration, including one or more proposals that incorporate the creation of a second comprehensive high school. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a comparative cost-benefit (or SWOT) analysis that incorporates considerations of at least the following:

- a. Academic literature/research;

- b. Qualitative references to comparable high schools/high school models that can inform planning and decision making;
- c. Financial impacts of the proposed design;
- d. Impact of design on student achievement, including impact of the design on subgroups (e.g., EL students, SPED students, underrepresented minorities);
- e. Impact of design on access to academic and extracurricular programs;
- f. Impact of design on interpersonal and social-emotional skills; and the
- g. Strategy to allow staff to continue to explore site and program options.”

Ms. Greene seconded Mr. Suarez’ motion.

The vote to approve Mr. Suarez’ amendment to Ms. Lorber’s motion was 5-4. Chair Anderson, Vice Chair Nolan, Ms. Lorber and Ms. Gentry voted against the motion. Ms. Alderton, Ms. Greene, Dr. Rief, Mr. Suarez and Ms. Thornton voted in favor of the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Alderton then moved to further amend Ms. Lorber’s motion by adding the following after priority #7:

“8. Intentional focus on the delivery of special education services, by promoting structures and practices that allow for equitable and seamless access to both the general education curricular offerings, alongside a full continuum or special education services; and

9. Intentional focus on the delivery of EL services, by promoting structures and practices that allow for equitable and seamless access to the general education curricular offerings alongside all EL service levels.”

Ms. Lorber seconded Ms. Alderton’s motion.

The hand vote to approve the Ms. Alderton’s amendment to Ms. Lorber’s motion was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Chair Anderson then read Ms. Lorber’s fully revised motion, incorporating all approved amendments, as follows:

“The School Board empowers the Superintendent to:

- Move forward immediately with the design and build of a new high school building on the Minnie Howard site as part of a Connected High School Network strategy; and
- Continue to work on additional elements of the network, including expansion of the T.C. Williams Satellite campus, and implementation of the middle college program on the NOVA campus.

The connected high school network will be guided by the following priorities:

1. Preference for co-location of multiple programs in order to maximize flexibility, enhance cross-program interactions and reduce logistical obstacles;
2. All students have access to support services including counseling, social work, nursing, psychological and nutrition;
3. All programs within the proposed high-school model (including currently existing programs) are administered equitably, such that all children have a

fair opportunity to participate in the full range of programmatic options available;

4. A high level of flexibility in programs that allows students to change their academic path after initial selection;
5. New program offerings will be data driven;
6. Students have the option of fulfilling graduation requirements in one building;
7. Continue community engagement through the Define and Evaluation phases of the process;
8. Intentional focus on the delivery of special education services, by promoting structures and practices that allow for equitable and seamless access to both the general education curricular offerings, alongside a full continuum of special education services; and
9. Intentional focus on the delivery of EL services, by promoting structures and practices that allow for equitable and seamless access to the general education curricular offerings alongside all EL service levels.

In addition, by May 2019, the Superintendent shall provide multiple preliminary design proposals for the Board's consideration, including one or more proposals that incorporate the creation of a second comprehensive high school. The Superintendent shall provide the Board with a comparative cost-benefit (or SWOT) analysis that incorporates considerations of at least the following:

- a. Academic literature / research;
- b. Qualitative references to comparable high schools / high school models that can inform planning and decision-making;
- c. Financial impacts of the proposed design;
- d. Impact of design on student achievement, including impact of the design on subgroups (e.g., EL students, SPED students, underrepresented minorities);
- e. Impact of design on access to academic and extracurricular program;
- f. Impact of design on interpersonal and social-emotional skills; and the
- g. Strategy to allow staff to continue to explore site and program options.”

On Ms. Lorber's original motion, amended by Mr. Suarez and Ms. Alderton as written above, the vote was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

### **Consent Calendar**

#### **11. Minutes for the January 7, 2019 Organizational School Board Meeting**

#### **12. Personnel Actions for the Month of December 2018**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Mr. Suarez 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**

There were no New Business items this evening.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **13. Report from Cindy Anderson**

Chair Anderson reported on the winners of the Red Ribbon Poster Contest held each October, in which students and staff throughout the division are engaged in activities that promote a drug-free and healthy lifestyle. As part of the activities, over 200 students from ACPS participated in the Red Ribbon Week Poster Contest. This year's theme was "Life is Your Journey: Travel Drug Free." One ACPS student was honored at each school level:

Elementary school winner: Kate Jimenez, a 3<sup>rd</sup> grader from Patrick Henry School;

Middle school winner: Geremias Ayala Chicas, a 7<sup>th</sup> Grader from George Washington Middle School; and

High School winner: Brendan Huber-Wilker, a senior at T.C. Williams High School.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **14. Report from Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.**

Superintendent Hutchings invited the community to attend the upcoming "Conversation with the Superintendent" about his time thus far at ACPS. At the meeting, he will provide a framework for the next five years to provide equity to all ACPS students. The meeting will take place on Wednesday, January 30, 2019, at 6:00 p.m. at T.C. Williams High School.

### **Announcements**

#### **15. Announcements**

Dr. Rief invited the community to attend the "Red for Ed" march and rally being held in Richmond on January 28th to support funding for public education. It is endorsed by the Virginia Education Association and the Virginia PTA.

Ms. Greene reported on the Martin Luther King Day art exhibit at City Hall based on the theme, "Stand Up and Fight." The artwork is by ACPS elementary students across the city and is on exhibit through February 28<sup>th</sup>. She also reported that the It's Academic Team at TC Williams is heading to the semi-finals, and hoped the community would come out to support them.

Ms. Williams reported on the One Act Play Festival at Lake Braddock High School on Saturday, January 26, 2019 at noon.

Mr. Thompson reported on the All-District Jazz Band Festival being held on Saturday, and the All-District Band Festival being held the following week from Thursday through Saturday.

### **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

#### **16. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

There was no closed meeting held.

**Adjournment**

**17. Adjourn**

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



---

Cindy Anderson, Chair



---

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the January 24, 2019 School Board Meeting.