MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
March 21, 2019 (6:00 p.m.)

ROLL CALL
THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

BOARD MEMBERS:	Cindy M. 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, Ewan Thompson, Bridget Williams, Liza Burrell-Aldana, Maureen McNulty, Matt Zahn, Sarah Whelan, Dr. Terri Mozingo, Terry Werner, Donna Brearley, Mignon Anthony, Clinton Page

Call to Order

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

   Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Vice Chair Nolan and Mr. Suarez, who arrived during the closed meeting.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

2. **Closed Meeting**

   Ms. Greene 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 70 specific employees. She further moved that the Board convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code § 2.2-3711(A)(7) for consultation and briefing concerning actual or probable litigation, where such consultation and briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the legal posture of the Board.

   Ms. Gentry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous for the Board Members present, 7-0, to convene a closed meeting. The motion carried.

   The Board moved into a closed meeting at 6:05 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 March 21, 2019.

Ms. Gentry seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the closed meeting. The motion carried.

The Board meeting resumed in open session at 7:17 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Mount Vernon Community School. Ms. Liza Burrell-Aldana, Principal, introduced Ms. Maureen McNulty, PTA President, who introduced the new Language Partners initiative, which began as the From Neighbors to Friends parent-outreach program. The Language Partners program provides weekly English classes for Spanish-speaking parents, with the goals of language acquisition, community integration, and family engagement.

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 March 21, 2019 School Board Meeting

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the March 21, 2019 School Board Meeting. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Nolan moved to amend the agenda by adding the item 'Amicus Brief' to the Consent Calendar. Ms. Gentry seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the agenda by adding 'Amicus Brief' to the Consent Calendar 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. Recognition of T.C. Williams Scholastic Team

Dr. Hutchings introduced Mr. Matt Zahn, Coach of the T.C. Williams Scholastic Team, who discussed the team's rise to become the Virginia High School League 6A State Champions. The team members are:

Mark Bailey, Senior and Team Captain
Kelly Jones, Junior
Townson Cocke, Junior
Emnet Arefe-Aine, Sophomore

8. Recognition of National History Day Students

Ms. Sarah Whelan, Instructional Specialist for Social Studies, presented information about the year-long National History Day program for grades 6-12. This year's theme

was "Triumph and Tragedy in History." Students created projects that were evaluated at school, regional, state and national competitions. Winners at the District 5 National History Day Competition were:

T.C. Williams

James Hunt, (First Place, Individual Exhibit); *The Tragedy of War; the Landings at Peleliu and the Palau Island Chain*

Francis C. Hammond

Haley Blickhahn, (First Place, Individual Exhibit); *Dial Painters and the History of Radium*

Zuha Hassen and Yasmeen Mukhtar, (Second Place, Group Exhibit); *Nazi Looted Art*

Jeneya Kamara, Olivia Kruse and Sabrina Safi, (First Place, Group Performance); *Ladies in Black*

Isabel Blackburn, (First Place, Individual Performance); *The Last Field Trip*

Skyler Fox, (Second Place, Individual Performance); *To Those Who Worked*

Margaret Rocchio, (Third Place, Individual Paper); *Triumphs and Tragedies in the Life of Leo Frank*

George Washington Middle School

Ariana Singleton, (Third Place, Individual Performance); *Janet Collins: Dancing on Dreams*

Neylan Alper and Madeline Crowe, (Third Place, Group Documentary); *An Accidental Muckraker*

Grace Metzler and Isabella Stone, (First Place, Group Exhibit); *WASP Program: Triumph and Tragedy*

9. Public Comments

Georgia Brown, Former ACPS employee, spoke on behalf of the custodians, and asked the School Board to carefully reconsider funding the custodial staff.

Keith Kruse, ACPS parent, spoke against the use of the old Patrick Henry School as swing space for Douglas MacArthur. Mr. Kruse further commented that to implement this idea would have negative traffic and safety implications for the adjacent community.

Michael Belforti, ACPS parent, spoke in opposition to the decision to use the old Patrick Henry School as swing space for Douglas MacArthur. Mr. Belforti believes that returning students to the former Patrick Henry will cause health and safety issues for students.

Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about the lack of security in schools, that custodians serve as an extra layer of security, and that utilizing a privatized custodial staff would not be safe for students. Mr. Roberts also asked the Board to ensure that funds will be spent on the current generation of students.

Carey Jackson, ACPS parent, spoke against the use of the old Patrick Henry School as swing space for Douglas MacArthur because it would exacerbate the already difficult traffic and parking situation.

The Honorable Bill Campbell, former ACPS School Board Member, spoke against abandoning the attrition process. Mr. Campbell also called on School Board Members for leadership in saving the custodians' jobs.

10. **Report from Student Representatives Ewan Thompson and Bridget Williams**

Mr. Thompson reported that next Monday morning he would be meeting with a 7th grade life science class at George Washington Middle School . He also recently attended the Climate Strike March, and was pleased to see that many T.C. students had participated. He also recounted that the Staff vs. Students annual basketball game had been entertaining and that such events are good for morale.

Ms. Williams congratulated T.C. Williams student Ana Humphrey, who won the Regeneron Science Talent Search. She also praised five student groups and six other T.C. students who are progressing to the state science fair. Ms. Williams then reported on other recent events at T.C. Williams, such as the choir visiting Indiana for a workshop, and students interested in the health and medical field attending the HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America) conference in Williamsburg, Virginia. In addition, the CURE student group hosted a sustainability and climate change presentation where they announce the overhaul of the T.C. Williams recycling program. Finally, she mentioned that students had recently attended march for climate change and gun reform.

Consent Calendar

11. **Personnel Actions for the Month of February 2019**
12. **Donations to ACPS**
13. **Appoint Emily Brock to the Budget Advisory Committee**
14. **Appoint Stephanie Fellenberg to the School Health Advisory Board**
15. **Appoint Nancy Drane to the Budget Advisory Committee**
16. **Minutes for the February 7 and February 21, 2019 School Board Meetings and the March 6, 2019 Special Called School Board Meeting**
17. **Amicus Brief**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Greene 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.

Old Business & Action Items

18. **Students with Disabilities (SWD) Evaluation Draft Action Plan**

Ms. Theresa Werner, Executive Director of Specialized Instruction, presented an update on the SWD draft action plan resulting from stakeholder feedback gathered and analyzed by Hanover Research, as well as Public Consulting Group's (PCG) comprehensive review of current ACPS programs and services for students with disabilities (SWD). The three-year action plan aims to improve outcomes and experiences for students with

disabilities and their families. Ms. Werner relayed that the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) completed its Results Driven Accountability (RDA) monitoring review of ACPS schools on Friday March 15, 2019. Its verbal summary exit report was provided to the school division on March 14,2019, with a full written report expected within eight weeks.

19. Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Update

Ms. Donna Brearley, Talented and Gifted Program Coordinator, gave an update on the current status of the Talented and Gifted (TAG) program. She summarized the recommendations from the October 2017 Talented and Gifted (TAG) Program Evaluation Report, provided an update on the progress made to date, and outlined future steps.

Board Members and the Student Representatives were highly engaged in the follow-up discussion to Ms. Brearley's report. Dr. Rief requested that staff collect data reflecting the impact of TAG identification/labeling on non-TAG identified students. Dr. Hutchings responded that it would be beneficial to get feedback from the families of non-TAG identified 4th and 5th grade students during the upcoming stakeholder engagement phase of the Local Plan (for Gifted Education) development, and assured the Board that staff would do so.

20. High School Project Update

Ms. Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer, presented information on the High School Project and the work plan to address the comparative analysis of a second comprehensive high school, and to identify program and site approaches for the Connected High School Network (CHSN). Ms. Anthony reviewed proposed changes to the School Board's January 24, 2019 motion authorizing the Superintendent to proceed 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. The staff-recommended revisions would bring the motion into alignment with the work plan.

Ms. Gentry moved to approve the amended version of the January 24, 2019 motion. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to amend the January 24, 2019 motion was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

New Business and Reports to the Board

21. ACPS 2020 Performance Update

Mr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, reviewed Key Performance Indicator (KPI) results across all six goal areas of the ACPS 2020 Strategic Plan. He presented a performance summary for each goal area for SY 2017-2018, highlighting which targets were met, remained consistent with the previous year, or declined.

22. Policy BBBB: Student Representatives to the School Board

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives, presented newly proposed draft Regulation BBBB-R2, which would expand the Student Representative to the School Board program. The new regulation provides for the annual appointment of four Middle School Student Representatives, who would serve in an advisory role to the (high school) Student Representatives to the School Board. The Middle School Student Representatives would be selected for nomination to the Board by a committee consisting

of their middle school principal and the (high school) Student Representatives. One representative each would be appointed by the School Board from Francis C. Hammond, George Washington, Jefferson-Houston, and Patrick Henry School.

23. Confidential Personnel Matter

Vice Chair Nolan moved that:

In the personnel matter discussed in closed session, the Board upholds the Superintendent's recommendation for dismissal of the employee, and authorizes the Chair to issue a letter to that effect.

Ramee Gentry seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the dismissal of the employee as discussed in the closed meeting was 7-2. The motion carried. Ms. Greene and Dr. Reif voted against the motion.

Chair's Report

24. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson welcomed Ms. Shanel Hill, who recently became the Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings shared a Volunteer Appreciation Kit containing a USB drive containing volunteer appreciation certificate templates, $350.00 for each school to use toward volunteer appreciation events/activities, thank you cards for students, parents and teachers to send to volunteers, as well as appreciation posters. Dr. Hutchings also recognized the FACE Center for creating the kit and supporting volunteers at the school level.

Announcements

26. Announcements

Dr. Rief recognized ACPS parent Jim McElhatton, who has written articles on the desegregation of Alexandria City Public Schools. Ms. Rief encouraged her colleagues to read his work.

Ms. Lorber commended Mount Vernon Community School's PTA for being able to integrate Spanish-speaking parents and English-speaking parents socially.

Ms. Greene commended Ronal Vasquez, a 7th grade student at George Washington Middle School, for putting out a gas fire in his apartment building. Ronal was recognized by the Alexandria Fire Department for his heroism.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

27. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

No closed meeting was held.

Adjournment

28. Adjourn

On a motion by Ms. Gentry and seconded by Mr. Suarez, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The motion carried. The meeting ended at 10:45 p.m.

Cindy M. Anderson, Chair

Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the April 4, 2019 School Board Meeting.