

MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
February 6, 2020 (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 Jacinta Greene Margaret Lorber Michelle Rief Christopher A. Suarez Heather Thornton
---------------------------	---

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Amiya Chisolm, Wilmer Carranza, Michael Humphreys, Rick Nealis, John Beck, John Rocca, Veronica Gutierrez, Dr. Gerald Mann, Mignon Anthony

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Mr. Suarez, Ms. Gentry, and Ms. Alderton, who joined 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 Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the term or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the Board.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 6-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 6:35 p.m.

3. Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certifies 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 which are lawfully exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on February 6, 2020.

Ms. Greene seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 7:13 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

4. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Francis C. Hammond Middle School. Students shared their experiences in the AVID Excel Program and announced that the program is being expanded to George Washington Middle School.

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 February 6, 2020 School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the February 6, 2020 School Board Meeting. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for February 6, 2020 was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Communications & Addresses to the Board

7. Marine Corps Marathon Healthy Schools Award

Mr. Michael Humphreys, Instructional Specialist for Health, Physical Education and Family Life Education, gave a brief history on the Marine Corps Marathon (MCM) Kids Run and ACPS' participation in this event. He introduced the MCM Organization Director, Mr. Rick Nealis, who shared that the MCM Kids Run is an annual event in which 3,600 children (ages 5-12) participate in a one-mile, just-for-fun running challenge. This year, James K. Polk and George Mason Elementary Schools were recognized for having the second and third highest number of student participants. Mr. John Beck, General Manager of Marine Corps Barracks Washington, and Mr. John Rocca, Sodexo District Manager, presented each school with a check for \$1,000, a Healthy Schools Award plaque and finisher medals. Mr. Nealis thanked teachers for being wonderful role models and giving students the tools to live healthy and active lifestyles in the future.

8. Public Comments

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, expressed that ACPS leadership should model the behavior that is expected from students.

Mr. William Pfister, ACPS parent and Douglas MacArthur Advisory Group member, thanked the Board for working with the City to remove housing colocation from the Douglas MacArthur Elementary School project. He also reported that the MacArthur PTA survey results reflected a lack of support for housing colocation, but that approximately one half of those surveyed supported colocating other services. The results also showed equal support for the "Forest" and "Y" site concepts. Mr. Pfister noted that

either concept would be a good choice. He further expressed that paraprofessionals are some of the hardest working people he knows.

Ms. Lisa Porter, Douglas MacArthur Advisory Group member, spoke in support of the “Forest” concept for the Douglas MacArthur project. She shared concerns about the “Y” concept, stating it would block wooded views and make the school feel less integrated with the openness of the neighborhood.

Ms. Mary Gaddis, ACPS staff member, described paraprofessionals as talented, skillful, resourceful, thoughtful, steadfast, understanding, and encouraging educators. Ms. Gaddis stated that paraprofessionals honor their students, families and communities with faithfulness and integrity.

9. Report from Student Representatives Wilmer Carranza and Amiya Chisolm

Mr. Carranza shared that T.C. Williams High School JROTC Cadet Nicole Rosario-Flores had attended the State of the Union address as U.S. Senator Tim Kaine’s guest. Senator Kaine was very impressed with Ms. Rosario-Flores and the JROTC Cadets who provided insightful feedback on his bipartisan war powers resolution during his January 10, 2020 visit to T.C. Williams. Mr. Carranza shared that they were honored to have Ms. Rosario-Flores represent T.C. Williams and the ACPS community. He further shared that the second grading quarter had ended the prior week and that report cards would be sent out soon.

Ms. Chisolm shared a report by Ms. Giselle Hughes, Middle School Student Representative for Jefferson-Houston School. In the report, Ms. Hughes shared the results of a survey she recently conducted that evaluated what students appreciate about Jefferson-Houston (J-H) and some of the things they would like to change. According to the results, students believe that the school has a very supportive and friendly environment. Students were appreciative of the Straight Gay Alliance club at Jefferson-Houston because it allows students to be themselves. Ms. Hughes also reported that areas for growth included stairwell supervision, ensuring 5th and 8th grade students are properly prepared for their new roles in middle and high school and getting sufficient instruments and supplies for both the band and orchestra.

Ms. Chisolm reminded students that their voices are heard at Central Office. She also shared that the Superintendent's Student Leadership Council (SSLC) continues to encourage students to discuss issues of interest via posters or by making commercials that could be broadcast on T.C. Williams' student-run show, “Everyday Titans.”

Consent Calendar

10. FY 2020 Preliminary Financial Report Ending December 31, 2019

11. FY 2020 Quarter 2 Budget Transfer Report

12. Contract for the Matthew Maury Partial HVAC Replacement

13. Minutes for the November 7, 2019 School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

Ms. Alderton asked to pull the 2019-2020 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Scope of Work from the Consent Calendar.

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

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

14. 2019-2020 Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) Scope of Work

Ms. Alderton pulled this item from the Consent Calendar to acknowledge the emotional experiences and situations that parents of students with disabilities encounter. She explained that participating in these conversations is not always easy but thanked the parents who serve on the committee and SEAC Chair Cindy Hart for all of their hard work.

Ms. Alderton moved to approve the 2019-2020 SEAC Scope of Work. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the 2019-2020 SEAC Scope of Work was unanimous, 9-0, the motion carried.

Old Business & Action Items

15. The High School Project

Dr. Gerald Mann, Executive Director of Secondary Instruction, gave an update on the High School Project, including recently held meetings of the Educational Design Team (EDT) and the Industry Advisory Boards (IABs). The Educational Design Team (EDT) met on January 29, 2020. They generated ideas for various spaces needed on the new high school campus and were shown examples of educational specifications and spatial configurations. The EDT will soon visit the Academies of Loudon, where they will tour the facilities and meet afterwards to debrief.

Dr. Mann also reported that on January 23, 2020, staff held a conference call with the IAB Chairs that focused on creating an agenda and logistics for an orientation meeting scheduled for March. He explained that this orientation will provide IAB members with a better understanding of different work-based learning opportunities and what is required to administer them.

16. Douglas MacArthur Project Concept Design

Ms. Mignon Anthony, Chief Operating Officer, presented architectural and site concepts for the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School building. The advisory group, school team and community group discussed priorities for the new school and the site concepts were developed as a result. Ms. Anthony noted that the City of Alexandria and ACPS had jointly decided to no longer consider colocation of housing at the site, but that other, smaller-scale colocation options such as recreational programming or facilities would continue to be explored.

Ms. Anthony presented the pros and cons for the “Y” and “Forest” concepts and answered Board questions about conforming to “green” building standards, play spaces, K-8 programming, and future expansion. She reminded the Board that the concept phase is preliminary and is intended to determine the site layout only. Modifications may be made through spring 2020 on components of the design such as vehicle access, play spaces and exact square footage of the building. Design elements will be determined in the upcoming months and are not part of the site concept vote.

Ms. Lorber moved to approve the “Forest” site concept for the new Douglas MacArthur Elementary School. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the “Forest” site concept was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

Chair's Report

17. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson did not give a report.

Superintendent's Report

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

Superintendent Hutchings thanked the ACPS team and DLR Group on a job well done on the Douglas MacArthur modernization project. The Douglas MacArthur community is very excited and he encouraged them to keep the momentum going.

Dr. Hutchings shared that February is not only Black History Month, but is also School Board Appreciation Month. He thanked the School Board for their time, effort and energy spent supporting the division.

Announcements

19. Announcements

Ms. Gentry congratulated the T.C. Williams Girls and Boys Track Teams on their recent wins at the Gunston District Championships. She also shared that T.C. Williams had recently hosted a voter registration drive and that 200 students registered to vote at the event.

Ms. Greene shared that she visited James K. Polk Elementary School and was very impressed with the wonderful leadership at the school. She thanked the school leaders for all that they do for students.

Ms. Chisolm stated that T.C. Williams' Black Student Union had planned a host of events in honor of Black History Month and invited the community to participate.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan moved to recess until the conclusion of the workshop for Equity Training. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to recess the meeting was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by hand. The motion carried.

The Board moved into recess at 8:26 p.m. for Equity Training.

Chair Anderson called the meeting back to order at 9:58 p.m.

20. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

Vice Chair Nolan moved that the Board convene a Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711(A)(1) for the discussion and consideration of employment, performance, and contractual matters for 25 specific public employee(s).

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. The vote was unanimous, 9-0, to convene a Closed Meeting. The motion carried.

The Board moved into a Closed Meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Nolan moved that pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certifies 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 which are lawfully

exempted by the Freedom of Information Act, were heard, discussed or considered by the Board in the Closed Meeting held on February 6, 2020.

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

Adjournment

21. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Suarez and seconded by Ms. Gentry, the Board voted unanimously, 9-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:53 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the June 12, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting.