

**MINUTES**  
**SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING**  
**ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD**  
**April 24, 2020 (12:00 p.m.)**

**Meeting held via Zoom**

On March 12, 2020, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam declared a State of Emergency in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, in accordance with Va. Code § 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) and Acts of Assembly Chap. 1283 § 4-0.01(g), virtual School Board meetings held during the State of Emergency are limited to:

- addressing the public health emergency declared on March 12, 2020 (Va. Code § 44-146.17); and
- business that is necessary to continue school division operations and to discharge the School Board's lawful purposes, duties, and responsibilities.

Notice of any virtual School Board Meetings will be posted on the ACPS Calendar and on the School Board Meeting web page, where the public may link to join or watch live meetings. Virtual Special Called School Board Meetings may also be watched live in Alexandria on Comcast Channel 71. Video recordings and minutes for these meetings are posted online as soon as available after the meeting.

**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, Jennifer Abbruzzese, Julia Burgos, Dr. Elizabeth Hoover, Mr. Clinton Page, Dr. Julie Crawford, Mignon Anthony, Theresa Werner, Dr. Tricia Jacobs

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. A roll call was taken and all members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except Ms. Alderton and Mr. Suarez who joined immediately after the roll call.

**Adoption of Meeting Agenda**

**2. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the April 24, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 24, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for the April 24, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting, taken by roll call, was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

### **Consent Calendar**

#### **3. Personnel Actions for the Month of March 2020**

#### **4. Local Plan for Career and Technical Education Federal Perkins Fund**

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the Consent Calendar. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar, taken by roll call, 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**

#### **5. Draft Resolution Regarding Suspension of School Board Policies**

During the COVID-19 school closure, state and federal governing authorities have waived some education-related laws and regulations for a limited duration. Because it would be impracticable for the Board to change its current policies quickly enough through regular order to implement the legal and regulatory changes being made to address the novel coronavirus, the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) has drafted a model resolution for consideration by all Virginia school divisions. By adopting the resolution, School Board affected policies and/or regulations would be waived only during the period of time that the laws or regulations on which they are based are waived or amended.

After reviewing the draft resolution at the March 17, 2020 Special Called School Board Meeting, Dr. Rief suggested an amendment to the resolution to ensure that the School Board and public are given notice of any Board policy/regulatory changes. Her proposed revision to the second to last paragraph on page 2 of the resolution would read as follows (changes are in *italics*):

“NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Superintendent is directed to inform the School Board *and the public* of any *policies or* regulations that are proposed for suspension and the duration of such suspensions;”

Dr. Rief also asked for information on how any changes to policies and regulations will be advertised to the public.

Ms. Jennifer Abbruzzese, Director of Policy and Board Initiatives, supported the change and Board Members did not object to the revised language.

Ms. Gentry moved that the School Board adopt the Resolution Regarding Suspension of School Board Policies, incorporating the revision suggested by Dr. Rief. Ms. Greene seconded the motion.

The vote to approve the revised Resolution Regarding Suspension of School Board Policies was taken by a roll call. The vote was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried.

### **Superintendent's Report**

#### **6. Board Q&A with Dr. Hutchings**

Superintendent Hutchings introduced Ms. Julia Burgos, the new ACPS Chief of School and Community Relations. Ms. Burgos is the incoming Chief of School and Community Relations

effective July 1, combining two ACPS departments: Communications and School, Business and Community Partnerships.

Dr. Hutchings also reviewed upcoming Board Briefs on CIP project updates, budget transfers, an end of year financial estimate, and the projected impact of COVID-19 on the FY 2021 budget.

The Board asked questions about Zoom meeting security issues, about data collection to measure student engagement using technology, when Chromebooks will be collected, how well the CTE classes are transitioning to online learning, how ACPS will communicate any policy suspensions or revisions referred to in the newly adopted resolution, and the timeline for receiving a maintenance schedule for school buildings.

Board Members also inquired about COVID-19 contact tracing, the ACPS supply of personal protective equipment for health screenings at ACPS sites, the MOU being developed between ACPS and the Alexandria Health Department (AHD) for support by ACPS nurses, and whether ACPS has experienced a shortage of workers for the daily food distribution.

Questions about special education included how ACPS will provide additional services when students return to school, and whether additional extended school year (ESY) funding will be needed.

**Adjournment**

**7. Adjourn**

On a motion by Ms. Gentry and seconded by Ms. Alderton, the Board voted unanimously by roll call, 9-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 12:50 p.m.



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Cindy Anderson, Chair



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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the May 15, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting.