

MINUTES
VIRTUAL SPECIAL CALLED SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
June 26, 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, Shanel Hill, Clinton Page, Dr. Scott Joftus, Rudy Ruiz, Simma Reingold, Natalie Hall, Dr. Alicia Hart

Call to Order

1. Meeting Called to Order by Chair Anderson

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting.

Moment of Silence

2. Observe a Moment of Silence

A moment of silence was observed.

Adoption of Meeting Agenda

3. Adopt the Meeting Agenda for the June 26, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the June 26, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting. Ms. Alderton seconded the motion.

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

Communications & Addresses to the Board

4. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments submitted.

Consent Calendar

5. Personnel Actions for the Month of May 2020

6. FY 2020 Preliminary Monthly Financial Report ending May 31, 2020

7. 2020-2021 Samuel Tucker Elementary School Academic Calendar Revision

8. Re-Appoint Kathleen Sheehy to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advisory Committee

9. Re-Appoint Kevin Miller to the Talented and Gifted (TAG) Advisory Committee and Grant a Term Limit Waiver

10. Minutes from the February 19, 2020 Virtual Special Called School Board Meeting and the February 20, 2020 School Board Meeting.

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

The vote to adopt the Consent Calendar was unanimous, 9-0. The motion carried. The vote was taken by roll call.

Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar

No items were pulled from the Consent Calendar.

Old Business & Action Items

11. Equity for All 2025: Revised Strategic Plan

Mr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, presented the revised strategic plan, which has incorporated input by stakeholders including families, staff, the community, School Board Members and the Strategic Planning Committee members. The five-year strategic plan has been drafted to serve as the roadmap for ACPS through 2025 and was presented to the Board on May 22nd and May 29th. Feedback on the strategic plan was received from stakeholders since that presentation and was generally positive. Revisions to the strategic plan have addressed specific feedback such as racial equity, family engagement, Career and Technical Education (CTE) and next steps. Mr. Page indicated that the strategic plan will be implemented over time to address yearly goals.

Chair Anderson recognized Ms. Greene and Ms. Gentry who served as members on the Strategic Planning Committee. Board Members asked questions regarding the use of a data dashboard, implementation and monitoring, communication to staff and community about the plan, and how the School Board can help support the strategic plan.

Ms. Greene moved to adopt the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the Equity for All 2025 Strategic Plan was unanimous, 9-0. The vote was taken by roll call. The motion carried.

New Business and Reports to the Board

12. Continuity of Learning Plan 4.0

Chair Anderson noted that the Code of Virginia mandates that it is the School Board's responsibility to operate and maintain the public schools, to determine the length of the school term, the studies to be pursued and the methods of teaching, etc. In addition, the Virginia Constitution entrusts each local School Board with the supervision of schools. The outlines of a fall reopening plan reasonably fall under the category of "supervision." Because the Board officially speaks to the Superintendent only through its public recorded votes, the School Board will be voting on the fundamental elements of a reopening plan to provide the Superintendent with direction. This may ultimately be a single vote or possibly a series of votes, as needed, throughout the reopening process.

Dr. Hutchings addressed the community and School Board regarding the tough decisions that need to be made in order to open ACPS schools. He noted that there are many uncertainties and challenges, and it will require much patience and flexibility by staff, families and the community. Dr. Terri Mozingo, Chief Academic Officer, gave an overview of the planning efforts to date as well as the next steps essential for reopening schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It was noted that any reopening plan will be guided by recommendations of the Thought Partners Committee (internal and external stakeholders), recommended safety guidelines by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), guidelines from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) and reopening plans from neighboring Northern Virginia school divisions. Three possible models for reopening include 100% in-person learning, 100% virtual learning, and a hybrid model of in-person and virtual learning. The considerations and benefits of each model were highlighted. Dr. Mozingo also reviewed how the Cross-Functional Planning Teams will develop action plans to guide preparations and operations to reopen schools.

Board Members asked questions about community engagement, focus groups, facilities cleaning and the response protocol if a staff member or student tests positive for COVID-19.

This item will return for discussion on July 10, 2020. There are four opportunities for the public to give input on school reopening plans. Public hearings will be held on July 9 at 7:00 p.m., July 10 at 12:00 p.m., August 6 at 7:00 p.m. and August 7 at 12:00 p.m.

Superintendent's Report

13. School Board Weekly Q&A with Dr. Hutchings

Dr. Alicia Hart, Acting Executive Director of Facilities and Operations, gave an overview of playground openings and pending repairs/renovation projects on closed playgrounds and the T.C. Williams High School stadium and track.

Board Members asked how principals will be included in the process of reopening the schools.

Chair's Report

1. Report from Cindy Anderson

Chair Anderson clarified remarks made at the last meeting regarding a request to rename T.C. Williams High Schools. She indicated that there needs to be robust community engagement on the matter.

Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting

2. 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 employees. She further moved that the Board convene a

Closed Meeting pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 (A)(2) for the discussion and consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matter that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student.

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 2:05 p.m.

Ms. Greene 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 June 26, 2020.

Mr. Suarez seconded the motion. The vote, taken by roll call, was 7-0, to certify the Closed Meeting. The motion carried. Ms. Gentry did not return to the meeting after the Closed Meeting and Ms. Lorber experienced technical difficulties and was unable to vote. The Board returned to open session at 3:39 p.m.

Adjournment

3. Adjourn

On a motion by Mr. Suarez and seconded by Ms. Thornton, the Board voted unanimously by roll call 8-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 3:40 p.m.



Cindy Anderson, Chair



Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the July 10, 2020 School Board Meeting.