

**MINUTES  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD  
February 20, 2020 (6:30 p.m.)**

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**ROLL CALL**

THE FOLLOWING WERE PRESENT AT THE MEETING:

<b>BOARD</b>	Cindy Anderson
<b>MEMBERS:</b>	Veronica R. Nolan (absent)
	Meagan L. Alderton
	Ramee A. Gentry
	Jacinta Greene
	Margaret Lorber
	Michelle Rief
	Christopher A. Suarez (arrived during the Closed Meeting)
	Heather Thornton (arrived during the Closed Meeting)

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr., Susan Neilson, Shanel Hill, Amiya Chisolm, Dr. Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Dr. Teri Mazingo, Clinton Page, Dr. Shefali Pai-Samant, Kristen Usher, Mark Jinks, Dr. Alicia Hart, Anita Cordova, Helen Lloyd, Mignon Anthony

**Call to Order**

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

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. All members of the School Board were present at the start of the meeting except for Ms. Thornton and Mr. Suarez who arrived during the Closed Meeting, and Vice Chair Nolan, who was absent for the duration of the meeting.

**Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

**2. Closed Meeting**

Ms. Greene 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. Gentry 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 6:33 p.m.

**3. Certification of Closed Meeting**

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 February 20, 2020.

Ms. Gentry seconded the motion. The vote to certify the Closed Meeting held on February 20, 2020 was unanimous, 7-0. Ms. Alderton was absent from the vote. The motion carried.

The Board returned to open session at 7:01 p.m.

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by students from Mount Vernon Community School (MVCS). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited in both English and Spanish to highlight the school's Dual- Language Program.

Principal Liza Burrell-Aldana introduced the MVCS choir, who sang the Chilean folk song, "Choo-Choo," in Spanish.

## **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 20, 2020 School Board Meeting**

Ms. Alderton moved to adopt the meeting agenda for the February 20, 2020 School Board Meeting. Ms. Lorber seconded the motion.

The vote to adopt the meeting agenda for February 20, 2020 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

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

### **7. Public Comments**

Ms. Eliana Rouble, ACPS student, shared ways for ACPS to be more environmentally conscious, including encouraging the recycling of food trays, replacing plastic utensils with biodegradable utensils and supporting school composting programs.

Mr. Zachary Roberts, ACPS student, spoke about incorporating better safety protocols and procedures to protect students from bullying in schools.

Mr. Stephen Dawson, ACPS parent, spoke about the recent George Mason site feasibility study and shared community feedback with the Board. He stated that the potential zoning impacts were a concern for the community and asked the Board to provide more data surrounding residential colocation of services. Mr. Dawson also shared that the term colocation is very broad, and asked the Board to be more direct in the language when describing potential programs in the future.

Mr. Ricardo Roberts, ACPS parent, spoke about security concerns in schools and asked the Board to ensure there is a security officer in each school. He also expressed his concerns regarding clean water at George Washington Middle School and suggested the Board provide water coolers as soon as possible.

Ms. Kellie Conlan Baron, ACPS parent, spoke about facilities conditions at George Washington Middle School. She shared that equity also extends to facilities and requested that such issues at George Washington be addressed as soon as possible.

Ms. Margaret McLaughlin, community member, spoke about literacy achievement and shared that learning to read well in grades K-2 is a crucial part of student success.

Ms. Mary Gaddis, ACPS staff member, expressed her concerns regarding not being able to meet with school division leadership to discuss issues that paraprofessionals are experiencing within the division.

**8. Report from Student Representatives Wilmer Carranza and Amiya Chisolm**

Ms. Chisolm congratulated Yahney-Marie Sangare and Sydney Payne, two George Washington Middle School students, who joined other young playwrights and actors performing *The Day Nothing Happened* at the John F. Kennedy Center for Performing Arts. The play is based on a story of the first school in Virginia to desegregate in 1959. Ms. Chisolm congratulated both students on their hard work and a successful play.

Ms. Chisolm reported that middle schools are currently in the process of holding parent-teacher conferences. Interim report cards will be distributed to all students for the 3rd Quarter within the next two weeks.

Ms. Chisolm shared that T.C. Williams' Black Student Union (BSU) planned an all-inclusive Black History Month presentation and activities. The BSU will be hosting an HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) panel with staff members who will speak on their college experiences at HBCUs. Other activities include a movie night, Business Casual Black Friday, a natural hair seminar and Spirit Week. She thanked BSU sponsor Mr. Shabazz, BSU President Haydee Patterson, and the entire BSU membership for their innovative events and inclusiveness of all students and staff throughout the month.

Ms. Chisolm finalized her report by sharing that both T.C. Williams Basketball Teams are heading into the District Finals against West Potomac High School and wished them good luck.

Mr. Carranza was absent.

**Consent Calendar**

**9. Personnel Actions for the Month of January 2020**

**10. Donation to Samuel Tucker and Patrick Henry Elementary Schools**

**11. Donation to George Washington Middle School – Revised 2/20/2020**

**12. Minutes for the December 5, 2019 School Board Meeting**

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

Dr. Rief asked to pull "Revisions to E, G and L Policies/Regulations" from the Consent Calendar.

The vote to adopt the amended Consent Calendar was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

**Items Pulled from the Consent Calendar**

**13. Revisions to E, G and L Policies/Regulations**

Dr. Rief pulled this Consent Calendar item to discuss the revision to Policy GBB, which is proposed to be merged with Policy BG/GBD and renamed "Employee Feedback Protocol and Communications with the School Board."

Dr. Rief recommended a change to a sentence in the second paragraph that reads, “any policy or regulation change directly related to employment conditions will be provided to employee associations for input prior to approval.” She suggested adding the phrase, “to include any changes to past practice.” Dr. Rief suggested that this agenda item could be adopted with the exception of the changes to Policies GBB and BG/GBD, which could be discussed at a later time.

Dr. Rief moved to adopt the “Revisions to E, G and L Policies/Regulations” with the exception of Policies GBB and BG/GBD, which will be reviewed at a later time.

Ms. Alderton seconded the motion. The vote to approve “Revisions to E, G and L Policies/Regulations” with the exception of Policies GBB and BG/GBD was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

## **Old Business & Action Items**

### **13. Adoption of the FY 2021 Combined Funds Budget**

Ms. Gentry moved to adopt the FY 2021 Combined Funds Budget:

“Madam Chair, I move that we approve the FY 2021 Combined Funds Budget as follows:

- The FY 2021 Operating Budget in the amount of \$299,078,230 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2, including the adjustments shown in the memo, as discussed and supported by the School Board during the February 12, 2020 Budget Work Session. This includes other financing sources and uses, as well as \$5,098,743 planned use of general fund balance. The operating budget includes:
  - 2,436.19 FTEs, an increase of 1.4% over FY 2020
  - A total City appropriation request of \$241,437,296, an increase of 4.2% over FY 2020
- The FY 2021 Grants and Special Projects Budget in the amount of \$16,391,177 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2. There are no adjustments recommended to the proposed presentation. This budget includes other financing sources and uses, and a total of 100.75 FTEs, an increase of 7.5% from FY 2020.
- The FY 2021 School Nutrition Services Budget totals \$10,961,612 for both revenues and expenditures as shown in Attachment 2. There are no adjustments recommended to the proposed budget presentation. This budget includes 125.00 FTEs, which represents a 12.6% increase from FY 2020.

The Superintendent is granted the authority to make the necessary minor changes to comply with the intent of the School Board.”

Ms. Lorber seconded the motion. The vote to adopt the FY 2021 Combined Funds Budget was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

Chair Anderson thanked the finance team and staff members for their hard work in developing the budget. Dr. Hutchings echoed Chair Anderson’s remarks and also thanked the School Board for their work developing budget priorities supporting ACPS’ mission.

#### **14. The High School Project**

Dr. Gerald R. Mann, Jr., Executive Director of Secondary Instruction, gave an update on the Educational Design Team (EDT) and the Industry Advisory Boards (IABs).

He shared that the EDT visited the Academies of Loudoun on February 11, 2020. The visit allowed EDT members to observe flexibly designed spaces in a school with programming focused on STEM and CTE. After the tour and discussion with the school principal, the EDT shared questions and observations, including how a learning environment's design can help meet its educational goals.

Dr. Mann reported that new information on the EDT would be shared with the School Board in March 2020.

He further reported that staff have scheduled an orientation for IAB members on March 10, 2020 at T.C. Williams High School.. The orientation will provide a better understanding of the work-based learning opportunities that are available. This will include a discussion of what is required to administer these types of opportunities and a framework for managing each respective IAB.

#### **New Business and Reports to the Board**

##### **15. Family Engagement Evaluation**

Mr. Clinton Page, Chief Accountability Officer, presented findings from the 2019 division-wide Family Engagement Evaluation. The evaluation identified strengths, challenges, and stakeholder feedback across key focus areas, as well as a number of recommendations for improvement. In an effort to continuously improve in the area of family engagement at a systems level, ACPS has initiated a process for identifying the key drivers of change. These will be presented in a forthcoming division action plan.

##### **16. FY 2020 CIP Quarterly Report: Q2**

Dr. Alicia Hart, Director of Educational Facilities, presented the FY 2020 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Quarterly Report for Q2, which outlines the progress and budget status of all projects in the CIP roster through December 2019. The report is organized by school sites and contains project status data on major projects, as well as the financial standing of the CIP budget.

Ms. Gentry moved to accept the FY 2020 CIP Quarterly Report for Q2. Mr. Suarez seconded the motion.

The vote to accept the FY 2020 CIP Quarterly Report for Q2 was unanimous, 8-0. The motion carried.

##### **17. FY 2020 CIP Reserve Account Update: Q2**

In October 2017, the School Board authorized the establishment of a CIP Reserve Account, which provides an additional option for CIP budget transfers between capital accounts.

Dr. Alicia Hart presented the update on the current account balance of \$556,777.32 and the Board-approved budget transfers during the quarter.

**18. City of Alexandria FY 2021 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Budget Presentation**

Mr. Mark Jinks, Alexandria City Manager, presented the ACPS section of the Alexandria City Budget presentation, which he presented to City Council on February 18, 2020.

Mr. Jinks announced that the City will be funding 100% of the \$241,437,296 requested by ACPS for its FY 2021 Operating Budget.

**19. FY 2020 ACPS Summer Projects**

Dr. Alicia Hart provided an overview of the anticipated summer projects for FY 2020, including their impacts on school readiness.

**Chair's Report**

**20. Report from Cindy Anderson**

Chair Anderson recognized School Board Clerk Appreciation Week and thanked the Board Clerks for their hard work.

**Superintendent's Report**

**21. Report from Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.**

Superintendent Hutchings reported that he would be shadowing a T.C. Williams student next week and would share his experience with the School Board at the next Board Meeting.

**Announcements**

**22. Announcements**

There were no announcements by Board Members.

**Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

**23. Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting**

No Closed Meeting was held.

**Adjournment**

**24. Adjourn**

On a motion by Ms. Alderton and seconded by Mr. Suarez, the Board voted unanimously, 8-0, to adjourn. The meeting ended at 10:27 p.m.



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Cindy Anderson, Chair



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Clerk/Deputy Clerk

These minutes were adopted at the June 26, 2020 School Board Meeting.