Minutes
School Board Meeting
Alexandria City Public Schools
2000 N. Beauregard St
Alexandria VA 22311

Thursday, June 20, 2013

1. **Call to order**
   Chairman Graf called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. All Board members were present except for Mr. Justin Keating. Superintendent Dr. Morton Sherman was present. Student Liaisons Charlotte Clinger and Edom Tesfa were present.

2. **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting—Real Estate**
   Mr. Chris Lewis moved to convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711(A)(29) for the discussion of the award of a contract involving the expenditure of public funds, and the discussion of the scope of such a contract, where discussion of such a contract would adversely affect the bargaining position of the Board. The motion was seconded by Ms. Kelly Booz. The vote was unanimous, 8-0. Members moved to closed session.

   Mr. Chris Lewis moved that pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certify 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 June 20, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Stephanie Kapsis. The vote was unanimous, 8-0.

3. **The Pledge of Allegiance**
   The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

4. **A Moment of Silence**
   A moment of silence was observed

5. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda and Approval of Meeting Minutes of June 6, 2013**
   Ms. Stephanie Kapsis moved to adopt the meeting agenda and approve the minutes from the June 6, 2013 board meeting. Motion was seconded by Ms. Ronnie Campbell. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

6. **Communications and Addresses to the Board**
   **VSBA 2013 Business Honor Roll Program—Recognition of Inova Alexandria Hospital Project Search program.**

   Ms. Tammy Ignacio recognized students Davon Hardy, Teddy Otto, Louis Otto, Joyce Otto, Diamond Jackson, Lakia Jackson and bus driver Walter Williams for their quick response during a school bus accident. The students were commended for their caring concern and help for the bus driver who was injured. Mr. Williams was commended for his safe driving during the accident.

   The Board Recognized School Board Advisory Committee Chairmen for their service on behalf of ACPS Students.

   The Board recognized Savanna Flakes as recipient of the National Association of Special Education Teachers’ 2013 Outstanding Special Education Teacher award.
Ms. Karen Graf introduced new School Board Student Liaisons Edom Tesfa and Carter Goodwin, and recognized Charlotte Clinger for her outstanding service this past year.

**Public Comments were heard by the following:**
Ms. Hanna Kidane spoke on Higher Achievement program
Mr. Jeffery Hunter spoke on Higher Achievement program
Mr. Nathan Musick spoke about recommendations for SFA pullout of TAG students
Mr. Richard Martin spoke about support of city funding for Thomas Jefferson High School
Mr. Gary Carr spoke about the running track at George Washington Middle School
Mr. Morgan Freeman spoke regarding Thomas Jefferson High School

7. **Old Business**
   **Thomas Jefferson High School Update**
   Dr. Sherman read letter from Fairfax County extending the deadline to September 6 in which to decide on ACPS participation. Ms. Kelly Booz indicated she would like to take a vote before this deadline and hold 1 or 2 public hearings in August so that the process would be transparent to the public.

   Board concerns were raised regarding the timing of proposal and the tight deadline. The timing may be too strict to account for budget concerns and priorities, and more than two public meetings may need to be held. Ms. Karen Graf indicated she would like to add the Thomas Jefferson topic to the July and August meetings and work sessions, and continue to explore the topic.

   **Elementary Progress Report:**
   Dr. Sherman and Dr. Gwen Carol Holmes reported to the Board about parent engagement in regard to the Elementary Progress Report and in which focus groups were created in order to get parent feedback on the new report card re-design. Dinner was served and positive feedback was received from parents on the new report card.

   The concerns from the Board included how the new grading system may create grade inflation, or promote social promotion, moving students forward who should not be or giving students high marks for low performance. Concerns were also raised about the difficulty the new progress report created in getting the information quickly—a dashboard or snapshot was hard to realize in this current redesign.

   Ms. Stephanie Kapsis moved to approve the Elementary Progress Report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Marc Williams. Motion Passed 6-2. Ms. Graf and Mr. Lewis opposed.

   **Policy KG: Community Use of School Facilities**
   Mr. Marc Williams explained that the purpose of this policy is to update policy, practice, and fees related to the use of school facilities, and to accommodate key partners in the Division especially the City and PTAs. There had been questions regarding the deletion in the policy of the second paragraph relating to MOUs between the City and ACPS. The paragraph was deleted since we have a regular practice regarding MOUs that are generated as needed between agencies. A MOU with the City, in some version, goes back as far as 1992, if not longer, and gets updated consistently depending on each MOU.
Concerns were expressed by Board members whether we had the right to refuse use of our facilities by particular groups, as well as the loss of the paragraph in the policy that encourages cooperation between the City and ACPS.

Mr. Lewis moved to amend the language of Policy KG to reinsert that second paragraph of the original policy that begins with “The superintendent shall cooperate with the City...” The motion was seconded by Ms. Ronnie Campbell.

Mr. Campbell asked why the paragraph was eliminated and Mr. Williams responded that it was a long standing practice and it was not a needed paragraph, but has no objection to putting it back in.

Vote on amending the policy was unanimous, 8-0.

Mr. Marc Williams moved to adopt Community Use of Facilities Policy. The motion was seconded by Mr. Chris Lewis. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

Administrator Evaluation Report Approval
This item was discussed at the last Board Meeting and Chairman Graf asked if there were additional questions. Mr. Lewis expressed concern that there was no input from parents in developing this evaluation system. Mr. North responded that the State very tightly prescribed how this evaluation system would look and there was not much latitude. There was some fine tuning. He also noted that there were many parents on the committee who had dual roles as teachers, administrators, etc. Mr. North indicated he would be happy to work with the Board to identify more parents.

Ms. Stephanie Kapsis moved to approve Administrator Evaluation Report. Ms. Kelly Booz seconded. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

8. Consent Calendar
Ms. Kelly Booz moved to approve the consent calendar. Mr. William Campbell seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

9. New Business and Reports to the Board

TAG Advisory Committee End of Year Report
Ms. Adele Morris, TAGAC Chair, presented the annual report and powerpoint presentation from the TAG Advisory Committee. There are nine recommendations from the committee of which two may require votes from the Board. Policy may need to be amended in order to be consistent with actual practice. At the elementary level the Committee has seen disparate deployment of services across the schools. Middle school has TAG clustering, however many teachers were not aware of TAG students. The committee will be reaching out to parents with a brochure about the TAG program that is in the works and the Committee would like to be able to give the Board quantitative analysis later in the year.

Ms. Hennig expressed concerns about TAG identification not following students forward.

Ms. Booz indicated she would like a longer conversation on TAG and SFA.

Mr. Lewis was extremely interested in seeing the brochure that is in the process of being produced.
Ms. Morris was commended on her work on the TAG Advisory Committee and addressing community concerns. Ms. Graf indicated that the Board is looking for a follow up report at the July 11 or August 22 Board Meeting. Dr. Sherman suggested a work session would be appropriate.

Employee Calendar—July 5th Holiday
Dr. Sherman reported that giving full-year ACPS employees July 5, 2013 off as a holiday would have minor costs and would show appreciation for the hard work of staff. Many of the staff are already taking this day as a vacation day. The Board echoed the sentiments of the Superintendent about our dedicated ACPS employees.

Ms. Patricia Hennig moved to make July 5 a staff holiday for this year. Ms. Kelly Booz seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

Title I, II, and III Applications
Dr. GwenCarol Holmes presented information about ACPS annual applications for Title I, II, and III entitlement grants of approximately $3.6 million. Title I is the largest part of these grants and is based on Free and Reduced Meal plans (FARM). Jefferson Houston has the highest percentage of students with FARM and ACPS has chosen to spread the money through the elementary levels only. Title IIa funds are primarily used as professional learning funds. Title III is for support for personnel in the English Language Learner programs.

Ms. Kelly Booz made a motion to approve the Title I, II, and III applications. Mr. Chris Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 7-0. Ms. Stephanie Kapsis was out of the room at the time of the vote.

Request for Waiver from the Science and/or History and Social Science SOLs for Third Grade
Dr. GwenCarol Holmes reported to the Board about requesting a waiver from VDOE from SOLs for three focus and priority schools in ACPS. The scores will not count for or against accreditation. Schools are required to test students in Social Studies and Science and to make scores public knowledge. Three schools will be given up to $38,000 for a reading specialist who can also tutor throughout the day in any subject or grade level as needed. ACPS will match funds. Instructional time in Science and Social Studies will not be decreased. Principals will monitor progress throughout the year. Final impact on the budget is not yet determined as the funds are limited and because the State does not know how many school divisions will be applying for this funding. It is funded for two years and has staffing impact as well.

Mr. Lewis questioned how we are going to measure the effectiveness of this program and track student progress if we are waiving the tests? How do we make sure teachers are taking instruction seriously if there are no tests to monitor? Mr. Campbell was also concerned about waiving the tests. Dr. Sherman indicated that every student is tracked.

Ms. Booz expressed concern about social studies and sciences taking a back seat to math and reading. Dr. Holmes responded that this legislation is guaranteeing time spent on these subjects. Also it is required that students are tested in Science and Social Studies and results must be published.

Mr. Marc Williams moved to approve the application for the waiver. Mr. Chris Lewis seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

School Board Standing Committees Draft Scopes of Work
School Board Advisory Committees Scopes of Work
Ms. Karen Graf indicated that the Board will bring all the Advisory and Board Committees together in the September work sessions and will be voting in September.

TC Williams Tennis Courts
Mr. Finn indicated this is an information and action item for tonight. There has been a slight change to design plans from the previous Board to the present Board. Lighting has been added to the plans, and permit applications have been submitted. There is an upcoming community meeting to get feedback regarding the tennis courts. Concerns from the community have not been with the lights, but more with the large gathering of spectators and ball noise. Mr. Finn is asking the Board to approve the new layout of the design based on feedback from the coaches and community. The next community meeting is June 27 at 6:30 p.m. at TCW auditorium.

There was some Board concern about whether all community groups were being contacted, and if lights could be extended to the football field.

Ms. Ronnie Campbell moved to approve the tennis court design. Mr. Marc Williams seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous, 7-0. Ms. Kelly Booz was absent during the vote.

10. Chairman’s Report
Ms. Karen Graf encouraged new Board members to go to new School Board Orientation in July through VSBA as well as the NSBA CUBE urban school district workshop. She also reminded the Board that press may take comments from meetings, may use them out of context, so therefore comments should be said in ways that cannot be misconstrued.

11. Superintendent’s Report
Kudos to adult education, Teri Barnett, and Dr. Holmes in moving Adult Ed ahead in a positive way.

Ribbon cutting at Cora Kelly for playground took place on 6/19

Thanked Mr. Chris Lewis for his participation in the RARE program, and attendance by other Board members.

Dr. Sherman met with the new officers of the NAACP and had conversation on how to get more participation from African American and Latino families. Looking to establish homework help and tutoring. NAACP was pleased with the FACE Centers and will become more involved with that program. They were also pleased with MSAN progress and cultural competency program. Dr. Sherman encouraged all staff to become involved with NAACP, not just African Americans. Dr. Sherman will be meeting quarterly with the NAACP leadership.

Dr. Sherman explained actual enrollment and enrollment projections for the coming school years. Enrollment is expected to go over or is already over projections on many schools. Ms. Karen Graf would like to add enrollment to the agenda in August 22.

Partnership fund grant award notice has gone out listing different partners and agencies.

Thank you to Chris Lewis on Patrick Henry planning.

Middles schools work group held second meeting and report is expected July 11.
TC Williams graduation ceremony held on 6/15. Kudos to students, TC staff, and Principal Suzanne Maxey.

12. **Board Standing Committees**

**Policy Committee:**
Mr. Marc Williams reported that the policy committee worked on scope of work. Policy changes are expected in security, emergency procedures, employment policies, internet and web policies, IFA, curriculum and Instruction, bullying, and equity and excellence policies.

**Budget & Audit Committee:**
Ms. Patricia Hennig announced meeting dates are scheduled for 2nd Wednesday of the month. There is a planning meeting August 21 at 6:30 p.m.

**Operations Committee:**
Mr. Chris Lewis announced that at the first meeting the committee worked on scope of work and it is currently posted. They are looking to change the next meeting date.

**Human Resources:**
Ms. Kapsis reported that the committee worked on their scope of work at their last meeting and at the next meeting on Wednesday, June 26th.

13. **Board Members Announcements:**

Charlotte Clinger thanked the Board for the experience of serving as the Student Liaison.

Edom Tesfa thanking the Board for her reappointment and is looking forward to continuing to work with the Board and with Carter Goodwin in the coming year.

Ms. Ronnie Campbell attended the nursing program graduation program at TCW and the satellite campus awards program. Both programs should be commended. She also attended the retirement reception of Susan Yowell and Tom Fulham from the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria.

Mr. Chris Lewis: Patrick Henry planning group will be reaching out to stakeholders with the hope of meeting on July 9 at 6:00 p.m. Monday is the next installment of *What’s Next Alexandria* community meetings.

Ms. Stephanie Kapsis announced she attended a portion of the C&I team retreat. Next meeting is next week and is looking to report more to the Board.

14. **Future Meeting Dates:**
June 25—School Board Meeting
August 22—School Board Work Session.

15. **Closed Meeting and Certification of Closed Meeting, if needed**
Mr. Chris Lewis moved to convene a closed meeting pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3711 for the following purposes: (A)(1) the evaluation and performance of 30 school officials where matters regarding specific individuals might be effected by such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals; (A)(4) the protection and privacy of individuals in personnel matters not related to public business; and (A)(7) for consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff, consultants and attorneys pertaining to actual or probable litigation or other specific legal
matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel; and the acquisition of real property for a public purpose or disposition.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Ronnie Campbell. Vote was unanimous, 8-0.

Mr. Marc Williams moved that pursuant to VA Code 2.2-3712, that the Board certify 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 June 20, 2013. The motion was seconded by Ms. Pat Hennig. The vote was unanimous, 8-0.

16. Adjournment
On a motion by Ms. Stephanie Kapsis, and seconded by Ms. Kelly Booz, the Board voted unanimously, 8-0 to adjourn at 11:15 p.m.

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Ms. Karen Graf, Board Chairman  Clerk of the Board Clerk

Minutes were approved on August 22, 2013 and amended minutes were approved on November 14, 2013.