

ALEXANDRIA CITY SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
2000 N. Beauregard Street
Alexandria, VA 22311

Thursday, February 18, 2010
(7:30 PM)

Draft meeting summary

1. Call meeting to order

Chairman Folkerts called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. All Board members were present.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

William Ramsay Elementary students Stephany Vilonio, Sidrah Hamid, Syed Kaukab, and Chandler Millard led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Moment of Silence

The Board observed a moment of silence.

4. Adopt meeting agenda

Chairman Folkerts noted one item was added to the agenda, the Superintendent's recommendation to add 30 minutes to the school day to make up for lost instructional time. Mr. Wilson moved approval of the agenda. Mr. Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Communications & Addresses to the Board

Six members of the community addressed the Board on the FY 2011 budget and the Winkler Botanical Preserve.

6. Chairman's Report

The Board recognized the clerk of the board during VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

7. Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Sherman reported on the tremendous amount of work done by ACPS staff, City staff, and parents during the snow emergency and noted his full report will be posted on the web site.

Board members asked the Superintendent to discuss snow emergency plans at the next City/Schools meeting. They also asked staff to develop plans for students to keep learning and provide food to the many students who rely on ACPS food services.

Superintendent Sherman recognized Board members for their service and read a proclamation from the Governor proclaiming February School Board Appreciation month.

8. Approval of Minutes

Ms. Gorsuch moved approval of the January 21, 2010 meeting minutes. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

9. Consent Calendar

The consent calendar consisted of the following items:

- Human Resources Report
- Revised School Board Meeting Schedule, Budget Calendar, and Budget Process Resolution

Ms. Gorsuch moved approval of the consent calendar. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion.

Ms. Gorsuch moved to amend the budget calendar to change the date and time for add/deletes to February 24 at 4:00 p.m., staff will post the add/deletes on February 26, and to add a 1 hour public comment period to the March 2 add/delete work session. Ms. Carter seconded the motion. The amendment passed unanimously.

Ms. Maness requested information on the hiring process, training for substitute teachers, and monitoring and evaluation of substitutes.

Mr. Wilkins provided information on the current training for substitute teachers and will report to the Board on the assessment tools available for substitutes.

Ms Maness moved approval of the Human Resources report. Ms. Gorsuch seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Peabody moved approval of the revised budget process resolution. Ms. Campbell seconded the motion. The motion passes unanimously.

Ms. Maness moved approval of the revised meeting calendar. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board will look at rescheduling the June 17 meeting that conflicts with graduation.

Old Business and Action Items

10. Middle School Program of Studies

Mr. Peabody moved approval of the middle school program of studies. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Board members thanked the staff for the revised document.

Ms. Maness requested more detail in the descriptions and suggested adding a college prep component.

Dr. Walsh reviewed the proposed changes to the World Language program.

New Business

11. Policies IHB - Class Size, JC - School Attendance Area revisions and new policy JCD - Modified Open Enrollment

Mr. Williams discussed the revisions made to the policies by the Board policy committee. He discussed some community concerns including the need for a clear, concise policy on modified open enrollment, Board review of the policy annually, and ACPS transfer practices.

Superintendent Sherman reviewed the background information for the proposed policy revisions including increased enrollment, school capacity, class size, special programs, number of home rooms etc.

Board members requested further discussion and revisions to the opt out provisions in policies JC and JCD, review of the regulations, early community outreach to register families, opt out provision for Jefferson-Houston 5th grade students to attend George Washington or Francis Hammond, priorities for modified open enrollment students, yearly registration requirement for current administrative transfers, and order of choice in the policy, home school first, size of a school, and regulations for policy JCD.

12. Recreate Jefferson-Houston as a Focus School

Superintendent Sherman reviewed the background on the former Jefferson-Houston focus school program and the staff request for a new designation for Jefferson-Houston as a focus school for IB/PYP-MYP programs.

Board members requested information on the opt-out provision. The Board will vote on the recommendation to recreate Jefferson-Houston as a focus school at the February 25 meeting.

13. Overview of City Manager's Operating budget proposal and impact on ACPS and children.

Mr. Sina presented an overview of the City Manager's proposed FY 2011 budget.

Board members requested clarification from the City on the 4.4% increase in the legislative and executive budgets.

14. Overview of City Manager's CIP budget proposal and impact on ACPS and Children

Ms. Byes presented an overview of the ACPS portion of the City CIP including 13.5 million to ACPS, a second elementary school in the FY 2015-1016 CIP, and that all capacity projects are funded.

Ms. Byess discussed possible funding options for the unfunded portion of the CIP budget and noted that staff will bring their final recommendations to the Board in the near future.

15. Superintendent's Recommendation to Extend the School Day by 30 Minutes

Ms. David reviewed the options discussed with staff:

- Restore only the amount of time needed to meet state requirements
- Use a combination of spring break days and days at the end of the year
- Restore instructional time by adding minutes to the instructional days

She noted that SOL writing testing for grades 5, 8 and 11 has been moved to March 9 and 10.

Ms. David presented the staff recommendation for adjustments to the 2009-2010 academic calendar including:

- Use current make up days April 16, May 28, and June 23
- Beginning March 1, 2010 and continuing through May 28, 2010 add 30 minutes to the K-12 instructional day.

Board members requested information on using the half days at the end of the year, snacks for elementary students, quality and quantity of time, at what part of the day will the 30 minutes to be added, who is accountable for the quality of the work during the additional time, and the starting date of March 1.

The Superintendent will ask faculties to give a report to the Board on the way they use the end of year half days.

He noted that 3 options have been discussed with staff on the where the 30 minutes will be added, end of the day, 15 minutes each in the morning and afternoon, or some variation of times.

The Board will vote on the recommended adjustments to the academic calendar at the February 25 meeting.

16. Board Member Announcements

Ms. Maness reported on the SHAB webinar and noted that many programs are available for ACPS students at the Charles Houston Recreation Center.

17. Future Meeting Dates

February 18-19, 2010, VSBA Legislative Conference, Richmond, VA
February 22, 2010, 5:00 p.m., City/Schools Meeting, ACPS Central Office
February 22, 2010, 7:00 p.m., School Board Budget Work Session
February 25, 2010, 7:30 p.m., FY2011 Budget Public Hearing & School Board Meeting
March 2, 2010, 7:00 p.m., School Board Add-Delete Work Session
March 4, 2010, 6:00 p.m., School Board Work Session - ACPS Coaching Model
March 4, 2010, 7:00 p.m., School Board Final Add-Delete session & called meeting for Budget Adoption
March 11, 2010, 7:30 p.m., School Board Meeting
March 15, 2010, 7:00 P.M., City Council-School Board Joint Budget Work Session
March 17, 2010, 7:00 p.m., School Board Work Session - Superintendent Goals
March 22, 2010, 5:00 p.m., City/Schools Meeting, City Hall
March 25, 2010, 7:30 p.m., School Board Meeting
March 29 - April 2, 2010, Spring Break

19. Closed Meeting & Certification of Closed Meeting (if needed)

The clerk read the motion to convene a closed meeting to discuss three personnel items pursuant to Virginia Code 2.2-3711 A. (1). Ms. Gorsuch moved approval of the motion. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gorsuch moved to certify the closed meeting. Mr. Wilson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Gorsuch moved that the Board approve the resolution of the employee grievance discussed in closed meeting on the terms recommended by the school board attorney, and authorize the Superintendent or his designee to execute any documents necessary to effectuate that resolution. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Peabody was not present at the closed meeting.

20. Adjourn meeting

Ms. Gorsuch moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Morris seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:54 a.m., February 19, 2010.