



RICHMOND
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Rezoning & Facilities Planning

Update for the Richmond City School Board

Presented by: Darin Simmons, Jr., Chief Operating Officer

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Venue: Richmond City School Board Meeting

Date: April 8, 2019

Revised Goals based on Board Feedback

1. **Engage the community by:**
 - Providing multiple authentic opportunities for all stakeholders to share their ideas and provide feedback
 - Creating an advisory body of community representatives to help guide the process
 - Engaging local historians and other community leaders
 - Reviewing and leveraging past rezoning efforts

2. **Develop new zones for RPS schools that improve the student experience by:**
 - Alleviating overcrowding and minimizing, if not eliminating, the use of trailers
 - Planning for future student population trends and future development
 - Expediting student placement in modern facilities after rezoning through a variety of measures including new school construction, as well as potential consolidations and closures (*revised*)
 - Ensuring safe, equitable, and more timely transportation; and leveraging natural boundaries when possible
 - Increasing student diversity of all kinds within schools

3. **Develop a plan for the disposition of vacant and non-instructional (owned/rented) properties in an effort to:**
 - Raise funds for new school construction
 - Develop mutually beneficial partnerships with Richmond cultural institutions
 - Focus more time, energy, and money on our core work: teaching and learning

4. **Update the RPS Facilities Plan based on Goals 1, 2, and 3.**

Committees: Administration Proposal

Committee 1: Rezoning Advisory Committee (RAC)

- Composition
 - 3 Board Members
 - 2 community appointees from each Board Member
 - 3 appointees from the Administration
- Purpose
 - Guide the demographics firm, based on the Board's adopted goals, in developing 3-5 proposals for consideration by the School Board and the community
 - Iterate on the initial proposals based on feedback from the School Board and community
- Meeting frequency: twice per month

Committee 2: Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplussed Property Committee (VPC)

- Composition
 - 3 Board Members
 - Up to 5 subject matter experts appointed by the Administration
- Purpose:
 - Compile a list of all vacant, non-instructional, and surplussed properties
 - Determine legal title holder and current estimated value of all such properties
 - Explore and document different financial mechanisms to maximize benefit to RPS if such properties were to be sold or redeveloped (e.g., historic tax credits, opportunity zone credits, etc.)
 - Clarify and document the steps necessary to sell or redevelop such properties
 - Note: This committee would make no recommendations; it would only gather and present information
- Meeting frequency: twice per month