



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

Carolyn T. Rye, Chair
District 5 - Lynnhaven

Kimberly A. Melnyk, Vice Chair
District 7 – Princess Anne

Beverly M. Anderson
At-Large

Sharon R. Felton
District 6 – Beach

Jennifer S. Franklin
District 2 – Kempsville

Dorothy M. Holtz
At-Large

Laura K. Hughes
At-Large

Victoria C. Manning
At-Large

Jessica L. Owens
District 3 – Rose Hall

Trenace B. Riggs
District 1 – Centerville

Carolyn D. Weems
District 4 - Bayside

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent

School Board Special Meeting MINUTES **Tuesday, March 1, 2022**

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
P.O. Box 6038
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
(757) 263-1000

1. **Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye stated in accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings amended and approved by the School Board at their January 25, 2021 Regular Meeting, and pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and Virginia Code § 2.2-3707, called the special meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. on the 1st day of March 2022 in the School Board Chambers in the School Administration Building #6 at the Municipal Center, 2512 George Mason Dr., Virginia Beach, VA 23456. The purpose of this special meeting is for:

1. A Public Hearing for citizens to express their views on the Proposed School Operating Budget FY 2022-23 and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2022-23 – FY 2027-28.
2. FY 2022-23 School Board Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2022-23 – FY 2027-2028 Capital Improvement Program-discussion by School Board and School Administration.

Also, it is determined that physical distancing will be used in School Board Chambers as a health mitigation strategy. Members of the public will also be able to observe the Special School Board Meeting through livestreaming on www.vbschools.com, broadcast on VBT Channel 47, and on Zoom.

The following members were present in the School Board chambers: Chairwoman Rye, Vice Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens (arrived at 5:04 p.m.), Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board member was not in attendance: Ms. Manning due to a health matter.

2. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the agenda. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Holtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Vice Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. Note: Ms. Owens was not present at the time of the vote; she arrived at 5:04 p.m.
4. **Public Hearing for citizens to express their views on the proposed Fiscal Year 2022-23 Proposed Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2022-23 through Fiscal Year 2027-28:** Chairwoman Rye announced the public hearing portion of the meeting and stated each citizen has three minutes to present and remarks are concerning the budget. There were three (3) in person speakers; topics discussed were ESL funding and increases; how to sustain budget; areas for budget cuts; ESL budget; teacher salary; pay gaps; and health benefit costs.
5. **Discussion: School Board Budget Workshop for FY 2022-23 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2022-23 – FY 2027-28:** Crystal Pate, Chief Financial Officer, presented information to the School Board members: provided a General Assembly update; highlights included:
 - House and Senate each passed their own budgets February 24
 - Senate version spends about \$2.2 billion on 5% pay raises in each year for state and
 - state-supported local employees, including teachers, plus \$1,000 one-time bonuses
 - House bill allocates about \$1.7 billion for 4% raises each year plus two 1% bonuses
 - Both chambers' plans include substantial deposits to the Virginia Retirement System, as well as the state's reserves

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- House calls for \$150 million in funding for “lab schools,” where colleges and universities partner with K-12 school systems
- Both chambers’ plans provide extra funding for an “at-risk add on program” that sends money to districts with high percentages of students living in poverty, though the House offers comparatively less
- Both chambers’ plan provides some funding for school construction and modernization, with the Senate offering \$500 million in one-time grants and the House adopting an approximately \$542 million loan rebate program to help districts pay off borrowing for such projects

The primary focus of the FY2022-23 proposed operating budget is compensation (raises, reclassifications, increased allowances, and better health premiums); estimated additional revenue approximately \$47 million; reviewed compensation items proposed to be funded in the budget, approximately \$47 million:

- \$28 million to provide a 4.5% increase in cost-of-living adjustment and a 0.5% step increase for those reaching or below top of scale
- \$8.5 million to improve the division’s health insurance ranking
- \$2.6 million to increase teacher substitute rate from \$100 to \$115 a day
- \$2.4 million to reclassify teacher assistants to the minimum of grade 10
- \$1.6 million for equity adjustments as a result of moving teacher assistants to grade 10
- \$1.3 million to increase allowances for advanced degrees (phased-in at 30%)
- \$1.1 million to convert 10-month custodians to 12-month
- \$1.0 million to reclassify security assistants to grade 10 with full equity
- \$445,000 additional cost for teacher assistants and security assistants holding a bachelor’s degree (phased-in at 50%)
- \$119,000 to reclassify Renaissance security assistant and security officers to grade 11

Ms. Pate reviewed some general questions; using CIP funding for compensation – the following are not an instrument for compensation cost: bonds, Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) funding, energy performance contract funding, reversion fund; reviewed the state-mandated expenditure categories: instruction; administration, attendance, and health; pupil transportation; operations and maintenance; and technology; reviewed items that are part of the administrative, attendance, and health category; the largest type of expenditure in the category is personnel and benefits, the budget is approximately \$45 million; the presentation continued with comments and questions regarding percentage of budget on employees; reclassification of teacher assistants and costs; health insurance, approximately \$8.5 million investment to reduce employees’ premiums approximately 40%-50%, currently working on rates; premiums compared to other divisions; suggestion of recovery program to be presented at School Board summer retreat; mental health task force. Chairwoman Rye mentioned the budgets will be on the March 8th agenda as action items; thanks to budget department staff for all their hard work; Ms. Pate introduced and thanked the members of the staff.

6. Adjournment: Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair