



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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At-Large

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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 Regular Meeting MINUTES Tuesday, April 5, 2022

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

- 1. Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:** Chairwoman Rye convened the administrative, informal, and workshop session at 4:01 p.m. on the 5th day of April 2022 and announced members of the public will be able to observe the School Board meeting through live streaming on vbschools.com, broadcast on VBTV Channel 47 and on Zoom. It is the School Board's protocol to break at 5:30 p.m. to prepare for the Formal Session at 6:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., the School Board will conclude unless the School Board votes to continue to no later than 5:45 p.m. to allow the School Board and the School Administration to prepare for the Formal Session of the School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The following School Board members were present in the School Board chamber: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz (arrived at 4:08 p.m.), Ms. Hughes, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board members attended the meeting via Zoom: Vice Chair Melnyk (health reasons – logged into Zoom at 4:11 p.m.) and Ms. Owens (logged into Zoom at 4:39 p.m.) Note: Ms. Manning was not present at the administrative, informal, and workshop session.

- A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chairwoman Rye opened the floor for any discussion. Superintendent Spence mentioned Ms. Natalie Allen, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer not in attendance at the meeting and the reason (birth of child).
- B. **Transportation Updates:** Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer provided the School Board information regarding the challenges to recruit and retain bus drivers and the recommended course of action; reviewed some of the challenges: 610 bus driver allocations and 455 current bus drivers, 60-75 current daily absences or FMLA, 380 of 610 drivers available on a daily basis; reviewed hiring and training challenge: must hire and train 140 drivers, historical CDL training completion rate is 60%, 4-6 weeks from start of training to completing CDL, limited training opportunities; recent recruit/retain efforts: increased step from U08 to U09 (2014), increased from U09 to U10 (2021), \$1000 incentive implemented (Dec 2021), \$2500 incentive implemented (Jan 2021) – 24 drivers completed training – 30 drivers quit/retired/terminated, \$750 recruitment incentive – one first time payment of \$375 awarded and zero second payments awarded; reviewed service delivery modifications options: efficiency improvements, compensate parents to transport their children, Uber and Lyft, parent ride shares and carpools, options have risks and liability concerns, use hub system for academy transportation, create a centralized center for Early Childcare Special Education, expand non-transportation zones, discontinue academy transportation.

Not recommended approach but may be necessary – discontinue academy transportation: could save 110 drivers and 121 buses, annual projected budget savings \$3.8 million; negative impact: equity concerns, academies will not be available to students of families who lack transportation; shared video from Chesterfield County Public

Schools – added 217 drivers in 7 months; shared recommendation – modify compensation: bus drivers move from U10 to U13, give year-for-year service credit to individuals hired with verifiable commercial driving experience, pay all expenses of becoming an employee, pay bus drivers in training, bus driver trainer move from U11 to U14, dispatchers move from U11 to U14, increase incentive pay from \$8.50 per run to \$10.00 per run, pros: demonstrated success with similar plan, continues service for academy students, funding can be supported by ESR grants, cons: budget impacts (\$9.0 million annually), no guarantee plan will work.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding employee exit survey; benefits; like plan presented; paid for training; parent request for transportation – signing up for transportation; non-transportation zones; budget impact; centralized center for Early Childhood Special Education; guidance from School Board regarding opportunities (centralized center and expand non-transportation zones); number of ECSE students.

- C. **School Resource Officer (SRO) Update:** Thomas DeMartini, Director of Safe Schools provided the School Board an update on the School Resource Office (SRO) Program; background of SRO Program, longstanding collaboration, student interaction, SRO roles and responsibilities; staffing shortages – VBPD down 87 Officers, SRO displacement, some SROs to be reassigned; mitigation strategies – displacement considerations: proximity and size of school, SRO sharing, planned patrols; SROs are critical, significantly reduces response time in critical situations; security assistants – allow former VBPD staff members already employed as security assistants to be armed, approximately 15 security assistants meet current state law and VBCPS policy mandates regarding firearms carry; reviewed security enhancement plan: establish standards and implement training, vetting, equip appropriately, compensation enhanced.

The presentation continued with comments and questions regarding meeting the needs of SROs; security assistants and firearms; need to keep student safe and being proactive; Police Department criteria for retirement; how other districts are handling issue; insurance coverage; support of SROs in schools; possible use of military, statutes for law enforcements not military; will share any additional information.

- D. **School Administration Building & Holland Road Annex:** Melisa Ingram, Executive Director of Facilities provided the School Board information on upcoming improvements at the School Administration Building and the utilization of Holland Road Annex as a swing space; reviewed upcoming improvements to the School Administration Building: move building off City's hot water loop, HVAC improvements, new boiler, electrical modifications and ventilation improvements; staff will be temporarily working out of Holland Road Annex, October/November – end of school year; School Board meetings – recommendation: use of auditorium at Holland Road Annex – technology already set-up, plenty of seating, public access, VBTV will be available, accommodations for workshops and other meeting spaces nearby.

The presentation continued with comments and questions regarding building (old Kellam High School); other locations for School Board meetings; transit system and bus stop near Holland Road Annex; technology needs; Capital Improvement Program; bid and contract timeline; move from School Administration Building.

2. **Closed Session:** None during the administrative, information, and workshop session. See agenda item #18.
3. **School Board Recess:** Chairwoman Rye adjourned the administrative, informal, and workshop session at 5:24 p.m.
4. **Formal Meeting (School Board Chambers)**
5. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye convened the meeting of the School Board in the School Board chamber at 6:00 p.m. on the 5th day of April 2022 and noted members of the public will be able to observe the School Board meeting through livestreaming on vbschools.com, broadcast on VBTV Channel 47, and on Zoom.

The following School Board members were present in the School Board chamber: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board members attended the meeting via Zoom: Vice Chair Melnyk (health reasons), and Ms. Owens (personal reasons).

6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** Ms. Weems shared some special remarks regarding former Superintendent, Dr. Timothy Jenney who passed away April 4, 2022.

7. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition

- A. Ocean Lakes High School - VHSL Hall of Fame Induction: The School Board recognized Dr. Claire LeBlanc, Principal at Ocean Lakes High School who was recently inducted into the Virginia High School Hall of Fame for her lifetime of recognitions related to coaching girls volleyball, field hockey and basketball at Green Run, Princess Anne, and Frank W. Cox High Schools.
- B. Kempsville High School – Virginia State DECA Competition: The School Board recognized the following students who placed first in the Financial Services Team Decision Making event at the DECA State Leadership Conference: Evan Nied, a senior in the Entrepreneurship and Business Academy at Kempsville High School, and Mary Casper, a senior in the Entrepreneurship and Business Academy at Kempsville High School. They will also represent Kempsville High School and Virginia Beach Schools at the International Career Development Conference in Atlanta, GA in April 2022.

8. Adoption of the Agenda: Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the April 5, 2022 agenda. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the adoption of the agenda. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

9. Superintendent’s Report: There was no report presented at the meeting.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. March 22, 2022 Regular School Board Meeting: Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the March 22, 2022 regular School Board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the March 22, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Ms. Hughes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

11. Public Hearing on Disposition of School Board Owned Property (Laskin Road Annex): Chairwoman Rye announced the School Board will hear public comment on the disposition of School Board owned property, Laskin Road Annex and mentioned information regarding speaking time. There was one (1) in person speaker for the public hearing.

12. Public Comments (until 8:00 p.m.): Chairwoman Rye announced the School Board will hear public comments on matters relevant to PreK-12 public education in Virginia Beach and the business of the School Board and the School Division from citizens and delegations who signed up with the School Board Clerk prior to the meeting. Chairwoman Rye mentioned information regarding speaker process, decorum and order, and submitting comments via group email.

There were eighteen (18) in person speakers and five (5) online speakers; topics discussed were textbook selection; plan for safe schools; parental rights; textbook adoption; Equity survey; CRT; SEL; curriculum; cyberbullying; English curriculum; quality education; reading levels; online textbook vs. hardcopy textbook; Reading Specialists and Math Specialist; surveys and gathering data.

The public comments ended at 7:28 p.m.

13. Information

- A. Resolution Regarding Additional Grant Funding for FY 2021-2022: The administration recommends approval of the Resolution regarding Additional Grant Funding for FY2021-2022. Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

Additional Grant Funding for FY 2021/22

WHEREAS, the City of Virginia Beach’s adopted Budget Ordinance for the current fiscal year appropriated funds to the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, the Schools have budgeted an amount of \$204,198,866 in the current fiscal year FY 2021/22 in the Categorical Grants fund; and

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WHEREAS, this budgeted amount in the Categorical Grants fund is \$17,230,117 short of the amount needed to fund five new American Rescue Plan (ARP) awards and a proposed amendment to the Early Reading Initiative state grant as outlined in HB29/SB29; and

WHEREAS, examples of the proposed spending plan for the Early Reading Initiative state grant includes tutoring and related instructional support in the classroom; and

WHEREAS, examples of the proposed spending plans for the five ARP awards (ARP Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds, ARP Unfinished Learning, ARP Before and After School Programs, ARP Summer Learning, and ARP Homeless Children and Youth) include HVAC replacement and renovations, stipends for reading and math teachers, instructional materials and supplies, additional instructional staffing before and after school, web-based STEM activities, transportation, summer school staffing, social emotional support through CHKD's bridge program, and case management and school supplies for homeless children and youth respectively; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach requests an additional appropriation of \$17,230,117 into the Categorical Grants fund; and

WHEREAS, appropriations of funds must be approved by the City Council prior to the expenditure of funds by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach approves and affirms the necessary appropriation and recommended uses of these funds; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach requests an additional appropriation of \$17,230,117 into the Categorical Grants fund; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be spread across the official minutes of this School Board, and the Clerk of the School Board is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor, each member of the City Council, the City Manager, and the City Clerk.

Crystal Pate, Chief Financial Officer provided additional information regarding grant funding; received five New American Rescue Plan grant awards, totaling approximately \$15.8 million; not appropriated in the categorical grants fund; about \$1.4 million relates to early reading initiative grant; requesting the City to appropriate the funds into the categorical grant funds account; funds came in after the budget was adopted; cannot spend funds until the City appropriates the funds. The presentation continued with comments and questions regarding City Council and the funds; outcome if funds are not appropriated; distinction between local dollars and grant funds; any additional questions can be directed to Ms. Pate before the next meeting.

- B. Technology and Career Education Carl Perkins SY 2023 Grant: Sara Lockett, Ed.D., Director, Office of Technical and Career Education provided the School Board with information regarding the Local Plan and Budget for Perkins Grant Funding for Career and Technical Education 2022-2023; noted VBCPS must approve and submit a Perkins V Local Plan and Budget for Career and Technical Education annually; reviewed performance measures for Career & Technical Programs: academic achievement, technical skill attainment, attainment of postsecondary credentials, non-traditional career preparation, participation in work-based learning, secondary school completion, post-secondary placement; reviewed a breakdown of budget submission for 2022-23 with a total of \$943,244.12; noted plan was developed with input from members of the General Advisory Council for Technical and Career Education and has been approved by that body.

14. Return to public comments if needed: As noted above, public comments ended at 7:28 p.m.

- 15. Consent Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye read the items on the Consent Agenda.
- A. 2022-23 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow Through Application: Recommendation that the School Board approve the 2022-23 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application.
 - B. New Course Proposals:
 1. Journalism IV: Recommendation that the School Board approve the proposed course Journalism IV and corresponding standards for implementation during the 2022-2023 school year.
 - C. Recommendation of General Contractor:
 1. Bayside Elementary School Roof Replacement: Recommendation that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with TST Tactical Defense Solutions, Inc. dba TST Roofing for the Bayside Elementary School Roof Replacement in the amount of \$1,921,836.
 2. Green Run High School Tennis Court: Recommendation that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Eurovia Atlantic Coast LLC dba Virginia Paving Company for the Green Run High School Tennis Court Replacement in the amount of \$555,000.
 3. Ocean Lakes High School Roof and Partial HVAC Replacement: Recommendation that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with A. R. Chesson Construction Company, Inc. for the Ocean Lakes High School Roof and Partial HVAC Replacement Phase I and Fire Alarm Replacement in the amount of \$7,814,315.
 - D. Policy Review Recommendations: Recommendation that the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment, and repeal of certain bylaws and policies as reviewed by the PRC at its March 10, 2022 meeting.
 1. Policy 7-5/ News: Division Wide and Individual School: The PRC recommends scrivener's changes and updating office titles.
 2. Policy 7-14/ Advertising in Schools: The PRC recommends changes to reflect current practice and procedures.
 3. Policy 7-40/ Performance of Students: The PRC recommends scrivener's changes.
 4. Policy 7-41/ Contests for Students: The PRC recommends scrivener's changes.
 5. Policy 7-45/ Recognition of Students and Staff by the School Board: The PRC recommends formatting the Policy to be consistent with current policy and regulation formatting, new language added to reflect current procedures.
 6. Policy 7-52/ Use of School Board Equipment/ Use of School Buses: The PRC recommends changes to include language from the Virginia Code and scrivener's changes.
 7. Policy 7-55/ Fees for Use of School Facilities: The PRC recommends scrivener's changes.
 8. Policy 7-56/ Concession Stands on School Property: The PRC recommends scrivener's changes and language update to reflect current procedures.

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Hughes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz. Chairwoman Rye called for vote to approve the Consent Agenda items as presented. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

16. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the April 5, 2022 personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Hughes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson that the School Board approve the appointments and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the April 5, 2022 personnel report along with administrative appointments as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.
Superintendent Spence introduced the following: Maureen E. Fanelli, Assistant Principal, Pembroke Meadows Elementary School as Principal, Salem Elementary School; and Robert B. Jamison, Coordinator of Guidance, Office of Student Support Services as Executive Director Student Support Services, Office of Student Support Services.
- B. Textbook Adoption: Secondary English Textbooks: Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the Textbook Adoption: Secondary English Textbooks to open topic for discussion. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson.

Kipp Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer, Department of Teaching and Learning provided the School Board with additional information regarding the textbook adoption; Dr. Rogers mentioned several colleagues present (Angela Seiders, Executive Director Secondary, Department of Teaching and Learning; Secondary English Coordinators: Cameron Vadersen-Jacob and Britani Kerns); staff from Actively Learn, Ms. Jessica Bell; Dr. Rogers reviewed the need for a digital textbook: last adoption in 2014, current digital resource access ended June 2021, customizable to fit our needs, aligned to Standards, user friendly for teachers and students; overview of differences between digital textbook and physical textbooks; briefly reviewed the textbook adoption process; reviewed the top two resources selected by committee; considerations: curricular goals, usability, support, equity, multiple perspectives; reviewed data from stakeholder input – top choice; briefly discussed second option (Into Literature); Actively Learn – committee recommended: top recommendation, 24,000+ novels, plays, short stories, poems, 650+ news and high-interest articles, option to customize; benefits of Actively Learn: engaging for students, ease of use for teachers, customizable district library; supports for students: adaptive texts, support for ESL students, text-to-speech translations in over 100 languages, annotations, read-aloud feature; Actively Learn – access to content: curriculum units are optional, school divisions can curate a customizable collection of pre-approved tests and resources, teachers only have access to what is approved by the division, students only have access to what teachers assign; reviewed concerns; noted district library is customizable, poll questions are optional and editable questions, data not stored or shared; reviewed estimated implementation costs for approximately 35,300 students (\$18.00 per student per year); Ms. Bell, staff representative from Actively Learn, provided a live demonstration of the product.

The presentation continued with comments and questions regarding program; for secondary students; customizable to the classroom and teacher has to assign; other districts that use the program; customized to meet the needs of VBCPS; cost; polling questions; issues with content; reading aloud feature; literacy concerns; user friendly; curriculum needs to be seen by parents; collecting information; support for online textbook; other digital resources being used; teacher use of other resources; online resource aligned with curriculum; screen time is a concern; read aloud function and IEP; need balance between digital material and print material; book being inclusive; resource for ESL students; implementation of program and training for teachers.

Without further discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote on the textbook adoption. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Vice Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There were three (3) nays opposed to the motion: Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 8-3-0.

- 17. *Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Ms. Riggs mentioned the tickets for the Sister City Youth Ambassador Gala on April 22, Zeiders Theater at 6:30 p.m.; Ms. Franklin mentioned the GRC Gala and fundraising, thanked the supporters; Ms. Felton mentioned the meeting with the General Advisory Council for the Technology and Career Education on Wednesday, tour at Landstown High School and the student event (carnival), podcast; Ms. Franklin also mentioned the Kellam High School theater department and their musical; Ms. Riggs mentioned the Pearls of Wisdom event, fundraiser for the VBEF (Virginia Beach Education Foundation); Chairwoman Rye mentioned the musical production at Princess Anne High School, Governance Committee meeting will meet tomorrow at 1:00 p.m.

The formal meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.

- 18. *Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs, that that the School Board recess into Closed Session to deliberate on the following matters:

1. A closed meeting pursuant to the exemptions from open meetings allowed by Section 2.2-3711, Part A, Paragraphs 7 and 8, as amended,
 - A.7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to

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permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter and

- A.8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

Namely to discuss:

1. Status of an investigation.

There were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into closed session: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. Note: Vice Chair Melnyk and Ms. Owens were attending the meeting via Zoom and did not participate in the closed session.

Individuals present for discussion in the order in which matters were discussed:

A7. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL

A8. CONSULTATION WITH LEGAL COUNSEL:

1. Status of an investigation: School Board members: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney; David Din, Chief Information Officer; Superintendent Spence; Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the Board.

The School Board reconvened at 9:59 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Ms. Anderson read the Certification of Closed Session:

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered.

Ms. Riggs made the motion for the Certification of Closed Session, seconded by Ms. Manning. There were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed 9-0-0.

- 19. Adjournment:** Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 10:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair