



# 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

**Daniel D. Edwards**  
District 2 – Kempsville

**Sharon R. Felton**  
District 6 – Beach

**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, September 22, 2020**

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center  
2512 George Mason Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

#### **INFORMAL MEETING**

- 1. Convene School Board Workshop:** Chairwoman Rye convened the School Board workshop at 3:31 p.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2020 and announced pursuant to the State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor’s Executive Orders, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended by the Virginia General Assembly and the School Board’s April 7, 2020 Emergency Resolution, the School Board and selected staff members will meet in person at the School Administration Building however, at this this time it is impractical and unsafe to allow other persons to attend the School Board Meeting due to physical distancing and safety precautions related to the pandemic. Members of the public will be able to observe the School Board Meeting through livestreaming on [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com), broadcast on VBT Channel 47, and on Zoom.

The following School Board members were present in the School Board chambers: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Felton, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs and Ms. Owens. The following School Board member was attending the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Weems.

Ms. Holtz made a statement regarding her medical condition and wearing a mask. Ms. Holtz stated she would be leaving the School Board chambers and be participating in the meeting via Zoom in another part of the School Administration Building.

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Ms. Anderson mentioned the VSBA (Virginia School Boards Association) Legislative Advocacy Conference scheduled for September 24, 2020 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The conference is via Zoom and can be viewed at the School Administration Building. Chairwoman Rye stated the School Adoption list will be distributed within the next few days.

Chairwoman Rye announced a change in the order of workshop presentations in which item 1E: Digital Learning One-to-One Evaluation Update would be presented first.

- B. Digital Learning One-to-One Evaluation Update:** The presenter was Robert A. Veigel, M.S., Research Specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability. Mr. Veigel began with the program background and overview; in 2015-2016 the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative (1:1 DLI) began in 11 schools; 2018-2019 expanded to all schools; students in grades 1-12 issued an HP Chromebook with grades 5-12 allowed to take Chromebooks home; staffing to support 1:1 DLI included at least 1 full-time ITS (instructional technology specialist) and TST (technology support technician) per school; hotspot devices available to students in need of internet access.

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Purpose of the evaluation update was to monitor the progress of the 1:1 Digital Learning Initiative; data collected from four groups: students in grades 3-5 (22% response rate), teachers (43% response rate), technology support technicians (53% response rate), and administrative staff (64% response rate); one focus of evaluation update was alignment with best practices and there were eight components: student-centered learning\*, technology integration and immersion\*, professional learning\*, equity\*, effective leadership\*, stakeholder engagement\*\*, infrastructure\*\*, usage policies (\* indicates staff agreement rate of at least 80% at each school level for all staff groups surveyed and \*\* indicates staff agreement rates at least 77% at each school level for all staff groups surveyed).

Teacher outcomes established for the 1:1 DLI included: providing authentic learning, empowering student choice, creating personalized learning experiences, and professional growth; overall at least 90% of teachers who responded agreed with statements related to teacher outcomes; student outcomes included: active partners in learning (78%-85% students agreed), gaining global perspective (63%-71% students agreed), collaboration (49%-69% students agreed), academic mastery and growth (at least 72% students agreed), responsible and ethical digital citizenship (80%-92% students agreed); 1:1 DLI and school closure: at least 88% of students at each school level used school-assigned device to complete their schoolwork; teacher perceptions to 1:1 DLI and school closure: at least half of their students consistently participated in remote learning (78%-87%), students engaged in remote learning (88%-96%); satisfaction with the 1:1 DLI during 2019-2020: 92% teachers, 96% administration staff, and 96% TSTs; 80% high school students to 92% of elementary students were satisfied with their assigned device.

The presentation continued with Mr. David Din, Chief Information Officer addressed access to digital education resources; 500 hotspots distributed in April; outdoor wi-fi access in schools; continue to work with local groups to develop answers to unique situations; Mr. Din introduced Kipp Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer. Dr. Rogers discussed digital learning; Schoology has been beneficial; will continue to support digital and student-centered learning; student collaboration will continue to be a focus of professional learning; students are collaborating with Google products (Google docs and Google slides); Zoom breakout rooms; collaborative whiteboard applications (Jamboard); use of Padlet. Dr. Rogers then opened the discussion for any questions.

The discussion continued regarding the number of Hotspots needed, there are approximately 350 Hotspots needed and enough are available to meet the need; question regarding safe learning centers providing reliable internet access for low income students and how many students; VBCPS focus was to serve staff and the city operated centers focus was for first responders; centers in tri-campus area for low income families; need to research numbers for enrollment.

- C. Forecast of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Topics FY21, 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter: October, November, and December 2020: The presenter was Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff. Dr. Bergin highlighted upcoming workshop topics; October: water testing update, open educational resources; budget items; November: only one meeting, legislative agenda, special education; December: Human Resources annual recruitment and retention, for second School Board meeting in December no workshop planned but can add a topic at the discretion of the School Board. The discussion continued with a request to include a workshop/information update on the reopening of schools at the October 13, 2020 meeting; BASE program; cell phone policy.
- D. Updates on the Reopening of Schools: The presenters were Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff; Kipp Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer; David Din, Chief Information Officer; Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer; and Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer.
- Dr. Bergin gave a presentation overview including list of presenters; CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) new guidance for schools; VBCPS has same two measures – percentage of positivity and number of new cases and mitigation strategies: use of masks, social distancing, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and disinfection, and contact tracing in collaboration with the local health department; comparison of health metrics; reviewed percent positivity rate and 7-day rolling average of new cases; Dr. Bergin introduced Dr. Rogers.

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Dr. Rogers continued the presentation with the update on the return of special education students on September 22, 2020; approximately 1200 students returned to school; students will receive their special education and related services face-to-face and participate virtually with their peers in the general education setting; face-to-face learning to take place Tuesday through Thursday as planned; professional learning for teachers focused on concurrent teaching (face-to-face and virtually); use of existing technology; school-based ITS (instructional technology specialist) will provide training; after-school technology support from 6:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m., Monday through Thursday via VBCPS chat feature on website; Dr. Rogers introduced Mr. Din.

Mr. Din provided a technology update; new technology – the chat feature on website, allows real time chat with individuals and provides support after hours; expanded technology helpdesk and support hours – Monday through Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Friday from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; extended 1:1 program to Kindergarten and Pre-K; distributed 500 hotspots; ClassLink application portal; Zoom for students and staff; replaced 11,000 Chromebooks as part of the annual device replacement program; projects for the remainder of the year: install 295 new interactive panels, distribute 500 additional hotspots, distribute almost 4,700 new instructional laptops, and outdoor wi-fi; Mr. Din introduced Mr. Freeman.

Mr. Freeman provided an update on the HVAC systems; systems functioning as designed; reference CDC recommendations and consult with local HVAC professionals; minimize setback temperatures; guidelines to schools when to open windows to increase ventilation; preventative maintenance – detailed assessment of how each system is performing and make corrections as required; signage in common areas; Mr. Freeman introduced Dr. Robertson.

Dr. Robertson discussed some on going dilemmas with scheduling and staffing – new enrollees, students in singleton classes with a teacher who requires a virtual environment, option 2 staff preferences, how to feed students safely; working on challenges with Old Donation School (ODS) – four new teacher allocations, grade 6 middle school teaching team agreed to teach in-person and virtual students simultaneously, using other classrooms; select group of students with disabilities returned to school; students in grades PreK-2 assigned classes and Option 1 students scheduled to return September 29; finalizing plans for students in grades 3-5 to return October 6 and students in grades 6 and 9 to return October 8; continue to work on vacancies; offer stipend (ES, MS, HS); extra block allowance (MS, HS); central VLC class; providing professional learning series for teachers. Chairwoman Rye opened the floor for any questions.

The discussion continued regarding synching schoology and synergy – looking into this process; use of Zoom and Google Meet in regard to breakout rooms; teacher shortages/vacancies and hires; classrooms for Art and PE; manipulative materials and health mitigations; restroom breaks and using restrooms in classroom; use of specialists to fill teacher positions; difference between stipend and block allowance; SAT dates and testing sites; use of technology and seeing all students in the Zoom classroom – based on CPU of the laptop not screen size; paper and pencil materials for some students; meeting the needs of special education students; transportation services; work with COVID cases on a case by case basis; teacher option requests.

Chairwoman Rye stated the conclusion of the discussion and listed the School Board members still in the queue for questions. She then introduced the next workshop presentation.

- E. Immersion and World Languages Update: The presenter was Nicole M. DeVries, Ph.D., Director, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs. Dr. DeVries gave an overview of the program and the Spanish Immersion Program; reviewed graduation requirements; language offerings; global studies and the World Language Academy at Tallwood High School – 3 major themes: global issues, global systems, and global cultures; opportunities for exchange programs and travel tours; biliteracy seal – 337 awarded in 2019; Six Advanced Placement courses; summer language opportunities; Spanish Immersion Programs at Christopher Farms ES, Alanton ES, Trantwood ES, Landstown MS, and Great Neck MS; use 50/50 model in elementary schools; Mrs. Charlene Garran, Principal at Alanton Elementary School and Ms. Isabel Perez, Second Grade Teacher at Alanton Elementary School shared their experiences with the program; cross-school collaboration – professional learning, development of proficiency benchmarks and benchmark assessments, learning walks, open houses, summer immersion bootcamp; program expansion – dual language immersion.

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The discussion continued with positive comments from the School Board members regarding the program; past visits to the schools; expanding the program; waiting list for program; questions about high school level you can contact Dr. DeVries.

Chairwoman Rye adjourned the workshop at 5:42 p.m.

**2. Closed Meeting: NONE**

**FORMAL MEETING**

- 3. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the formal meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of September 2020 announced pursuant to the State of Emergency related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor's Executive Orders, the Virginia Freedom of Information Act as amended by the Virginia General Assembly and the School Board's April 7, 2020 Emergency Resolution, the School Board and selected staff members will meet in person at the School Administration Building, however, at this time it is impractical and unsafe to allow other persons to attend the School Board Meeting due to physical distancing and safety precautions related to the pandemic. Members of the public will be able to observe the School Board Meeting through livestreaming on [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com), broadcast on VBTV Channel 47, and on Zoom.

The following School Board members were present in the School Board chambers: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Felton, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Mr. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The following School Board members were participating via Zoom: Ms. Holtz and Ms. Weems.

**4. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**

**5. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognitions - NONE**

- 6. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the agenda. There being none, Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. Felton. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

- 7. Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Spence shared the following information: 1) NAS Oceana Fifth Grade Virtual Air Show and STEM Day, students watched videos of tactical jets, engaged in lessons, learned about the work and accomplishments of local military and STEM professionals; 2) Ms. Meghann Scott was recognized as the Virginia Gifted Teacher of the Year for Region II; 3) Virginia Beach City Public Schools was one of 15 divisions recognized by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) as a "School Division of Innovation" for designing and implementing alternatives to traditional instructional practices that improve student learning and promotes college and career readiness, and good citizenship; and 4) The first Virtual Community Resource Fair will take place via Zoom, Tuesday October 6, 2020 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. A panel of representatives (VBCPS, local community, VDOE) will discuss special education topics and information about programs/services available for students and families of children with disabilities.

- 8. Approval of Minutes:** September 9, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting: Chairwoman Rye announced the approval of the minutes and mentioned an amendment request to the September 9, 2020 minutes. Ms. Manning requested the reason for the abstention vote on Action Item 11.B.1. PRC Equity Policy be noted in the minutes. The School Board Clerk read the following amendment request: *The following Board Members abstained from voting: Ms. Manning, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Weems. The reasons stated for the abstention were: Ms. Manning – not enough information to make an informed decision; Ms. Hughes – in favor of an education equity policy but many questions were not answered; Ms. Weems – does want equity policy but lack of diverse community input, no information regarding training, curriculum, and budget.*

Ms. Anderson stated it was her understanding an abstention is the same as a negative vote. School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney explained the abstention vote is not counted toward the vote, if abstain need to give a reason, does not count as a negative vote. Chairwoman Rye called for any other modifications to the September 9, 2020 minutes. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk asked for a motion and a second. Ms. Manning made a motion to approve the minutes with the amended changes, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk confirmed there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Felton, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Weems. There were three (3) nays opposing the motion: Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed 8-3.

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9. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items:** Chair Chairwoman Rye announced the School Board will now hear comments on Agenda Items from citizens and delegations who signed up with our Clerk prior to this meeting. In person speakers will be called first followed by speakers participating through Zoom or by telephone. It is not necessary for speakers to ask if they can be heard. Speakers should begin speaking once their name is called.

As a reminder, each speaker has four minutes to present and will be given a thirty second warning before time expires. Once the speaker's time has expired, the speaker should stop making remarks and the next speaker will be cued to speak. Please keep in mind, the School Board invites the public to also submit comments through our group e-mail account which can be found on our website.

There were 5 in-person speakers and nine on-line speakers discussing Old Donation School, reopening of schools regarding staffing and scheduling.

10. **Consent Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye stated the items on the consent agenda and asked Ms. Anderson to read the following resolution:

- A. Dyslexia Awareness Month: That the School Board approve a resolution recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.

**Resolution for Dyslexia Awareness Month  
October 2020**

**WHEREAS,** dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that causes difficulties with reading, writing, spelling, and word pronunciation; and

**WHEREAS,** the onset and severity of dyslexia varies for each individual; and

**WHEREAS,** it takes individuals with dyslexia longer to process phonemic information, thus affecting academic growth, achievement, and self-esteem; and

**WHEREAS,** it is important to provide effective teaching approaches and educational intervention strategies for individuals with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS,** Dyslexia Awareness Month is an opportunity to acknowledge educators utilizing effective teaching strategies, and to celebrate the many achievements of adolescents, students and adults with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS,** the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach is committed to a continued focus on educating students, parents, and school staff about effective teaching strategies to address the needs of students with learning disabilities.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach designates the month of October to be Dyslexia Awareness Month; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That strategies and interventions to address the needs of students with learning disabilities be ongoing in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 22nd day of September 2020.

- B. Budget Calendar: It is recommended that the School Board review and approve the attached Budget Calendar for the FY 2021/22 Operating Budget and the 2021/22 – 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program.

**Budget Calendar**

**FY 2021/22 School Operating Budget and FY 2021/22 - FY 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program**

**2020**

September	The Budget Calendar is developed
Sept. 9	The Budget Calendar is presented to the School Board for information
Sept. 22	The Budget Calendar is presented to the School Board for action
Oct. 7	A budget kickoff meeting is conducted to provide senior staff and budget managers with an economic update, revenue outlook and general directions for budget development
Oct. 7 - Dec. 11	Budget requests are submitted by senior staff and budget managers to the Office of Budget Development
Nov. 17	A Five-Year Forecast is presented to the School Board and the City Council

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- Dec. 4 Recommended part-time hourly rates for FY 2021/22 are submitted by the Department of Human Resources to the Office of Budget Development
- Dec. 15 A draft of the Capital Improvement Program is prepared for the superintendent's review
- Dec. 15 A public hearing is held to solicit stakeholder input and offer the community an opportunity to be involved in the budget development process
- December (3rd week) State revenue estimates are released by the Virginia Department of Education
- 2021**
- Jan. 4 - 15 Budget requests are reviewed, refined and summarized by the Office of Budget Development
- Jan. 12 The recommended Capital Improvement Program budget is presented to the superintendent and senior staff
- Jan. 12 The unbalanced School Operating budget is presented to the superintendent and senior staff
- Feb. 2 The Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for FY 2021/22 is presented to the School Board (Special School Board meeting required)
- Feb. 2 The Superintendent's Proposed FY 2021/22 - FY 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program budget is presented to the School Board (Special School Board meeting required)
- Feb. 9 School Board Budget Workshop #1 is held - Time TBD.
- Feb. 16 School Board Budget Workshop #2 is held - Time TBD.
- Feb. 16 A public hearing is held to solicit stakeholder input and offer the community an opportunity to be involved in the budget development process
- Feb. 23 School Board Budget Workshop #3 - Time TBD (if needed)
- Mar. 2 School Board Budget Workshop #4 - Time TBD (if needed)
- Mar. 2 The FY 2021/22 School Board Proposed Operating budget and FY 2021/22 - FY 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program budget are adopted by the School Board (Special School Board meeting required)
- Mar. 9 The FY 2021/22 School Board Proposed Operating budget is provided to city staff
- Apr. The FY 2021/22 School Board Proposed Operating budget and FY 2021/22 - FY 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program budget are presented to the City Council (Sec. 15.1-163)
- No Later Than May 15 The FY 2021/22 School Board Proposed Operating budget and FY 2021/22 - FY 2026/27 Capital Improvement Program budget are approved by the City Council (Sec. 22.1-93; 22.1-94; 22.1-115)

Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve the consent agenda. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

**11. Action**

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointment(s): Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson that the School Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as presented on the September 22, 2020 Personnel Report along with administrative appointments as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously. Superintendent Spence introduced the following: Vashti M. Richards, Administrative Assistant, Lynnhaven Middle School as the Assistant Principal at Landstown Middle School.

**12. Information**

- A. Update on Scheduling and Staffing: The presenter was Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer. Dr. Robertson recapped the workshop presentation and discussed some ongoing dilemmas with scheduling and staffing – new enrollees, students in singleton classes with a teacher who requires a virtual environment, option 2 staff preferences, how to feed students safely; USDA extending the Summer Feeding Program; teachers receiving 30 minute duty free lunch; working on challenges with Old Donation School (ODS) – four new teacher allocations, grade 6 middle school teaching team agreed to teach in-person and virtual students simultaneously, using other classrooms, bring back as many students as safely as possible; select group of students with disabilities returned to school; students in grades PreK-2 assigned classes and Option 1 students scheduled to return September 29; finalizing plans for students in grades 3-5 to return October 6 and students in grades 6 and 9 to return October 8; continue to work on

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vacancies; offer stipend (ES, MS, HS); extra block allowance (MS, HS); secondary central VLC; providing professional learning series for teachers.

Chairwoman Rye opened the floor for any questions. The discussion continued regarding switching from Option 2 to Option 1; contact information for issues with Schoology; applications from Virtual Virginia not available on Chromebook – will check into the issue; explanations of stipend and extra block allowance; CARES Act funding and allocation; shortfall in state funding; discussion of reversion funds with the PPMC (Planning & Performance Monitoring Committee); PPE equipment delivered to schools; IB Program and 4x4; Mr. Burnsworth in charge of VLC for secondary and Ms. Sessoms will have a role in the elementary VLC; lunch and eating in the classrooms; students at Renaissance – will contact Ms. Thomas for information; teachers teaching both in-person and virtual; training provided for teachers; teachers coming back to the building; COVID training form – questions should be directed to Human Resources; specialty programs (ATC, TCE); cleaning supplies; data on students logging in – 98% have logged in on platform; teacher preferences; thank you to staff for answering questions; thank you for assisting students returning.

- 13. Standing Committee Reports:** Ms. Weems mentioned the upcoming Virtual Resource Fair on October 6 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Ms. Owens mentioned the Equity Council virtual meeting, had a large turnout, discussed guests at meeting, discussed Native American education, Hispanic Heritage Month.
- 14. Conclusion of Formal Meeting:** The formal meeting concluded at 8:39 p.m.
- 15. Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items:** There was one non-agenda on-line speaker who discussed teaching virtually.
- 16. Workshop - NONE**
- 17. Closed Meeting - NONE**
- 18. Vote on Remaining Action Items - NONE**
- 19. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 8:43 p.m.