



# 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 SPECIAL Meeting MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 17, 2020**

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

### **FORMAL MEETING**

- 1. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the special meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup> day of September 2020 and announced pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3707, at the request of three School Board Members in writing to the Chairwoman and the Clerk of the School Board, to hold a Special Meeting on Thursday, September 17, 2020 at the School Administration Building #6 at the Municipal Center, 2512 George Mason Dr., Virginia Beach, VA at 6:00 p.m. The purpose of this special meeting is to discuss the start date for face to face instruction for families choosing Option 1 and certain special education students.

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. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board members were attending the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Owens, and Ms. Hughes. Ms. Hughes joined the Zoom meeting at 6:09 p.m.

- 2. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye announced the adoption of the agenda. Ms. Felton made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Chairwoman Rye opened the floor for discussion. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Felton, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, Ms. Weems, and via Zoom – Ms. Owens. At the time of

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voting, Ms. Hughes had not entered the meeting via Zoom. Ms. Hughes joined the Zoom meeting at 6:09 p.m.

- 3. Information: To discuss the start date for face to face instruction for families choosing Option 1 and certain special education students.** Chairwoman Rye introduced Superintendent Spence to begin the information session. Superintendent Spence recalled to the School Board the information regarding bringing back special education students September 22<sup>nd</sup>; intend to have Pre-K through grade 2 students return on September 29<sup>th</sup>; under yellow metrics to return grades 3-5, grade 6, and grade 9 the week of October 6<sup>th</sup>; Superintendent Spence discussed the scheduling and staffing challenges citing Old Donation School as an example; safety need – health metrics and operationally to provide the appropriate health mitigation strategies; physical distancing; significant number of students returning to Old Donation School face-to-face; teacher staffing; Superintendent Spence introduced Dr. Robertson.

Dr. Robertson continued the session and discussed challenges with hiring teachers; challenges across the country on teacher candidates; not having a pool of available teachers; people are fearful; have been contacting teachers but have not called back; cannot take staff from surrounding school districts; candidate could not log into Zoom; candidates did not show for interviews; screened 103 applications and identified 48 candidates to interview – some had taken positions elsewhere, were able to recommend about 18 into positions; another challenge is spacing in schools; clustered school together; secondary is different due to various courses and class schedules of students; different certification of teachers; CARES Act funding stipend for teachers to teach at the same time face-to-face and virtual students; 50% of middle school teachers and 80% of high school teachers agreed to teach both; example of French class; working to meet challenges and timelines established.

Dr. Robertson concluded the session. Chairwoman Rye called on Mr. Edwards. Mr. Edwards thanked Superintendent Spence and Dr. Robertson for update; commented on the job of keeping stakeholders particularly parents, students, and staff informed via email, website, and phone on the process and progress of reopening; Superintendent Spence and staff are available to the School Board by phone and email to answer questions; Mr. Edwards made an unqualified motion to adjourn and was seconded by Ms. Melnyk.

School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney explained a motion to adjourn is a privileged motion and is not debatable; the motion must be voted on and requires a majority vote to pass. Once motion passes no further business of the body. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk confirmed there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Edwards, Ms. Felton, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Owens (via Zoom), and Ms. Riggs. There were three (3) nays opposed to the motion: Ms. Hughes (via Zoom), Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems.

- 4. Adjournment:** Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.