



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, February 16, 2021

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

1. **Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the special meeting to order at 5:06 p.m. on the 16th day of February 2021 and announced in accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings approved by the School Board at the January 12, 2021 Organizational/Regular meeting, and pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3707, the School Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at 5:00 p.m., 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 the School Board to meet in workshop format to consider the following:

- 1) Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2021-22; and
- 2) Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fiscal Year 2021-22 through Fiscal Year 2026-27.
- 3) A Public Hearing for citizens to express their views on the proposed Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2021-22 through Fiscal Year 2026-27

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 Special School Board Meeting due to physical distancing and safety precautions related to the pandemic. Members of the public will 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 School Board members were present in the School Board chambers: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. Ms. Anderson arrived in the School Board chamber at 5:08 p.m. The following School Board members attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, and Ms. Weems.

2. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye made a motion to amend the agenda as follows: that the School Board amend the agenda to add an item 6 Update by the Superintendent on today's meeting with the Virginia State Superintendent regarding the status of school reopening in Virginia. This update and question and answer discussion will be no more than one hour. The motion was seconded by Ms. Riggs. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Presentation:**
 - A. Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2021-22

B. Superintendent's Proposed Fiscal Year 2021-22 through Fiscal Year 2026-27 Capital Improvement Program Budget

The presenters were Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent, Farrell E. Hanzaker, Chief Financial Officer, and Tony L. Arnold, Executive Director of Facilities Services. Mr. Hanzaker provided a brief overview of the presentation and introduced Mr. Arnold.

Mr. Arnold provided an overview of the presentation presented to the School Board on February 2, 2021; reviewed the three projects currently under construction/design: Princess Anne Middle School Replacement, Plaza Annex, Lynnhaven Middle School/Achievable Dream; other items in the CIP (Capital Improvement Program); renovations and replacements projects, safe school improvements, energy performance contracts – phase II, elementary school playground equipment replacement, Plaza Annex office addition; significant projects: Princess Anne High School Replacement – fully funded, Bettie F. Williams/Bayside 6th Grade Replacement – fully funded, Bayside High School Replacement – partially funded (\$29.4 million of \$197.7 million); CIP total six-year appropriations proposed \$619,653,047, Year 1: \$69,800,000; reviewed funding sources over six years, funding averages to approximately \$63.5 million per year; the presentation continued regarding the Princess Anne High School Replacement, using old Kellam High School as swing site; special education program at Princess Anne High and accommodations for students; Bettie F. Williams/Bayside 6 project; Landstown model.

Mr. Hanzaker reviewed questions submitted by School Board members; the cost be to provide a 3.0% raise to all school employees and separately what would be the cost to provide an additional 3.0% raise to all teachers (6.0% raise) - the current recommendation reflected in the SEON would be to provide all employees all employees a 0.5 step increase (those not at the top of the scale) and a 4.5% cost of living adjustment (COLA). The projected cost for these increases is \$27,846,184; clarifying information requested regarding a 3% raise for all employees and separately the cost for the additional 3%; clarification of 4.5% COLA and 0.5% step increase; unmet needs; competitive teacher pay; employee raises; value of employees; comparison of teacher salary; market rate of other positions; for retreat may consider a philosophy of compensation; salaries being competitive; value of compensation package; state funding; continue to send questions to Mr. Hanzaker.

5. **Public Hearing for citizens to express their views on the proposed Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2021-22 and the Proposed Capital Improvement Program Fiscal Year 2021-22 through Fiscal Year 2026-27.** There were no speakers for the Public Hearing.

6. **Update from the Superintendent:** See item #3 Adoption of the Agenda; Superintendent Spence shared the following information from the Virginia State Superintendent regarding school reopening in Virginia; quick overview of the new CDC guidance - "K-12 schools should be the last settings to close after all other mitigation measures in the community have been employed and the first to reopen when they can do so safely", "Decisions should be guided by information on school-specific factors such as mitigation strategies implemented, local needs, stakeholder input, the number of cases among students, teachers, and staff, and school experience with safely opening"; same two measures of community burden (i.e. percent positivity and case incidence); change from 14-day to 7-day look at numbers; same five key mitigation strategies for mitigating COVID-19 transmission in schools continued to be emphasized: correct use of masks, physical distancing; handwashing and respiratory etiquette, cleaning and maintaining facilities, and contact tracing in collaboration with local health department; layered approach is essential; physical distancing continues to be six feet to the greatest extent possible – note in the new guidance, caveat that six feet is "required" when local health metrics are substantial or high; guidance also notes that cohorting and physical barriers may continue to be used as alternatives when physical distancing is not always feasible; some situations may occur that lead school officials to consider temporarily closing schools or parts of a school; new to the

guidelines – emphasis on diagnostic and screening testing of students and staff; prioritizing educators for vaccinations, vaccination should not be considered a condition for reopening schools for in-person instruction, athletics and extracurricular activities should only occur virtually in high transmission; “even after teachers and staff are vaccinated, schools need to continue mitigation measures for the foreseeable future, including requiring masks and physical distancing”;

More information from the state superintendent: last guidance from VDH on January 14 is the current guidance we need to follow; anticipate that VDH will be reviewing and potentially aligning their metrics with the CDC metrics; in regards to the 6 ft requirement - it was indicated that school divisions who had any schools open successfully could continue to move forward; CDC guidance alone shouldn't be used to determine whether or not to open schools but should be used along with the guidance from VDH and more importantly, with local data concerning school impact based on our ability to mitigate; regarding testing – don't have guidance yet from the VDH; regarding athletics – it was noted VHSL is currently reviewing the guidance and has made no recommendations to member schools.

Dr. Spence recommended to proceed with current plan, with continued monitoring of our data and mitigation practices, including physical distancing of at least 3 ft and 6 ft where feasible, continue to assess school level impact and our ability to minimize transmission in our schools as we make decisions about closing classrooms, or if needed individual schools but work to keep all of our schools open for in-person instruction for those families who have chosen it, in regards to athletics – recommending we proceed as planned with Fall sports, given most of these sports are outdoor sports, with close monitoring of the impact on our program and with close monitoring of that impact on our schools; administration will share any new guidance from VDH, VDOE or the VHSL that may have additional bearing as we move forward.

The discussion continued regarding 6 ft requirement; transmission rates; testing and screening in schools; Mary Shaw to review guidance on testing and report; thank you to administrators, teachers, Mary Shaw for work – positive feedback; safety assessment teams and reports; mask compliance; contact tracing; physical distancing limitations in the classroom; health and safety of staff and families; time frame for next school year.

7. The meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair