



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 Regular Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

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 4:00 p.m. on the 9th day of March 2021 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, this workshop of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach will be conducted in person for School Board Members and certain staff members. However, due to the necessary health mitigation strategies in place, it is impractical and unfeasible for the public to attend this meeting in person. Members of the public will be able to observe the School Board Meeting through livestreaming on www.vbschools.com, broadcast on VBT Channel 47, and on Zoom.

It is the School Board’s protocol to break at 5:30 p.m. to prepare for the Regular School Board Meeting to begin at 6:00 p.m. At 5:30 p.m., the School Board will conclude its Informal Meeting unless the School Board votes to continue the Informal Meeting until 5:45 p.m. The Informal Session will conclude no later than 5:45 p.m. in order to allow the School Board and the School Administration to prepare for the Regular School Board Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

The following School Board members were present in the School Board chambers: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens (arrived at 4:02 p.m.), Ms. Riggs (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), and Ms. Weems. The following School Board members were attending via Zoom: Ms. Manning (health matter) and Ms. Holtz (SAB room 113).

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chairwoman Rye mentioned remote participation and monitoring in reference to the recently approved revisions to Bylaw 1-36; distinction between participation for health matters and personal matters.
- B. Agenda Development Process:** The School Board Clerk, Regina M. Toneatto reviewed the agenda development process; stages of the agenda (pre-draft; draft; tentative; final; and agenda packet) and timeline.
- C. SRO Program Update:** Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer began the presentation with a brief overview and history of the SRO (School Resource Officer) program; Mr. Freeman introduced Thomas A. DeMartini, Director, Office of Safe Schools; Mr. DeMartini provided details about the SRO program and current updates; program staffing, assignments, and roles - mentors, leaders, guest speakers in classrooms; expectations: safety and security, relationship building, investigate issues but do not participate in discipline process; mandated training; yearly SRO In-Service; shared feedback from secondary principals; “Meet Your SRO” Zoom sessions; Emergency Procedure Guide updates; neighborhood walk Twin Canal; shared news video clip of SRO from Green Run High School.

The discussion continued regarding SROs in elementary schools; SRO training; community engagement; feedback/response to Meet Your SRO; neighborhood walk; program for those interested in law enforcement; update of memorandum of understanding.

- D. 2020-21 Plan Updates: Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff introduced the presentation; provided a presentation overview; reviewed the percent positivity from January to March and then introduced Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer. Dr. Robertson continued the presentation; reviewed the return of Option 1 students in grades 7-12; attendance procedures; middle and high school extracurricular activities.
- The discussion continued regarding student being absent due to illness and attending class via Zoom; vaccination of teachers; use of Mondays; how to get students back to 5 days a week; school in the Fall; review/clarification of attendance procedures.

2. Closed Meeting: (as needed)

- 3. School Board Recess:** Chairwoman Rye adjourned the workshop at 5:25 p.m.

FORMAL MEETING

- 4. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the formal meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. on the 9th day of March 2021 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, this workshop of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach will be conducted in person for School Board Members and certain staff members. However, due to the necessary health mitigation strategies in place, it is impractical and unfeasible for the public to attend this meeting in person. Members of the public will be able to observe the 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. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Mr. Weems. The following School Board members attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Holtz (SAB room 113), and Ms. Manning (health matter).

5. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

6. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognitions:

- A. VHSL Class 5 Indoor Track: The School Board recognized Micayah Holland, student at Princess Anne High School for being named the 2020 VHSL Class 5 Indoor Track 55-meter dash state champion. She recently defended her title and won the 2021 55-meter and 300-meter events for Indoor Track.
- B. 2019-2020 WISE Schools and Teachers: The School Board recognized multiple teachers and schools through a recognition of Blue Star WISE accomplishments. Gold Star Teacher Award winners must have students achieve a 93% passing rate on the WISE Financial Literacy Certification Test on the first attempt; 19 teachers earned this achievement; five schools earned the WISE Blue Star Award – a school must have achieved an 80% passing rate on the Financial Literacy Certification Test and have either a majority of students on a given grade level take the test or achieve a minimum average score of 85%; two schools who were listed in the Top 100 schools in the country for teaching financial literacy in 2020.
- C. National Title 1 Distinguished School: The School Board recognized Parkway Elementary School, under the leadership of Mrs. Krista Barton-Arnold, has been named a 2020-2021 National ESEA Distinguished School. Parkway is being acknowledged for demonstrating exceptional student performance for two consecutive years. Two schools from every state receive this award, which is presented by the National Association of Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) State Program Administrators.
- D. CoderZ Pro League: The School Board recognized the Advanced Technology Center's Robotics Team, who placed first in Region 1 with other teams for the United States and Canada in the all-virtual competition. Each match required students to create algorithms that would allow their robot to utilize sensor input data to adjust the robots angle of trajectory as it moved across the playing field. This win made them eligible to compete in the World Championships where the team placed third in the world.

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7. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye stated a modification to the agenda; addition of a resolution – VSBA Equity in Education Resolution – March 2021 - under Consent Item D. Without any other modifications, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Franklin. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.
8. **Superintendent's Report:** Superintendent Spence shared the following information: 1) March 7-13 is School Social Workers week; 2) Annual Service Awards Dinner – web page features a video presentation which highlights those who have given 40-plus years, congratulations to all the 2020-2021 Service Award recipients; 3) Event for Youth Art Month – the division will hold a two-night digital Drive-In Art Show; and 4) Maia Chaka, a graduate of Norfolk State University and a health and physical education teacher with Renaissance Academy since 2009, in a history-making event, Ms. Chaka has been named the first Black female referee for the National Football League (NFL).
9. **Approval of Meeting Minutes:**
 - A. **February 23, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting:** Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the February 23, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.
 - B. **March 2, 2021 Special School Board Meeting:** Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the March 2, 2021 Special School Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Owens. Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.
10. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items**

There were no agenda items speakers signed up for the March 9, 2021 meeting.
11. **Consent Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye stated the following items on the consent agenda:
 - A. **New Course: Algebra III:** That the School Board approve the proposed course, Algebra III and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2021-2022 school year.
 - B. Recommendation of General Contractor:
 1. **Indian Lakes Elementary School RTU Replacement:** That the School Board adopt a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Colonial Webb Contractors for the Indian Lakes Elementary School HVAC Replacement in the amount of \$442,777.
 2. **Bayside High School HVAC Replacement:** That the School Board adopt a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with ZBZ & Associates, Inc. for the Bayside High School HVAC Replacement in the amount of \$630,000.
 - C. **Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations:** That the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment, and repeal of certain policies as reviewed by the PRC at its February 11, 2021 meeting and presented to the School Board for the March 9, 2021 Consent Agenda.
 1. **Policy 3-1/Financial Management:** revised to include 3-41, 3-44, 3-47, 3-48, 3-49, 3-53.
 2. **Policy 3-2/Ethics in Public Contracting:** PRC recommends policy be revised to include only the Ethics in Public Contracting Statement.
 3. **Policy 3-41/System of Accounts:** PRC recommends policy be repealed and language added to Policy 3-1/Financial Management.
 4. **Policy 3-44/Financial Reports:** PRC recommends policy be repealed and language added to Policy 3-1/Financial Management.
 5. **Policy 3-47/Surety Bonds:** PRC recommends policy be repealed and language added to Policy 3-1/Financial Management.
 6. **Policy 3-48/Insurance:** PRC recommends policy be repealed and language added to Policy 3-1/Financial Management.
 7. **Policy 3-49/Petty Cash Funds:** PRC recommends policy be repealed and language added to Policy 3-1/Financial Management.

8. Policy 3-53/Advances on Expenses: PRC recommends policy be repealed due to Policy being outdated and alternative process in place.

Resolution: VSBA Equity in Education – March 2021: See Agenda Item #7. Ms. Felton read the following Resolution:

**VSBA Equity in Education Resolution
March 2021**

WHEREAS it is critical that we highlight the need for a continued focus on educational equity so that all students can be all that they can be; and

WHEREAS, the division adopted Educational Equity Policy 5-4 to anchor our commitment to equity and accountability; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that factors including, but not limited to, disability, race, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status have a demonstrated history of impacting the educational opportunities provided to a student; and

WHEREAS, the promise of public education is for every child to be successful in school and life; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Virginia Beach City Public School families, students, teachers, and school administrators to be aware of the diverse needs of learners, and to encourage discussion of our challenges as a school community; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) has established a Task Force on Students and Schools in Challenging Environments to make recommendations and to stay at the forefront of discussions on equity in Virginia schools; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that inequities in resources, including educational settings, supplies, technology, and physical learning spaces, impedes student learning; and

Now, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that Virginia Beach City Public Schools recognizes the month of March 2021 as VSBA Equity in Education Month, with the intention that educational equity, best practices, and programming be discussed and implemented in Virginia Beach City Public Schools, communities and classrooms during that time and always.

BE IT FINALLY 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 9th day of March 2021.

Without discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk. Chairwoman Rye called for a vote; the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

12. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointment(s): Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes that the School Board approve of the appointments and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the March 9, 2021, 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. There were no administrative appointments.

13. Information

- A. Building Utilization Committee Report: Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer introduced Melisa A. Ingram, Demographer/GIS Manager to present 2020-2021 annual review; the Building Utilization Committee (BUC) is governed by Policy 5-14: School Attendance Zones; no recommendation for changes to school attendance zones for the upcoming 2021-22 school year; reviewed the BUC Committee Members, in which Ms. Laura Hughes serves as Committee Chair; reviewed September 30, 2020 membership data at both school level and grade level; reviewed historical factors; has been growth in the Kindergarten grade level, Preschool Special Education, and Pre-

Kindergarten grade levels; reviewed historical and projected student enrollment; division-wide all schools are within an acceptable utilization range of +/- 10% of optimum capacity; Ms. Ingram introduced Mr. Freeman to conclude the presentation.

Mr. Freeman reviewed the Historical & Projected Student Enrollment data; reduction of portables; reduction of population with the pandemic; the discussion continued regarding student population decline, birth rate; retention rate; military population.

B. School Board Protocols Manual: School Board Legal Counsel Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney presented the School Board Protocols Manual; provided a brief history of the manual; after January retreat, updates were done to the manual; Policies and Bylaws within the manual are up to date; Ms. Anderson and Ms. Riggs made brief comments regarding the Protocols Manual; resource; duties of Chair; the discussion continued regarding the school board and media; and noted the manual would be an Action Item next meeting.

14. *Standing Committee Reports*: Ms. Weems shared the Special Education Advisory Committee met last night, inclusion workshop on the agenda for the next quarter; Ms. Owens shared the Equity Council instead of a March meeting had a focus group for the equity audit; mental health task force had its first initial asynchronous virtual meeting, information and videos explaining the purpose and goals; Ms. Franklin shared the Gifted Advisory Council met this month participated in a focus group in regards to equity and gifted; and Chairwoman Rye shared she will be reaching out to individual School Board members to gather feedback from the VSBA November Conference and the upcoming NSBA conference.

15. *Conclusion of Formal Meeting*: The formal meeting concluded at 7:04 p.m.

16. *Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items*

There were two non-agenda item speakers; one in-person and one on-line; discussed secondary hybrid plan; returning Option 1 Middle and High School students back to school 4 days a week.

17. *Workshop* (as needed)

18. *Closed Meeting*: Chairwoman Rye stated, the Chair will entertain a motion to recess into closed session pursuant to exemption from open meetings allowed by Section 2.2-3711 (A) of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the following; Ms. Melnyk made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs, that the School Board recess into a closed meeting pursuant to the exemptions from open meetings allowed by Section 2.2-3711, Part A, Paragraphs 1, 7 and 8 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for the following purposes:

1. *Personnel Matters*: Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) (1); namely

A. Discuss and consider the Superintendent's evaluation instrument and mid-year evaluation.

2. *Consultation with Legal Counsel*: 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 litigation posture of the public body: namely to discuss

A. Status of certain pending complaints and or litigation against the School Division;

3. *Consultation with Legal Counsel*: Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Consultation with Legal Counsel concerning current legal matters.

The motion passed with ten (10) ayes: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board member was not present during the closed session due to participation via Zoom: Ms. Manning; in accordance with Bylaw 1-36.D.5.

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

1. Personnel Matters: Note: The School Board did not discuss the Superintendent's evaluation instrument or mid-year evaluation. That was an error on the call.

2. Consultation with Legal Counsel:

A. Status of certain pending complaints and or litigation against the School Division:

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School Board members: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Chief of Staff; School Board Legal Counsel Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney; John A. Mirra, Chief Human Resources Officer; Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the Board.

3. Consultation with Legal Counsel:

School Board members: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Chief of Staff; School Board Legal Counsel Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney; Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the Board.

The School Board reconvened at 7:54 p.m.

Certification of Closed Meeting: Ms. Melnyk read the Certificate of Closed meeting; Whereas the School Board has convened a closed session 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 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed session was conducted in conformity with Virginia Law;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the School Board 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 session to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the Motion (see note under Personnel Matters) convening the closed session were heard, discussed, or considered. There were ten (10) ayes: Chairwoman Rye, Ms. Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Felton, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Holtz, Ms. Hughes, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

19. *Vote on Remaining Action Items* (as needed)

20. *Adjournment:* Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 7:56 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair