



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 23, 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 23rd 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. Owens, Ms. Riggs (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), Ms. Hughes (arrived at 4:04 p.m.), and Ms. Weems (arrived at 4:04 p.m.) The following School Board members were attending the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Holtz (SAB room 113 – health reasons) and Ms. Manning (health reasons).

- A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** There were no administrative matters or reports.
- B. **Forecast of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Topics FY21, 4th Quarter: April, May, June 2021:** Superintendent Spence gave a quick overview of the topics for the upcoming School Board meetings scheduled for April, May, and June 2021.
- C. **Facilities Brief:** Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer provided the School Board with a facilities briefing; school construction costs – historical perspective; programming/design process – prototype designs; return on investment (ROI); long range CIP needs; reviewed Elementary, Middle and High School costs for a variety of schools over the years; discussed inflation rates with construction; discussed programming design charrettes, stakeholder input; value of prototypical plans i.e. Fairfield Elementary School (1976), Christopher Farms Elementary School (1997), Independence Middle School (1974), and Bayside High School (1966); return on investment: division-wide cost avoidance (2006-2020) \$69 million, consumption decreased by 43.8%, Kellam High School is operating 14% below average of all other high schools; reviewed long range CIP needs; modernization/replacement schedule FY1998-2028; reviewed chart of historical/projected funding; reviewed recently approved funding. The presentation continued with discussion regarding renovations to schools; upgrades to HVAC, lockers, etc.

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- D. 2020-21 Plan Updates: The presenters were Marc Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff, Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer, Donald Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer; Dr. Bergin with an overview of the presentation and presenters and reviewed the percent positivity for the Eastern Region from January – March; Mr. Freeman continued the presentation and provided a food services update, positive trend of meals, five day service including asynchronous days, for three day weekends meals will be given on Friday instead of Monday; the discussion continued regarding budget/funding for meals; free and reduced meals and forms. Thomas A. DeMartini, Director, Office of Safe Schools continued the presentation regarding COVID-19 Safety Assessment Teams; team selection; training of teams included goals, expectations, responsibilities, and data collection procedures; survey instrument focused on the following areas: building signage/messaging, lobby/security desk, office areas, common areas (lobbies, library, cafeteria, etc.), classrooms, exterior grounds, custodial services, and transportation/buses; schools visited at least twice; shared data on masks wearing, social distancing, and sanitation practices; next steps – third visit and bi-weekly schedule.

Donald Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer continued with an update on high school end-of-year activities; spring teams are conditioning in preparation for their season to begin after spring break; school activities such as ring dance, prom, senior experiences, will be different for each school – contact the school’s Student Activities Coordinator (SAC) for information; the Governor released new guidelines for school graduations – more information regarding plans for the Class of 2021 Graduation ceremonies will be shared at the next School Board meeting; planning for SY 2021-22 – Mondays no longer be reserved for PL and asynchronous learning, instruction 5 days/week, reviewing plans to provide virtual learning, planning scenarios based on pandemic restrictions; the discussion continued regarding classroom capacity and evaluating classroom capacity; teaching in the fall; planning scenarios; difference between digital campus and VLC; timeline for next school year.

2. ***Closed Meeting: NONE***

3. ***School Board Recess***: Chairwoman Rye adjourned the workshop at 5:13 p.m.

FORMAL MEETING

4. ***Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call***: Chairwoman Rye called the formal meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. on the 23rd 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 VBTV 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. Owens, Ms. Riggs, Ms. Hughes, and Ms. Weems. The following School Board members were attending the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Holtz (SAB room 113 – health reasons) and Ms. Manning (health reasons).

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

6. ***Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognitions***: There were no awards or recognitions.

7. ***Adoption of the Agenda***: Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the agenda. Without any modifications, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes. 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) Wednesday, April 14 marks the end of the third quarter and will be an adjusted dismissal day for students; 2) VBCPS’ Partners in Education program supports collaborative efforts between schools and our community. To show their appreciation, several partners have contributed tokens of thanks; staff in allocated positions will receive an envelope with coupons and vouchers from division partners;

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3) Beach Bags food drive is taking place Thursday, March 25 from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Pembroke Mall in the Kohl's parking lot, the Beach Bag program provides shelf-stable meals and healthy snacks to students who might otherwise go hungry during weekends and over school breaks, since September 2020 more than 10,500 Beach Bags have been distributed to students in-need; and 4) highlighted student Natalia de los Rios, a sophomore in the International Baccalaureate program at Princess Anne High School, she is the founder and site director for the Virginia Beach chapter of the national nonprofit, Food Rescue US. The organization is dedicated to addressing food insecurity and food waste by rescuing edible food that might otherwise go to waste. Natalia has over 70 volunteers and 50 community church pantries and social service organizations involved in food rescue.

9. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

A. March 9, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting: Chairwoman Rye called for any modifications to the March 9, 2021 Regular School Board Meeting minutes. Hearing none, Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Owens made a motion, seconded by Ms. Franklin. 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: Chairwoman Rye announced the School Board will hear comments on Agenda Items from citizens and delegations who signed up with the School Board Clerk prior to this meeting.

There were 22 in-person speakers and 30 on-line speakers; topics discussed were equity updates and 2021-22 School Calendar. The School Board members took a short break after the in-person speakers from 7:33 p.m. to 7:38 p.m. The School Board members took another short break after the on-line speakers from 9:25 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

11. Consent Agenda: Chairwoman Rye stated the items on the consent agenda. Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Franklin made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes. The following resolutions were read:

A. Resolutions:

1. National Month of the Military Child – April 2021: Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

**National Month of the Military Child
April 2021**

WHEREAS, approximately 14,000 students enrolled in Virginia Beach City Public Schools are military-connected with the majority having at least one parent serving on active duty or in the reserves of the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, these military-connected youth and their family have unique needs and face distinct challenges due to high mobility, lengthy deployments of one or both parents and the stresses of loved ones serving in times of combat; and

WHEREAS, the school division reaffirms its commitment to providing support, resources and enriching programs to enhance the educational experiences of military-connected youth; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Beach City Public School Board's *Compass to 2025* strategic plan creates opportunities to actively engage military-connected parents and families in supporting student achievement and outcomes for success; and

WHEREAS, April has been recognized by the Department of Defense since 1986 as the Month of the Military Child;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes April as the Month of the Military Child, and be it

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FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all school staff to initiate, support and participate in special activities to recognize the exceptional role and unique sacrifices our military-connected youth make in our nation's best interest; 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 23rd day of March 2021

2. School Library Media Month and National Library Week: Ms. Felton read the following resolution:

**School Library Media Month
And National Library Week**

WHEREAS, school library media centers function as the information centers of the schools and provide for integrated, interdisciplinary, and school-wide learning activities; and

WHEREAS, school library media programs provide the experience and training necessary to prepare students to become successful and independent users learning skills; and

WHEREAS, school library media programs promote information literacy and the enjoyment of reading, viewing, and listening for young people of all ages and all levels of development; and

WHEREAS, school library media programs provide resources and learning activities that represent a diversity of experiences, opinions, and social and cultural perspectives, supporting the concept that intellectual freedom and access to information are prerequisites to effective and responsible citizenship in a democracy; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Beach City School Board recognizes the vital role that school library media centers play in the educational process; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Beach Public Libraries and Virginia Beach school libraries have formed a unique partnership that provides for the sharing of resources and services to the mutual benefit of all patrons.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Virginia Beach City School Board reconfirm its belief in the value of the school library media program and officially recognize the month of April 2021 as School Library Media Month and the week of April 4-10 2021, as National Library Week, calling their significance to the attention of all Virginia Beach citizens; 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 23rd day of March 2021

3. Mathematics Awareness Month – April 2021: Ms. Franklin read the following resolution:

**Mathematics Awareness Month
April 2021**

WHEREAS, the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics recognizes April as Mathematics Awareness Month; and

WHEREAS, mathematical literacy is essential for all, and the inclusion of such in mathematics education ensures a culture of equity where students are empowered by the opportunities math affords; and

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WHEREAS, mathematics is an essential skill, both in life and in the workplace; and

WHEREAS, mathematical reasoning, sense making, problem solving and communication are essential skills; and

WHEREAS, the language and processes of mathematics are basic to all other disciplines; and

WHEREAS, our expanding, technologically-based society demands increased awareness and competence in mathematics; and

WHEREAS, school curricula in mathematics provide the foundation for meeting the above needs.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach designate April 2021 as Mathematics Awareness Month in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourage all citizens, and especially our children and young adults, to continue mathematics studies and to understand how its application will relate to the occupations of the 21st century; 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 23rd day of March 2021

Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

12. **Action**

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointment(s): Ms. Owens made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs that the School Board approve of the appointments and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the March 23, 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. Superintendent Spence introduced the following: Sam L. Nix, Assistant Director, Maintenance Services, Office of Facilities and Maintenance Services as the Director, Custodial and Distribution Services, Office of Custodial and Distribution Services.
- B. School Board Protocols Manual: It was noted that some scrivener changes were made to the School Board Protocols Manual; Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to approve. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney was available for discussion and stated for clarification that there were scrivener amendments made to the last three pages of the protocols manual known as Appendix F but actually Appendix C in the Bylaws; not significant changes (Grammatical). Without any further discussion, Chairwoman Rye called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

13. **Information**

- A. Interim Financial Statements – February 2021: Crystal Pate, Director of Business Services provided the School Board with a brief update of the interim financial statements through February 2021; overall revenue trend remains acceptable; additional increase in the sales tax estimate of approximately \$4.8 million; estimate exceeds original budget for sales tax by approximately \$630,000; increase in the infrastructure and operations per pupil fund of approximately \$1.1 million; reduction in no loss funding of approximately \$885,000; possible reduction basic aid based on March 31 ADM of anywhere from \$2.8

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- million to \$3.9 million; projected surplus of approximately \$5.5 million in state revenue; federal revenues showing favorable trend; received approximately \$1.6 million over budget; sales tax receipts are an acceptable level year to date through February; approximately \$2.2 million higher than last year; March showing an increase in sales tax receipts from last March of approximately \$440,000 dollars; and expenditures and encumbrances trend acceptable at this point in the fiscal year.
- B. 2021-22 School Calendar: Natalie Allen, Chief Communications & Community Engagement Officer began the presentation; briefly reviewed calendar development/adoption timeline; calendar workgroup considerations: number of instructional days, observance of holidays/breaks, number of days in a quarter/semester.
Donald Robertson, Ph.D., Chief Schools Officer continued the presentation and presented the following school calendar options; Option 1: school begins on September 9, 2021, 181 student days, 7-day Winter break, 5-day Spring break, observation of federal holidays, and school ends Friday, June 17, 2022; Option 2: school begins before Labor Day on August 30, 2021, 183 student days, 8-day Winter break, 6-day Spring break, observation of federal holidays, and school ends Thursday, June 16, 2021.
The discussion continued regarding start before Labor Day; teacher contract days; hearing from the community over the next two weeks before vote; length of breaks in option 2; instructional time; time to review calendar options over the next two weeks.
- C. 2021-22 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application: Roni Myers-Daub, Ed.D., Executive Director, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children presented information to the School Board regarding the Special Education Annual Plan; how intend to spend allocated federal funds based on the requirements; brief overview of annual review (required by and reviewed by); statement of assurances and examples; additional components: local jail education program, maintenance of effort (MOE), proportionate set-aside (PSA), Title VI-B Grant funds; reviewed Annual Plan's projected budgets for 2021-22 Part B, Section 611 and Section 619 grant funds; Mrs. Sandra Hermann, Board Member, Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) recommended approval of the 2021-11 Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application, participated in the review and determined complies with the requirements of federal and state regulations.
- D. Equity Updates: LaQuiche Parrott, Ed.D, Director, Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion provided the School Board with Equity Updates; last update was in November; equity assessment in progress; professional learning offerings; overview of recommendations from the VDOE African America Superintendent's Advisory Council on Equity; reviewed equity assessment timeline; collecting qualitative data in the form of interviews and focus groups with external and internal stakeholders; examining quantitative data from various offices/departments; discussed meaning of culturally responsive practices; discussed next steps – complete the equity assessment and draft the equity plan.
The discussion continued at length regarding the presentation; professional development training; equity terminology; student curriculum; inclusion and diversity.
- E. 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 March 11, 2021 meeting and presented to the School Board for the March 23, 2021 Information Agenda. School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney presented the following:
1. Appendix B/Standing Rules: The PRC recommends amending Appendix B to add committees, organizations and boards to the committee reports section of the Agenda, amending the language regarding speakers, and removing the workshop location as the Einstein.lab.
 2. Policy 3-32/Emergency /Small/Sole Source Purchases: The PRC recommends amending the small purchase amount to \$200,000.
 3. Policy 5-23/Students Over 20: the PRC recommends amending Policy 5-23 to reflect current law regarding student ages for regular education, for students identified for special education services, and adult education enrollment.
 4. Policy 5-38/Freedom of Speech: the PRC recommends amending Policy 5-38 to incorporate publications (currently in Policy 5-39) and updating language and expectations regarding student speech and expression.

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5. Policy 5-39/Publications: the PRC recommends repealing Policy 5-39 and incorporating the language into Policy 5-38.
 6. Policy 5-46/Student Government/City-Wide Student Cooperative Association: the PRC recommends only minor scrivener's changes to Policy 5-46.
 7. Policy 5-69/Fees/Materials/Deposits/Reimbursements: the PRC recommends significant amendments to Policy 5-69 that reflect changes in the law and that will promote equity for students with limited financial means.
 8. Policy 5-74/Finger Printing/Video Taping: The PRC recommends repealing Policy 5-74 as fingerprinting and videotaping of students is no longer a School Division function but is provided through outside partner groups.
 9. Policy 5-75/ Indigent Students: the PRC recommends repealing Policy 5-75 because the designation of students as indigent is not an equitable practice and other policies and regulations address financial assistance and waiver of costs for students with limited financial means.
14. **Standing Committee Reports**: Chairwoman Rye noted that any information regarding standing committee reports could be emailed.
 15. **Conclusion of Formal Meeting**
 16. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items**: There were no speakers for non-agenda items.
 17. **Workshop** (as needed)
 18. **Closed Meeting** (as needed)
 19. **Vote on Remaining Action Items** (as needed)
 20. **Adjournment**: Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 12:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair