



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 Electronic Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2020 (6:00 p.m.)

MINUTES

FORMAL MEETING

- 1. *Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:*** Chairwoman Rye called the School Board meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. 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, it is impractical and unsafe at this time to hold an in person meeting due to the pandemic. Accordingly, the School Board meeting was conducted electronically through Zoom with School Board members participating remotely by telephone or on the online platform. Notice of the School Board meeting was posted in the School Administration Building and on the vbschools.com website. The School Administration Building remained closed; however, a link to access this meeting was published with the agenda and the meeting was streamed live on vbschools.com as well as on VBTv Channel 47 and recorded for archival purposes. After confirming electronic participation by the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform, the School Board Clerk affirmed a quorum was present with all School Board members participating remotely along with Superintendent Spence.

- 2. *Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:*** Prior to leading the Moment of Silence, Chairwoman Rye acknowledged the one-year anniversary of the May 31st shooting in Building 2, and stated in this Moment of Silence the School Board stands in solidarity with City Council and City staff counterparts in remembering the victims.

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Chairwoman Rye shared remarks on behalf of the School Board related to recent events across the nation to affirm the thoughts and feelings of community members speaking out about racism and social injustice. She relayed the School Board’s commitment to an educational experience for each child that is equitable, meaningful, and inclusive; striving to do more in both policy and practice while condemning racism and racist acts in any form. In conclusion, she encouraged the community to join an upcoming virtual conversation about equity, race and recent events to be announced in the following Superintendent’s Report.



3. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition

Councilman Aaron Rouse presented on behalf of the City Council their Resolution Recognizing Month of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools' (VBCPS) Graduate.

- 4. Superintendent's Report:** Five things shared by Superintendent Spence in his report were related to 1) the upcoming virtual forum on equity, race and recent events that impact the local and global communities; 2) events related to the Month of the VBCPS Graduate to include a Class of 2020 "Pass the Diploma" video, a virtual ceremony tribute, and "Light Up the Night" event; 3) celebrating Custodial Appreciation Week, June 15-19, and recognizing all division schools and buildings for having obtained the Gold Award highlighting custodial teams who have exceeded duties and cleaning protocols; 4) announcement of Marie T. Culver, Gifted Resource Teacher at Seatack Elementary School - An Achievable Dream Academy; and Meghann Scott, Gifted Resource Teacher at Brandon Middle School, as the two nominees for the Virginia Association for Gifted 2020 Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted Award; and 6) acknowledgement of the 2020 VBCPS Teacher Assistant of the Year winners, Ellie Hardnack from Red Mill Elementary School, and Zach Wolff from Kempsville High School.

5. Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items: None

6. Approval of Minutes:

- A. May 26, 2020 Electronic School Board Meeting: There being no proposed modifications to the May 26, 2020 electronic meeting minutes, Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board approve the minutes of their May 26, 2020 electronic School Board meeting as presented. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote.
- B. June 2, 2020 Special School Board Meeting: There being no proposed modifications to the June 2, 2020 special meeting minutes, Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board approve the minutes of their June 2, 2020 special School Board meeting as presented. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote.

- 7. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye brought to the School Board's attention a recently distributed revision to Action Item 8D – Modification of Term Set Forth for the Student Discipline Ad Hoc Committee. Ms. Manning, then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes, that the School Board adopt the agenda as published. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote.

8. Action:

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointment(s): Ms. Anderson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, that the School Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as presented on the June 8, 2020 Personnel Report along with one administrative appointment as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk announced the motion



passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote. Superintendent Spence then introduced Leanna M. Landry, current Assistant Principal at Strawbridge Elementary School, as the new Coordinator of Special Education in the Department of Teaching and Learning, with an effective date to be determined.

- B. Notification of Intent to Apply for Federal Grants for SY2020/21: Vice Chair Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board approve the federal grant applications for the 2020-2021 school year as presented. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote, and Federal Grant Applications were approved as outlined below:

Name	Description	Anticipated Funding Level
Title I, Part A	Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged: Improving Basic Programs Operated by Local Educational Agencies (LEA)	\$11,252,648
Title I, Part D	Improving the Academic Achievement of the Disadvantaged: Prevention and Intervention Programs for Children and Youth Who are Neglected, Delinquent, or At Risk	\$168,160
Title II, Part A	Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals: Teacher and Principal Training and Recruiting Fund	\$1,613,718
Title III, Part A	Language Instruction for English Learners and Immigrant Students	\$142,341
Title IV, Part A	Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grants	\$905,128
	Total	\$14,081,995

- C. Appointment of Replacement for Retiring School Board Clerk: Vice Chair Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs, that the School Board approve the Superintendent’s recommendation for appointment of a replacement for retiring School Board Clerk Dianne P. Alexander to serve along with Deputy Clerk Susan Keipe for the remainder of the 2020 calendar year. After commending Ms. Alexander for her service, Superintendent Spence presented his recommendation for the appointment of Regina Toneatto to serve as the Clerk of the School Board for the remainder of the calendar year. Following brief acknowledgements, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously with the School Board using the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to register an affirmative vote.
- D. Modification of Term Set Forth for Student Discipline Ad Hoc Committee: Ms. Holtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manning, that the School Board authorize the Student Discipline Ad Hoc Committee to function beyond the original set date of June 15, 2020 to allow the Committee to meet up until the time of the School Board’s 2020 retreat. Discussion ensued clarifying the rationale for the need to extend the term related to



limitations on the work of the committee due to the State of Emergency. Additionally, a brief overview of status of the committee's work, the collection of data, survey results, meeting schedule and timeline for the committee to prepare for their presentation prior to the School Board's scheduled retreat was provided. Following discussion, Ms. Owens proposed a substitute motion to modify the term set forth for the Student Discipline Ad Hoc Committee to function beyond the original set date of June 15, 2020 to allow the committee to continue to meet until June 30, 2020. School Board members who did not use the raised hand feature on the Zoom platform to indicate an affirmative vote were called upon individually before the School Board Clerk announced the substitute motion passed with 8 ayes, and 3 nays - Hughes, Manning, and Weems.

9. Information:

- A. Legal Services Cooperative Agreement for FY21: School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney, provided an overview of the working cooperative agreement proposed for the City and Schools to share legal resources provided by the City Attorney's Office for the 2020-21 fiscal year. She explained the agreement allows for the City Attorney's Office to provide 3.5 attorneys, one paralegal, and one office assistant for an annual estimated cost of \$644,777.40 which represents the annual cost of salaries, benefits, supplies and professional dues. She reported on average, the City Attorney's Office provides approximately 6,000 hours of in-house legal services with an estimated average hourly cost for in-house legal counsel at \$107.58.
- B. Policy Review Committee Recommendations: School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney, presented an overview of the following Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment and repeal of certain policies reviewed by the committee at their March 12 and May 14, 2020 meetings as follows:
 1. Bylaw 1-26/School Visitations: Updated to include language related to school visitations by a School Board member and the purposes of that visit. Additional language also recommended regarding disciplinary action of personnel as a result of the school visit
 2. Bylaw 1-28/Committees, Organizations and Boards- School Board Member Assignments: Section/subsection added to include the reviewing and responding to complaints or concerns regarding School Board members and developing procedures for handling such complaints
 3. Policy 2-6/Superintendent/Recruitment and Selection: Legal reference updated
 4. Policy 2-8/Superintendent/Powers/Duties and Responsibilities: Legal reference updated, and section updated to specify where the Superintendent's responsibilities were to be enumerated
 5. Policy 2-9/Superintendent/Evaluation: Updated to specify that the School Board Governance Committee shall have responsibility for the Superintendent's evaluation procedures



6. Policy 3-84/School Lunch and Breakfast Program/Generally: Amended to reflect new legislation concerning school lunch and breakfast programs effective July 1, 2020
 7. Policy 4-3/Grievances and Grievance Procedures/Teachers: Amended to remove outdated editor's note and addition of legal reference
 8. Policy 4-4/Equal Employment Opportunity, Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment and Compliance Officers: Scrivener's changes made to legal reference
 9. Policy 5-49/Interscholastic Competition: Amended to address SY2020-21 athletic eligibility requirements potentially affected by the school closings
 10. Policy 5-62/Student Athletes-Sudden Cardiac Arrest and Prevention Awareness: Amended to reflect new legislation regarding sudden cardiac arrest effective July 1, 2020
 11. Policy 7-48/Community Use of Facilities/Generally: Amended to reflect nondiscrimination language that is consistent with current policy
- C. Discussion of Status of FY20 Committee Assignments: Chairwoman Rye provided a status report on the work of School Board Committees acknowledging the impact of the current State of Emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic on committee activities. She stated upon reflection with Vice Chair Melnyk and in preparation for the School Board's annual consideration of committee assignments taken up at the end of June, their recommendation is to bring forward a proposal at the next regular meeting to extend all current committee assignments until the School Board's January 2021 Organizational Meeting. Several School Board members relayed interest in serving on more committees than they are currently assigned to.
10. **Standing Committee Reports**: School Board designated representatives reported activities on behalf of the Student Discipline Ad Hoc Committee, Governor's School for the Arts, and Southeastern Cooperative Educational Program (SECEP) (Melnyk); Special Education Citizen's Advisory Committee, and Planning and Performance Monitoring Committee (Weems); Audit Committee, and 403b Plan Oversight Committee (Edwards); Mayor's Committee for Persons with Disabilities (Holtz); and Sister Cities (Riggs). Chairwoman Rye noted not all Citizen Advisory Committees had been meeting. Additionally, she reported being joined by Vice Chair Melnyk to formally present Superintendent Spence with his annual performance evaluation and discuss comments related to each standard.
 11. **Conclusion of the Formal Meeting**: The formal meeting concluded at 7:42 p.m.
 12. **Closed Meeting**: None
 13. **Vote on Remaining Action Items**: None



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14. **Adjournment:** Prior to adjournment, Chairwoman Rye thanked the listening public for their interest and feedback noting Administration is working diligently on Month of the VBCPS Graduate; and looking ahead with regards to special education, summer school, and fall reopening scenarios with the School Board's commitment to conduct due diligence. There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair