



# 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

<b>Beverly M. Anderson</b> At-Large	<b>Daniel D. Edwards</b> District 2 – Kempsville	<b>Sharon R. Felton</b> District 6 – Beach
<b>Dorothy M. Holtz</b> At-Large	<b>Laura K. Hughes</b> At-Large	<b>Victoria C. Manning</b> At-Large
<b>Jessica L. Owens</b> District 3 – Rose Hall	<b>Trenace B. Riggs</b> District 1 – Centerville	<b>Carolyn D. Weems</b> District 4 - Bayside

**Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent**

### **School Board *Special Meeting* MINUTES**

**Tuesday, February 4, 2020**

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

1. **Call to Order and Electronic Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the special meeting of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach to order at 5:02 p.m. in the School Board Chambers at the School Administration Building. All School Board members were present along with Superintendent Spence. Ms. Owens arrived late at 5:07 p.m. The stated purpose of the special meeting was for the presentation of the Superintendent’s Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2020-21, and proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2020-21 through Fiscal Year 2025-26.
2. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Ms. Hughes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, that the School Board adopt the meeting agenda as published. Without discussion the motion passed (ayes 10, nays 0; Owens had not yet arrived).
4. **Presentation:**
  - A. **Superintendent’s Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2020-21:** Superintendent Spence commented although the presentation officially launches the budget season, it reflects discussions and presentations throughout the year. Priorities in the \$818.4 million Estimate of Needs were highlighted with employee compensation identified as a top priority along with incorporating full-day kindergarten into the operating budget, providing necessary supports for the growing English Learner (EL) and special education populations, and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) planning. Cost saving measures that help offset budget shortfalls were reviewed, and complexities of how the division is funded were explained. He demonstrated teacher compensation nationally and the impact on recruitment, retention and ability to attract new teachers to the profession acknowledging the efforts of Virginia Beach’s City Council to fill in funding gaps with the revenue sharing formula recognized as an example of the Council’s ongoing commitment to public schools.



It was reported Governor Northam's amended biennial state budget recommended a three percent salary increase for teachers in the second year of the biennium meaning no state funding for a salary increase in the budget for next year. Noting continuing efforts to make the delegation aware of the School Board's funding priorities, and notwithstanding the poor investment in teacher compensation at the state level, Superintendent Spence announced the Estimate of Needs includes a 3.5 percent employee salary increase for 2020-21 that will result in employees receiving a 6.5 percent pay increase within the two-year timeframe.

Competing needs addressed in the budget as a result of new state requirements included the Virginia Retirement System's one percent increase in employer contributions totaling \$4.5 million, a change in the ratio of school counselors to students which it was noted the division had already partially addressed, and elimination of the ability for school divisions to receive waivers for larger class sizes resulting in an additional 38 teacher positions budgeted at the elementary level at a cost of \$2.9 million. Other budget challenges were in the area of lagging state funding for support positions, elimination of state CIP funding, and unfunded mandates passed down to school divisions from both the state and federal level. Additional budget priorities included the expansion of the An Achievable Dream Academy program to middle school requiring six additional positions in the coming year, and funds to address additional duty supplements that haven't changed in any significant way in more than 20 years.

Despite the competing priorities, Superintendent Spence went on to report the many accolades and successes of the division as a testament to the work that goes on in schools every day. Additionally, he stated the continued commitment to seek ways to make schools even better for children mentioning the new environmental studies program to begin in the fall in a new 1600 square foot Joan and Macon Brock classroom being constructed at the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Brock Center, and launch of a new strategic plan – *Compass to 2025*.

Farrell E. Hanzaker, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of the budget document to include details of how the budget was balanced, categorical breakdown of all funds and expenditures, and chart of unmet needs for both technology-related and non-technology related items.

- B. Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fiscal Year 2020-21 through Fiscal Year 2025-26: Additionally, the need for ongoing capital improvements across the division was outlined with highlights of funding for projects in the proposed CIP to include the completion of the modernization of John B. Dey Elementary School, and replacement of both Thoroughgood elementary and Princess Anne middle schools. In reviewing status of other replacement and infrastructure projects, it was noted that none of the fifteen schools identified as the highest priority in the Long-Range Facilities Plan were fully funded in the CIP proposal.

Tony L. Arnold, P.E., Executive Director of Facilities Services, presented highlights of the Superintendent's proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funding of \$481,043,623



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(including appropriations to date), with \$63,891,000 in Year 1 (2020/21), to include an overview of projects, and outline of funding sources and funding summary.

Superintendent Spence concluded by reviewing the timeline leading up to School Board action to be taken on March 3 for submission to the City for City Council to adopt a municipal budget by May 15.

Upon presentation of the budget document without an opportunity to pose questions, School Board members were invited to forward inquiries to the Superintendent, copying Mr. Hanzaker and the full School Board, for discussion at future workshops.

5. **Adjournment:** Prior to adjournment, Chairwoman Rye recognized the budget staff in attendance, and thanked the Planning and Performance Monitoring Committee for their advance review. There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Rye adjourned the special meeting at 5:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

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Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair