



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 Regular Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, March 10, 2020

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

INFORMAL MEETING

- 1. Convene School Board Workshop:** The School Board convened in the einstein.lab in workshop format at 4:00 p.m. All School Board members were present along with Superintendent Spence.
 - A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Abridged by the School Board Chair in deference to guests in attendance for other workshop topics, School Board members were asked to postpone administrative matters for another meeting and save Committee Reports for the Standing Committee Reports section during the formal meeting.
 - 1. Citizen Advisory Committee Vacancies:** Chairwoman Rye announced vacancies on Citizen Advisory Committees for Special Education, Gifted Education, Technical and Career Education, and the School Health Advisory Board; noting a Call to Action will be issued with instructions on the application process.
 - D. WHRO Services Update:** Bert Schmidt, WHRO Chief Executive Officer, reviewed educator resources and training opportunities, and the array of student services offered citing specific programs and events. Finally, an overview of the division’s return on investment was reported at \$13.50 to \$1.00. This portion of the workshop concluded at 4:14 p.m.
 - B. Overview of Communications and Community Engagement Department and NSPRA Audit:** Natalie Allen, Chief Communications and Community Engagement Officer, presented an overview of the Department of Communications and Community Engagement before introducing Mellissa Braham, NSPRA Associate Director and Lead Auditor, who presented key findings and observations from the NSPRA communication audit and explained proposed recommendations. Ms. Allen then reviewed current and completed audit initiatives as well as planned initiatives. This portion of the workshop concluded at 4:54 p.m.
 - C. Virginia Department of Health COVID-19 Update:** John “Jack” Freeman, Chief Operations Officer, recognized partnerships working with the division on the COVID-19, commonly known as coronavirus. Demetria Lindsay, MD, Public Health Director for the Norfolk and Virginia Beach Districts with the Virginia Department of Health, provided a status report on the virus



prior to Mr. Freeman reporting on internal preparations and work with the City's task force run by Erin Sutton with the City's Emergency Management Office related to upcoming events. This portion of the workshop concluded at 5:46 p.m.

2. **Closed Meeting:** None at this time. See Item 18.
3. **School Board Recess:** The School Board recessed at 5:46 p.m. to reconvene in School Board Chambers at 6:00 p.m. for the formal meeting.

FORMAL MEETING

4. **Call to Order and Electronic Roll Call:** Chairwoman Rye called the formal meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. All School Board members were present along with Superintendent Spence.
5. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
6. **Student Employee and Public Awards and Recognition:** National Board Certified Teachers: The School Board recognized the 2019 class of National Board Certified Teachers for Virginia Beach City Public Schools.
7. **Superintendent's Report:** Five things shared by Superintendent Spence in his monthly report were related to 1) the COVID19 coronavirus and channels by which the most up to date information will be made available; 2) March being designated as Music in Our Schools Month and the division being named one of the Best Communities for Music Education by the National Association of Music Merchants (NAMM) Foundation; 3) March also being designated as Youth Art Month with an invitation to visit places where student artwork will be on display; 4) the upcoming Student Wellness Expo; and 5) the Battle of the Book Finale competition that supports the Virginia Grade 5 English Standards of Learning.
8. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items:** None
9. **Approval of Minutes:**
 - A. February 25, 2020 Regular School Board Meeting: Mr. Edwards made a motion, seconded by Ms. Hughes, that the School Board approve the minutes of their February 25, 2020 regular meeting as presented. Without discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
 - B. March 3, 2020 Special School Board Meeting: Ms. Manning made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that the School Board approve the minutes of their March 3, 2020 special meeting as presented. Without discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
10. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Noting the reordering of afternoon workshop topics, Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Owens, that the School Board adopt the meeting agenda as reordered. Without discussion, the motion passed unanimously.
11. **Consent Agenda:** There were no items presented for approval as part of the Consent Agenda
12. **Action:**

Personnel Report / Administrative Appointment(s): Vice Chair Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs, that the School Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the Personnel Report dated March 10, 2020, along with two administrative appointments as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion, the



motion passed unanimously, and Superintendent Spence introduced the following administrative appointments as approved by the School Board:

David N. Din, current Director of Technology, as the new Chief Information Officer in the Department of Technology effective July 11, 2020; and

Christopher J. Freeman, current teacher at Kellam High School, as the new Coordinator of the Environmental Studies Program in the Department of Teaching and Learning effective July 1, 2020

13. Information:

A. Strategic Framework Update: Lisa A. Banicky, Ph.D., Executive Director in the Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, presented information on the progress related to the strategic priorities identified for the 2019-2020 school year as well as an update on the work related to *Compass to 2025* which will officially launch on July 1, 2020.

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 as reviewed by the committee at their February 13, 2020 meeting:

1. Policy 3-68 Employee Lactation Support: PRC reviewed and determined no amendments were needed at this time
2. Policy 5-7 Non-Discrimination and Non-Harassment of Students: In addition to formatting changes, improvements were recommended to clarify certain procedures and when the school division will assume jurisdiction over discrimination complaints
3. Regulation 5-21.3 Discipline of Students with Disabilities: Significant formatting changes made to bring the regulation in compliance with current policy and regulation formatting, and updates recommended to reflect current practices and certain regulatory citations
4. Policy 5-76 Homeless Children and Youth: Modifications recommended that reflect statutory and regulatory changes to procedures related to the McKinney-Vento Act requirements as well as formatting changes
5. Policy 7-37 Gifts to Staff Members: Amended to add reference to the Virginia State and Local Governments Conflict Interests Act

14. Standing Committee Reports: School Board designated representatives reported on behalf of the joint City/Schools Modernization Committee (Edwards); Sister Cities and the selection of a Cox High School student to serve as their Youth Ambassador (Riggs); Special Education Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Performance, Planning and Monitoring Committee (Weems); and Gifted Education Citizens' Advisory Committee, and Equity Council (Owens).

15. Conclusion of Formal Meeting: The formal meeting concluded at 6:44 p.m.

16. Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items: The School Board heard comments from three citizens proposing strategies related to school safety.



Chairwoman Rye recognized members in attendance from the Mayor's Youth Group.

17. Workshop: None at this time. See Item 1

18. Closed Meeting: Vice Chair Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Owens, that the School Board recess into a closed session pursuant to the exemptions from open meetings allowed by Section 2.2-3711, Part A, Paragraphs 1 and 7 of the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, for

- A. 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 to discuss status of certain employees; and
- B. Legal Matters: Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the Board or consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A) (7); namely to discuss status of pending legal matters.

Without discussion, the motion passed unanimously, and the School Board recessed at 6:58 p.m. and reconvened in the Room 113 in closed session at 7:07 p.m.

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

- A. Personnel Matters: School Board members; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff; John A. Mirra, Chief Human Resources Officer; School Board Legal Counsel Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney; and Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board.
- B. Legal Matters: School Board members; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff; School Board Legal Counsel Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney; and Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board.

The School Board reconvened in an open meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Certification of Closed Meeting: Vice Chair Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manning, that the School Board certifies that to the best of each member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered. Without discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

19. Vote on Remaining Action Items: None



20. **Adjournment:** There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Rye adjourned the meeting at 7:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair

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