



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 EMERGENCY Electronic Meeting MINUTES Wednesday, March 25, 2020

NOTICE OF EMERGENCY ELECTRONIC SCHOOL BOARD MEETING

On March 25, 2020 at 4:00 p.m. the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia will hold an emergency electronic meeting in accordance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act §2.2-3708.2(A) (3), as amended, for the purpose of addressing matters related to the School Calendar in response to the State of Emergency and the Governor’s announcement that all public schools remain closed for the rest of the 2019-20 academic year. The School Board Meeting will be conducted electronically. Audio will be streamed live on vbschools.com as well as on VBTv Channel 47 and recorded for archival purposes.

EMERGENCY MEETING

1. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call: Chairwoman Rye called the electronic emergency School Board meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and explained the purpose of the emergency meeting was to address certain issues related to Virginia Governor Ralph Northam’s declaration of a state of emergency in the Commonwealth of Virginia arising from the COVID 19 coronavirus pandemic. After conducting a verbal roll call, the School Board Clerk affirmed a quorum was present with all School Board members participating remotely by phone along with Superintendent Spence.

2. Explanation of Purpose of Emergency Electronic Meeting and How Meeting will be Conducted:

Chairwoman Rye’s statement:

“On March 13, 2020, Governor Northam declared all K-12 schools in Virginia closed effective March 16, 2020. On March 23, 2020, the Governor issued a further declaration that all K-12 schools be closed for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year. Additionally, the Governor declared that there are to be no public or private gatherings of persons of more than ten people until April 23, 2020.

Due to the Governor’s declaration regarding closing schools, the additional prohibitions regarding the gathering of groups of more than ten persons, as well as national and international guidance



concerning that COVID-19, it is determined that holding a School Board Meeting in person would pose a real and substantial threat to public health and safety. Accordingly, the School Board is holding an electronic meeting for the purpose of addressing certain issues related to the academic calendar for the remainder of the 2019-20 school year.

The School Board issued public notice of this meeting earlier today and this School Board meeting is available to the public to listen to through VBTV. School Board members and certain staff members are participating electronically in this meeting. Due to the electronic nature of this meeting, School Board members and staff must identify themselves verbally before speaking and each School Board member will be called upon individually to acknowledge his or her presence or to vote. All votes will be recorded in the minutes of this meeting. Should a School Board member join the meeting after the roll call or leave the meeting before adjournment, the School Board member is asked to verbally state that.

Public comments will not be taken during this meeting, but members of the public may email their comments to the School Board members at the School Board Google account.”

There were no questions about the process as stated.

3. **Adoption of Agenda:** Chairwoman Rye called for a motion to adopt the agenda. Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson, that the School Board adopt the agenda as published. Without discussion, the School Board Clerk called for a verbal vote from each School Board member, and then announced the motion passed unanimously.
4. **Action:** Modification to the School Calendar for the Remainder of the 2019-20 Academic Year: Chairwoman Rye asked for a motion to amend the 2019-20 academic calendar to extend the third quarter until April 23, 2020. The motion was made by Ms. Riggs and seconded by Ms. Holtz, and a correction by Superintendent Spence to change the date to April 24, 2020 was accepted.

Superintendent Spence’s statement:

“Thank you and good afternoon everyone.

As you have seen, the agenda is addressing the calendar change to extend the 3rd quarter until April 24th. The 4th quarter would begin on April 27th and continue until the end of the school year. We do know this shortens the fourth quarter. This is allowable under local regulations.

I will note that right now our plan is for 3rd quarter grades to be calculated based on the grade as of March 13th. We will continue with our continuity of learning plan until the end of the 3rd quarter. During this time, students will also have the opportunity to improve their 3rd quarter grade by completing missing work and assessments that would normally have been allowed had the grading period continued under normal circumstances.

We believe with the extended time that this calendar change gives us, we can provide appropriate professional learning for our teachers about delivering instruction and attending to the needs of students in special circumstances. This will also give us a chance to make a final decision on grading in the fourth quarter that reflects our ability to mitigate some of the issues we are facing due to this extended closure.



Should you vote to approve this, we will be getting this information out to staff and families tomorrow, which is one of the reasons we needed this change done today. However, the primary reason is that the 3rd quarter ends Friday on the current school year calendar. Because you all approve the school calendar, we need you to approve this substantive change. The calendar will be updated to reflect this and shared with staff and families and posted online.”

After a verbal vote from each School Board member, the School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously.

5. **Adjournment:** There being no further business before the School Board, the electronic emergency meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Rye at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Carolyn T. Rye, School Board Chair