



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

Beverly M. Anderson, Chair
At-Large

Joel A. McDonald, Vice Chair
District 3 – Rose Hall

Daniel D. Edwards District 2 – Kempsville	Sharon R. Felton District 6 – Beach	Dorothy M. Holtz At-Large
Victoria C. Manning At-Large	Ashley K. McLeod At-Large	Kimberly A. Melnyk District 7 – Princess Anne
Trenace B. Riggs District 1 – Centerville	Carolyn T. Rye District 5 - Lynnhaven	Carolyn D. Weems District 4 - Bayside

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent

School Board Regular Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, November 27, 2018¹

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 at 4:07 p.m. All School Board members were present along with Superintendent Spence.
 - A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chairwoman Anderson distributed additional meeting materials to include a revision to page 7 of 12 of the minutes being presented for approval, two additions to page 2 of 4 of the Personnel Report, and supporting documents for discussion during CY2019 Organizational Matters. She announced a School Board Retreat scheduled for January 22 to conclude by 2:30 p.m. for the School Board to engage in a 3:00 p.m. joint session with City Council regarding Capital Improvement Program (CIP) plans.
 1. **CY2019 Organizational Matters:**
 - a. **Leadership Interest:** School Board members were provided an opportunity to express interest in serving in a leadership role on the School Board for the 2019 calendar year. Ms. Melnyk and Ms. Riggs stated their interest in serving as vice chair, Ms. Rye expressed her interest in being considered for a leadership role, and Ms. Anderson advised she would be interested in continuing to serve as chair. Stating his appreciation for the opportunity to

¹**Joint City Council/School Board Five Year Forecast Presentation (Bldg. 19):** Members of City Council and the School Board met jointly November 20, 2018 in Building 19 at 3:00 p.m. to receive the Five-Year Forecast presentation containing major components and areas of focus for the next five years regarding economic trends, revenue projections, expenditure assumptions, and associated statistics and graphs.



serve as vice chair in the 2018 calendar year, Mr. McDonald noted he was not interested in serving in any leadership role in 2019.

- b. Schedule of Meetings through June 30, 2020: The School Board received a schedule for regular School Board meetings to continue to be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month through June 30, 2020 as prescribed in current bylaws; and an option should bylaws be changed to return meeting dates to be held generally on the first and third Tuesday of each month. It was noted the Policy Review Committee (PRC) was asked to revisit the bylaw for a potential switch back to the first and third Tuesday and agreed to move the suggestion forward for consideration by the full School Board. School Board members spoke to both options and rationale for the request for the change cited to be related to graduations, joint meetings with City Council, the lack of increased public participation, and inability to meet twice during certain months such as December.
- c. Committee Assignment SY19 Adjustments (as needed): In distributing the list of current committee assignments approved for the term ending June 30, 2019, Chairwoman Anderson asked School Board members to advise the School Board Clerk of any requested adjustments noting Mr. Edwards' request to be assignment to the morning Student Discipline Committee #2.
- d. Standing Rules: Chairwoman Anderson distributed a copy of the School Board's current Standing Rules noting any change in the bylaw regarding meeting days will require adjustments to the Standing Rules to be processed through the Policy Review Committee (PRC).

This portion of the workshop concluded at 4:24 p.m.

- B. Annual Recruitment, Staffing, Retention and Compensation Update: John A. Mirra, Chief Human Resources Officer; Anne C. Glenn-Zeljeznjak, Coordinator of Recruitment and Retention, and Judith R. Wood, Human Resources Specialist in the Department of Human Resources; presented the annual update on recruitment, staffing, retention and compensation to include an overview of market conditions and enrollment in teacher preparation programs, national projected outlook of teacher shortages, challenges and results in filling vacancies, diversity of newly hired teachers, success in minority recruitment, seasonal recruitment strategies, and digital outreach. Additionally, they reported on continuing campaigns and outreach to include a retiree opportunity program and Virginia Values Veterans (V3) program supported by the Virginia Department of Veteran's Services. Information was shared regarding categorization of employees with 30 years of eligible service, retention strategies, and overview of accomplishments in the area of completed equity adjustments, development of a Unified Experience-Based Step Pay Scale, addressing salary compression, and increasing the daily long-term substitute rate and tuition reimbursement. The compensation update included a review of the 2018-19



Instructional Experience-Based Step Pay Scale, and regional comparisons were reported for compensation; allowances; advanced degrees, licenses and certifications; additional duty supplements; teacher assistants and substitute teacher rates; and employee health benefit costs. They advised of the creation of an additional duty supplements oversight committee to review the program and provide recommendations for modifications and/or increases to be presented in December 2019. Plans were also reported for a clerical support review. Finally, an outline of unmet needs estimated at \$10.5 million was presented for consideration in the 2019-20 fiscal year to increase allowances for advanced degrees, reclassify teacher assistants with additional equity adjustment costs, move certain positions to the teacher pay scale, and increase the rate of long-term substitutes.

The workshop concluded at 5:15 p.m.

2. **Closed Meeting #1 of 2: Student Disciplinary Matters and Legal Matters:** Vice Chair McDonald, made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, 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 2 and 7 of the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, for
 - A. Student Disciplinary Matters: Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth or any state school system. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(2); namely to discuss student complaints and related litigation from VDOE Systematic Complaint.
 - 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 open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7); namely to discuss consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending litigation.

The motion passed unanimously, and the School Board entered into a closed session at 5:17 p.m.

Individuals present for discussion: Student Discipline Matters and Legal Matters collectively: School Board members; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff; Kipp D. Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer; Roni Myers-Daub, Ed.D., Executive Director of Programs for Exceptional Children; 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 5:44 p.m.

Certification of Closed Meeting: Vice Chair McDonald made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, 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. The motion passed unanimously.

3. **School Board Recess**: The School Board recessed at 5:45 p.m. to reconvene in School Board Chambers for the formal meeting at 6:00 p.m.
4. **Call to Order and Roll Call**: Chairwoman Anderson called the formal meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. in School Board Chambers. In addition to Superintendent Spence, all School Board members were present.
5. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
6. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**: None
7. **Superintendent's Report**: In his tradition of recognizing the newest member(s) of the *Compass Keepers Club*², Superintendent Spence reported on the student-led event at Cox High School where student organizations came together to help support a local need by making hundreds and hundreds of meals to donate to the Union Mission. Cox High School senior, Kenzie Wall, was featured as the chair of the hashtag lunch bag packing event.
8. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items**: None
9. **Approval of Minutes**: November 13, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting: Ms. Rye made a motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs, that the School Board approve the minutes of their November 13, 2018 regular meeting inclusive of the revision to page 7 as presented prior to the meeting. The motion passed (ayes 9, nays 0; 2 abstentions – Holtz and Weems who were absent from the November 13 meeting).
10. **Adoption of the Agenda**: There being no proposed changes to the published agenda, Ms. Manning made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
11. **Consent Agenda**: After Chairwoman Anderson's overview of items presented for approval as part of the Consent Agenda, Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the School Board approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, and the following items were approved as part of the Consent Agenda:

² Members of the Compass Keepers Club are students, staff or community supporters who truly represent Virginia Beach City Public Schools with dedication, determination, passion and drive



- A. Textbook Adoption: Technical and Career Education, Vocational Relations, Practical Nursing I/II: Success in Practical/Vocational Nursing, 8th edition, Publisher: Elsevier, Copyright 2017 as recommended by the applicable Textbook Adoption Committee for implementation in the fall of 2019
- B. New Secondary Courses
 1. Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) approved Environmental Science course, and corresponding content and process guidelines for implementation in the 2019-20 school year designed to be a year-long science course that will integrate the study of many components of the environment including the human impact on the planet
 2. Technical and Career Education
 - a. Digital Applications course and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2019-20 school year proposed as an entry level course offered by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) as a replacement for Keyboarding and Keyboarding Application courses to be retired by VDOE before the 2019-20 school year
 - b. Economics and Personal Finance course and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2019-20 school year proposed as a year-long course that replaces current separate semester offerings of the course material
 - c. Technology Transfer Capstone course and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2019-20 school year proposed as a year-long course that serves as a sequential elective and Career and Technical series completer for the Technology Foundations course currently offered at Salem High School
 - d. Licensed Pharmacy Technician I course and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2020-21 school year as a certificate program designed to provide students with the basic skills and knowledge needed to begin work as a pharmacy technician
- C. Recommendations proposed in response to the comprehensive evaluation conducted on An Achievable Dream Academy at Seatack Elementary School as follows:
 - Recommendation #1: Continue An Achievable Dream Academy with modifications noted in recommendations 2 through 6. (*Responsible Groups: An Achievable Dream Academy, Inc., Seatack Elementary School*)
 - Recommendation #2: Review academic performance in grade 4 math and grade 5 science and social studies and develop plans to improve achievement in these areas. (*Responsible Groups: An Achievable Dream, Inc., Seatack Elementary School*)
 - Recommendation #3: Ensure consistency in communicating and applying discipline policies. (*Responsible Groups: An Achievable Dream, Inc., Seatack Elementary School*)
 - Recommendation #4: Implement new strategies to provide timely and informative communication to staff and to improve collaboration between instructional staff,



administrators, and AADA. (*Responsible Groups: Department of School Leadership, An Achievable Dream Academy, Inc., Seatack Elementary School*)

- Recommendation #5: Investigate the feasibility of changing the school from a “B” schedule school to an “A” schedule school. (*Responsible Groups: Department of School Leadership, An Achievable Dream, Inc., Seatack Elementary School*)
- Recommendation #6: Conduct an evaluation update during 2018-2019 focused on staff perceptions, matched group analyses for elementary students, and an update on the AADA students who continued into the middle school program. (*Responsible Group: Planning, Innovation, and Accountability – Office of Research and Evaluation*)

D. Policy Review Committee Recommendations

1. Policy 4-56 Licensed Personnel: Role of Professional Teaching Staff/Conditions of Employment: With the goal of providing instruction that is educationally sound in an atmosphere of mutual respect and courtesy, policy updated to give clearer direction to staff related to appropriate student interaction.
2. Policy 4-67 Investigating/Reporting Alcohol or Drug Use: Policy updated to reflect current state standards as they relate to the sale, distribution, possession and/or use of illegal drugs in public schools.
3. Policy 5-34 Student Conduct: Language added addressing the supervision of students during the entire period of time that they are in school, during school or school sponsored activities, on the school grounds before and after school, and on the way to and from school, including school bus stops, and while on school buses.
 - a. Regulation 5-34.1 Student Conduct on School Buses: New language that addresses disruptive behavior by students while going to or from their bus stop, while waiting for a school bus, while on a school bus, after being discharged from a school bus, or riding to or from a school related event in an authorized vehicle.
 - b. Regulation 5-34.2 Cheating/Plagiarizing: Update related to the responsibility of both teachers and students when confronting cheating and/or plagiarizing and the possible disciplinary action as outlined by the Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Guidelines.
4. Policy 5-36 Conduct Invoking Punitive Action: Policy updated to reflect the guidelines of applicable state and federal law defining the equitable treatment of all students and the minimum due process procedures to be followed in the detention, suspension and expulsion of students
 - a. Regulation 5-36.3 Hazing/Assault and Battery/Profane, Obscene or Abusive Language or Conduct/Bullying: Legal update to outline disciplinary action taken against students, under the provisions set forth in policy, in response to students who haze or otherwise mistreat another student so as to cause bodily injury.



- b. Regulation 5-36.4 Weapons/Explosives/Fireworks: New language authorizes the Superintendent or designee to take all actions necessary to prohibit the presence of explosive fireworks or such items in the educational and work environment, and at school sponsored events, unless specifically authorized by the Superintendent or designee to be present.
- c. Regulation 5-36.5 Trespass Upon School Property: Legal update related to disciplinary action, as outlined in the Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Guidelines, taken upon an individual's unlawful entry upon School Board owned or leased property, vehicles, or buildings/grounds is prohibited.
5. Policy 5-37 Reporting Data About School Violence and Crime: Legal update related to Virginia Code § 22.1-279.3:1 which requires that the Virginia Department of Education collect information on crime, violence and substance abuse that takes place on public school property, on school buses or at school-sponsored activities.
6. Regulation 5-42.1 Property Damage/Theft: Legal update related to Virginia Code § 8.01-43 when a student is suspected of theft of any school or another person's property, the incident shall be investigated by administration and, as appropriate, reported to law enforcement for appropriate action. Students will be disciplined in accordance with the Code of Student Conduct and the Discipline Guidelines.
7. Policy 7-21 Citizens' Advisory Committees: Update to the Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Committee section of Policy 7-21/Citizens Advisory Committees on the appointment of members by the School Board upon recommendation of the Superintendent

12. Action

- A. Personnel Report/Administrative Appointments: Ms. Holtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the School Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the Personnel Report dated November 27, 2018 inclusive of two additions made to page 2 presented prior to the meeting along with two administrative appointments recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously, and Superintendent Spence introduced the following new administrative appointments: Angela S. Mullen, current School Improvement Specialist at Corporate Landing Middle School as the new Assistant Principal at Corporate Landing Middle School; and TaShenna R. Wiggins, current Instructional Coach, Title I Program with Chesapeake Public Schools, as the new Assistant Principal at Green Run Elementary School.
- B. Environmental Studies Program: Ms. Rye made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the School Board approve an Environmental Studies Program to be located at the Brock



Environmental Center for implementation in the 2020-21 school year as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. School Start Times: Ms. McLeod made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manning, that the School Board approve a resolution directing the Superintendent to develop school start time options that allow adolescent students to start school later. The motion was approved unanimously, and the resolution approved as follows:

RESOLUTION OF THE VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SCHOOL BOARD CONCERNING SCHOOL START TIMES

WHEREAS, in July 2015 the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach directed the Administration to review start times based on medical evidence that later start times are beneficial to the well-being of adolescents; and

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2016 a transportation study was conducted on the feasibility of changing school start times; and

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2017 a survey of stakeholders was conducted about school start times; and

WHEREAS, survey results indicated that 78% of parents, 73% of staff, and 71% of students agreed that later start times are beneficial to the health, safety, and well-being of adolescents; and

WHEREAS, survey results indicated that only 36% of parents are currently satisfied with school start times; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2017, the Administration recommended to the School Board that start times for schools be modified based on a study of options and stakeholder feedback.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach hereby directs the Superintendent to develop school start time options that allow adolescent students to start school later; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That in developing options for the School Board to consider, the Superintendent and Administration will take the following factors into consideration: the 2016 Transportation Study from School Bus Consultants; the 2017 Survey of VBCPS Stakeholders on Start Times; relevant research studies on adolescent sleep patterns, start times, social-emotional needs, academic achievement, student attendance, and graduation data; operational and facility needs to support the shift in times; community input (through focus groups or forums) to review and gather feedback on options for school start times; and the need for a comprehensive communication plan about any changes to school start times; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED: That school start time options and an administrative recommendation be presented to the School Board during the July 2019 Retreat for information, with subsequent action to be taken by the School Board in September 2019 with a planned implementation of new start times scheduled for September of 2020.

NOTE: *At the conclusion of the School Board meeting, prior to Adjournment, Superintendent Spence confirmed there was consensus by the School Board to proceed with field lighting at the amount requested in the original FY18 reversion proposal (\$2.8 million); and a decision about how to complete the final stage of the high school field lights project to be made after the School Board votes on start times in September 2019.*



- D. Establishment of an Ad Hoc Committee for the Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct for Members of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach: Ms. Melnyk made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board approve the creation of an ad hoc committee to review the School Board's Code of Ethical and Professional Conduct for Members, with School Board members Daniel Edwards, Joel McDonald, and Trenace Riggs serving and tasked with returning a recommendation to the School Board in February 2019. In response to an inquiry regarding the goal of the committee, it was explained the Code is reviewed on a two-year cycle when new School Board members come on board, to be discussed and reviewed prior to a public signing for display in the School Board Chambers. The motion passed unanimously.

13. **Information**

- A. School Counseling Program (K-12): Comprehensive Evaluation – College and Career Component: Allison M. Bock, Ph.D., Program Evaluation Specialist in the Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, presented an overview of the key findings from the comprehensive evaluation of the College and Career Component of the School Counseling Program (K-12). Background information was provided as well as a review of the evaluation process and method, operational components, and progress toward meeting program objectives. As a result, the following six recommendations were presented along with Administration's response provided by Kipp D. Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer:
- Continue with modifications proposed in the following recommendations
 - Develop a plan to provide additional staff (e.g., social workers, psychologists, school counselors, etc.) for 2019-2020 to support the school counseling program's functions to allow school counselors to have additional time to meet students' needs
 - Continue to seek additional parent engagement and education strategies to ensure increased interaction with parents and parent awareness of the role and responsibilities of school counselors
 - Develop alternative methods for publicizing activities and resources available to secondary students for college and career preparation
 - Review, revise as needed, and communicate expectations for elementary school counselors' responsibilities regarding college and career activities
 - Continue to ensure that students are aware of the academic and career planning (ACP) process and work to develop their academic and career plans
- B. Strategic Plan Ad Hoc Committee Appointments: Lisa A. Banicky, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, presented the recommended membership on the Ad Hoc Strategic Plan Steering Committee commissioned pursuant to School Board policy which requires the activation of the committee one year prior to the end of the division's strategic plan. She explained the committee is comprised of representatives from various internal and external stakeholders including teachers,



parents, students, administrators, business leaders, military, and higher education representatives; and will engage to gather input and review division data in the development of the next strategic framework.

- C. ACT/SAT Report for 2018 Graduates: Kipp D. Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer, presented an overview of ACT and SAT results for graduates in the class of 2018, and addressed how schools strive to improve student performance on these two college readiness exams.
- D. Interim Financial Statements – October 2018: Crystal M. Pate, Director of Business Services, presented highlights of the interim financial statements as of October 31, 2018 reporting the overall revenue trend as acceptable. She explained influences on revenue projections, and reported expenditures/encumbrances at an acceptable level at this point in the fiscal year.
- E. School Board Legislative Agenda for 2019 General Assembly Session: As Chair of the School Board’s Legislative Committee, Vice Chair McDonald presented an overview of the proposed legislative agenda comprised of items related to budget, school safety, delivering quality special education services, lottery fund usage, and dedicated state funding for capital improvements. Issues supported pertained to an automatic waiver for emergency evacuations, dual enrollment, continued reform of the assessment system, and eliminating or funding currently unfunded mandates. Issues opposed were in the area of mandatory funding of Virtual School, Charter Schools, and participation in interscholastic athletic programs by non-public school students. In closing, the School Board agreed to take action on the Legislative Agenda during Item 19 – Vote on Remaining Action Items.
- F. Bylaw Revisions:
 - 1. Bylaw 1-14 Compensation and Expenses – Regarding School Board Member Communication Stipend: School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney, reported the Policy Review Committees (PRC) accepted a recommendation submitted by a School Board member to amend Bylaw 1-14 Compensation and Expenses to allow for School Board members to request a monthly communication allowance equal to the communication allowance provided to Chief Officers effective January 1, 2019. She noted the PRC did not take a position on the proposal, but agreed to move it forward for full School Board consideration. She explained although it is unclear whether the allowance qualifies as compensation, to be in compliance with state law as it relates to compensation issues and requirement that action be taken prior to new School Board members taking office, she recommended the School Board vote on the proposal by December 31.
 - 2. Bylaw 1-38 Regular Meetings, Time and Place, Order of Business, Recessed Meetings and Work Session/Public Hearing: School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney, reviewed a recommendation presented to the



Policy Review Committee to amend the bylaw to return to the first and third Tuesday of each month schedule for School Board meetings due to concerns raised regarding schedule challenges. She noted the PRC did not take a position on the recommendation and felt is most appropriate to bring forward for discussion by the full School Board. Additionally, Ms. Lannetti noted any change in the meeting schedule will also require Appendix B – Standing Rules to be updated accordingly.

- 14. Standing Committee Reports:** On behalf of Sister Cities, Ms. Riggs reported on status of the Youth Ambassador application process and advised of upcoming activities.

Ms. Holtz reported on the Special Education Advisory Committee’s (SEAC’S) November 24 Community Resources Fair hosted at Landstown High School.

As chair of the School Board’s Audit Committee, Mr. Edwards reported on completed and continuing audits posted to the School Board’s SharePoint site for School Board members to review naming specifically one dealing with management and appropriate collection of tickets at athletic events. He noted audits were behind due to a change in focus to other items at hand.

Ms. Weems advised of upcoming Green Run Collegiate events and their efforts to raise money for Advanced Placement (AP) exams.

Ms. Rye reported on the first meeting of the Building Utilization Committee (BUC) where information was presented indicating the division is in a good position capacity-wise; and, with enrollment down by approximately 400 students, no recommendations or rezoning will be proposed.

- 19. Vote on Remaining Action Items:** Vice Chair McDonald made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the School Board approve the Legislative Agenda for the 2019 General Assembly Session as proposed. Prior to a vote, Ms. Manning explained her rationale for not being able to support the Legislative Agenda related to her position on Charter Schools and mandatory funding of virtual school. The motion passed (ayes 10, nays 1 – Manning); and the Legislative Agenda approved as follows:

2019 Legislative Agenda

BUDGET

It is imperative to have the financial resources necessary to achieve the division’s primary mission, which is to meet the needs of VBCPS’ 68,000 students and 10,000 employees. According to the most recent JLARC study available, spending on K-12 public education had declined by 7 percent per pupil since 2005. According to the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE), Inflation Adjusted State Per Pupil Funding has declined from \$4,275 in 2009 to \$3,647 currently or by \$628 per pupil. Costs for educating students have not declined during the same period.

School Safety

VBCPS believes that its first, and most important, priority is to create a safe educational environment that is conducive to student learning. Not only does VBCPS have an obligation to protect its students from external threats,



but also to ensure that students who are experiencing a mental health crisis have access to appropriate services before that student becomes a danger to him/herself or others.

Based upon the findings of the Blue Ribbon Panel, VBCPS has two specific legislative recommendations:

- **Increase funding for additional behavior and mental health staff to aid in early identification and support of students exhibiting mental health needs.** VBCPS requests the General Assembly put in additional resources for mental health clinicians, attendance interventionists and behavior specialists. These staff members should have specialized training to target students' complex behavioral needs and have the experience to assess the mental health status of students, recommend an appropriate level of care, implement/assist with implementing appropriate interventions and respond to crisis situations. Further, VBCPS supports funding support positions (e.g. social workers, guidance counselors, school psychologists, and instructional personnel support) under Standard 2 on a prevailing cost basis, rather than the current capped basis. Enhancements such as these will provide additional funding to better support students who are experiencing a mental health crisis.
- **Allow a retired law-enforcement officer to continue to receive their retirement allowance even while serving as a School Security Officer (SSO) in a local school.** SSOs work in conjunction with School Resource Officers (SROs) to provide for the safety, security, and welfare of students, staff and visitors by maintaining order and discipline, preventing crime, and investigating violations of school board policies. Allowing retired law enforcement officers to continue to receive their retirement while serving as SSOs will help to incentivize high quality, retired law-enforcement officers to continue to serve in their local community.

Delivering Quality Special Education Services

VBCPS has more than 7,900 students who qualify for special education services. VBCPS annually spends more than \$106 million, or approximately \$13,400 per qualified student, on special education programs and services. Of this amount, approximately 15 percent comes from the federal government, 20 percent from the state and 65 percent is local. VBCPS is opposed to any change in the delivery of special education services or special education funding that would shift even a larger portion to the funding responsibility to the locality. This includes changes to regional special education programs that either reduce the overall state allotment or reduce the funding to an individual regional program. Such reductions in funding will not reduce VBCPS's obligations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), but rather shift a larger portion to the locality. The Virginia General Assembly should continue to work with its federal delegation to encourage the U.S. Department of Education and Congress to fully fund their portion of special education services in Virginia.

Lottery Fund Usage

While VBCPS supports the additional flexibility provided through recent investments in lottery proceeds, VBCPS is opposed to any measure that would shift the Standards of Quality or other recurring costs to the lottery funds. Shifting additional mandatory operating costs to the lottery fund reduces the amount of money available to school divisions for school construction and other necessary discretionary spending. The lottery funds should be used exclusively to supplement current public education funding, and not used to supplant ongoing SOQ funded programs.

Dedicated State Funding for Capital Improvements



VBCPS supports the reinstatement of dedicated state funds for capital improvements. Since 2010, local governments and school boards have carried the full burden of capital improvements for public schools.

ISSUES SUPPORTED BY VBCPS

Waiver for Emergency Evacuations

During this past hurricane season, VBCPS was required to close schools when mandatory evacuations were ordered for Zone A in Hampton Roads. VBCPS is seeking legislation that would provide an automatic waiver of the 180 day or 990-hour requirement for those school divisions impacted by a mandatory evacuation order when called by a state or federal official. VBCPS is committed to making a good-faith effort in making up lost instructional time whenever schools are required to close; however, additional flexibility provided by a waiver may be necessary should future weather events cause additional closures.

Dual Enrollment

High quality dual enrollment programs are an important part of preparing students for the workforce and will allow students to earn college credit or even an associate degree while still in high school. VBCPS supports legislation and/or regulatory reforms that allow school divisions and local community colleges to negotiate individual rates for public school students who, through their local school division, take dual enrollment courses at the local community college.

Continued Reform of Assessment System

VBCPS also supports the reduction of the number of required tests to allow school divisions to continue to transform the traditional classroom to better meet the needs of our students to compete in a global marketplace. Rather than the 20 SOL tests currently mandated, VBCPS supports legislation that allows school divisions to substitute SOL assessments for those that are performance based, mimic real-life situations and better prepare students for success in higher education and in the workplace. Since 2008, VBCPS has successfully developed an increasing number of performance-based assessments that are used on a division wide basis.

In addition to student growth measures, VBCPS supports a teacher, principal and superintendent accountability system that includes additional measures such as student participation and performance in advanced placement courses, post-graduate measures that provide information on how students transition after high school, and qualitative measures of overall school performance beyond assessments.

Eliminate or Fund Currently Unfunded Mandates

The total impact of state and federal unfunded mandates to VBCPS is \$44 million annually. Of the \$44 million, approximately \$16 million are mandates that originate from either the General Assembly or the Virginia Department of Education. These mandates range from new reporting requirements, to new policies and procedures, to unfunded equipment requirements. VBCPS is opposed to any state mandates requiring local school divisions to assume additional responsibilities or provide additional services without the state's share of funding such mandates. VBCPS supports the elimination or funding for existing unfunded mandates.

ISSUES OPPOSED BY VBCPS



Mandatory Funding of Virtual School

VBCPS recognizes that virtual learning can play an important part in a child's overall academic development and achievement. However, VBCPS is opposed to any legislation that would require any portion of state or local funding to follow the student when the student chooses to enroll in a virtual school outside his or her school division. VBCPS supports online blended models that incorporate the individual needs of the student, as well as a full-time state operated virtual program through Virtual Virginia.

Charter Schools

VBCPS fully supports creating learning environments that meet the individual needs of the community and the students it serves, including academies, innovative programs, Governor's schools and charter schools; however, for these alternative models to be successful they must have the support of the local community and local school division. For this reason, VBCPS is opposed to any legislation that would remove the local school board's authority to establish charter schools within its boundaries, including any change to the Virginia Constitution or legislation that would give the Virginia Board of Education the authority to create regional charter schools.

Participation in Interscholastic Athletic Programs by Nonpublic School Students

VBCPS opposes legislation that allows nonpublic school students to participate in interscholastic programs in public schools. A fundamental principle of the Virginia High School League (VHSL) rules is to provide a level playing field for competition such that all participants are following the same standards of eligibility.

15. **Conclusion of Formal Meeting:** The formal meeting concluded at 7:57 p.m.
16. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items:** None
17. **Recess into Workshop:** None
18. **Closed Meeting #2 of 2:** Vice Chair made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, 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 2 and 7 of the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, for
 - A. **Student Disciplinary Matters:** Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning any student of any public institution of higher education in the Commonwealth or any state school system. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(2); namely to discuss student complaints and related litigation from VDOE Systematic Complaint.
 - C. **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 open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of



the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(7); namely to discuss consultation with Legal Counsel regarding pending litigation.

The motion passed unanimously, and the School Board recessed at 7:59 p.m. and reconvened in Room 113 in a closed session at 8:05 p.m.

Individuals present for discussion: Student Discipline Matters and Legal Matters collectively: School Board members; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D., Chief of Staff; Kipp D. Rogers, Ph.D., Chief Academic Officer; Roni Myers-Daub, Ed.D., Executive Director of Programs for Exceptional Children; 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 8:52 p.m.

Certification of Closed Meeting: Vice Chair McDonald made a motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, 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. The motion passed (ayes 9, nays 0; Holtz and Weems were absent for the vote).

- 19. *Vote on Remaining Action Items:*** None at this time.
- 20. *Adjournment:*** Prior to adjournment, Superintendent Spence asked for clarification on a matter related to the approval of a resolution directing the Superintendent to develop school start time options that allow adolescent students to start school later, and obtained School Board consensus to proceed with field lighting at the amount requested in the original FY18 reversion proposal (\$2.8 million); and a decision about how to complete the final stage of the high school field lights project to be made after the School Board votes on start times in September 2019. There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 9:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Chair