



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

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| 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 Special Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, February 6, 2018

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

- 1. Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairwoman Anderson called the special meeting of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach to order at 5:35 p.m. in the School Board Chambers at the School Administration Building. All School Board members were present along with Superintendent Spence. She stated the purpose of the special meeting was for the presentation of the Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2018-19 and proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2018-19 through Fiscal Year 2023-24.
- 2. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda:** Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Ms. Holtz, that the School Board adopt the agenda as presented. Vice Chair McDonald offered a substitute motion for the School Board to adopt the agenda with the addition of an item as 4C for the School Board to take action to invite the Thoroughgood and Hermitage elementary schools' community to speak on the location of Thoroughgood Elementary School students during the replacement of Thoroughgood Elementary School as part of the Hearing on Non-Agenda Items at the School Board's February 13, 2018 regular meeting. The substitute motion passed unanimously.
- 4. Presentation:**
 - A. Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for Fiscal Year 2018-19:** Superintendent Spence prefaced the presentation recognizing that traditionally this has been considered the unofficial "kick off" to the School Board's budget development process when in actuality the document is a reflection of the countless discussions and workshops held throughout the year about budget priorities and funding levels. He stated the proposed \$770 million operating budget strategically addresses critical needs such as reducing class size, replacing aging buses and technology, and ensuring equitable compensation. Beyond that, he reported the Estimate of Needs positions the division to continue the phase in of



Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) and move forward with the 1:1 technology initiative; at the same time reducing the reliance on reversion funds by \$2 million, and, for the first time in years, contributing \$500,000 PAYGO funding to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He noted so much was able to be accomplished in the budget cycle because of the financially firm ground the division currently has after more than a decade of cost saving measures and fiscally responsible decisions made about academic programs and employee compensation. An overview of budget-balancing strategies included eliminating central office positions, cutting non-instructional budgets, ending some specialty programs, and raising class sizes. Superintendent Spence acknowledged accomplishments of staff and students, despite the challenges, resulting in all schools being fully accredited for the first time since 2010-11. In addition to reporting a record on-time graduation rate at 91.9 percent with the lowest cohort dropout rate in a decade at 4.6 percent, he went on to recognize many other accolades earned by students, staff, and the division as a whole. He explained the spending plan includes 28 additional full-time equivalent (FTE) instructional positions – 8.6 elementary, 4.4 middle, and 15 high – to strategically lower class sizes in courses and subject areas with the greatest enrollment, and at the high school level, continue to reduce the number of teachers who are assigned more than 150 students, noting this is in addition to the 40 positions restored in the current year’s budget. Twenty-five positions in support of student success were added to include 12 high school counselor positions, 10 technology support technicians and 3 instructional technology specialists. He stressed the need to deliver the most competitive compensation package possible in order to attract and retain the most qualified candidates, and explained the proposal recommends a 1.5 percent cost of living salary adjustment for all employees, and a 0.5 percent step increase for eligible employees, while fully funding the remaining equity adjustments for employees on the Unified Scale. Recognizing that health care costs continue to be a concern, he reported every effort was made to keep any increase as small as possible with a moderate one percent increase in employee premiums included along with a one percent increase to the employer cost for health care. In addressing a number of other School Board priorities, he reported \$493,000 in additional funding allocated to support costs associated with special education mandates, as well as funding to replace two special education buses and 38 general education buses moving the division closer to a goal of replacing 50 buses annually. Also included is additional funding for many of the priorities identified in the Five-Year Special Education Plan, \$1.5 million for devices and resources to grow the division’s digital technology initiative, and earmarked funds for Phase II of the planned expansion of preschool and Full Day Kindergarten (FDK) programs to allow the division to offer FDK at an additional 12 schools. An outline of unmet needs that remain unfunded in excess of \$29 million was also provided.



Farrell E. Hanzaker, Chief Financial Officer, presented an overview of operating expenditures by type and outline of budget balancing strategies for the \$770 million proposal, a \$15.3 million increase over the current year budget.

- B. Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fiscal Year 2018-19 through Fiscal Year 2023-24: Mr. Anthony L. Arnold, P.E., Executive Director of Facilities Services, presented highlights of the Superintendent's proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) of \$593.7 million (including appropriations to date); \$47.5 million in Year 1 (2018/19). He provided an overview of projects under design/construction, the modernization/replacement cycle, projects in the CIP, funding sources, and funding summary.

Superintendent Spence advised of workshops scheduled in coming weeks with the first being February 13, and asked School Board members to forward questions in advance in addition to offering one-on-one opportunities to discuss. This portion of the meeting concluded at 6:13 p.m.

- C. Invitation to Thoroughgood and Hermitage Elementary School Communities: Ms. Holtz made a motion, seconded by Vice Chair McDonald, that the School Board directs the Administration to communicate an opportunity to the Thoroughgood and Hermitage elementary school communities to comment on the placement of students during the replacement of Thoroughgood Elementary School as part of the Hearing on Non-Agenda Items at the School Board's February 13, 2018 regular meeting. During brief discussion, a point of order was raised upon an inquiry regarding site-work because it was not identified in the call for the special meeting. The School Board then voted and unanimously approved the motion as presented.

5. **Adjournment:** There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Chair