



# 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

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

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

### **School Board Regular Meeting MINUTES**

**Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

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 4:01 p.m. In addition to Superintendent Spence, all School Board members were present upon the arrival of Ms. McLeod at 4:35 p.m. after Chairwoman Anderson noted she would be running late but hoped to arrive prior to the formal meeting.
  - A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chairwoman Anderson provided a brief overview of the meeting agenda noting a closed session for a report from the Internal Audit Committee will be conducted after the workshop as time allows otherwise after the formal meeting in Room 113. School Board members were reminded of the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Tidewater Region Spring Forum on March 19 at Woodrow Wilson High School in Portsmouth, VA and advised of carpooling opportunities. Ms. Riggs noted invitations to the April 19 Sister Cities breakfast were distributed to School Board members. School Board members then reported on events they attended to include a showcase of program offerings teachers might consider using; the inaugural partnership showcase; and promotion of the division’s opioid curriculum to Chesapeake middle school and high school guidance counselors. This portion of the workshop concluded at 4:06 p.m.
  - B. **Five Year Special Education Plan:** Veleka S. Gatling, Ph.D., Executive Director of Programs for Exceptional Children, presented an update on the Five-Year Plan for the education of students with disabilities for the period 2017-2022 including identifying outcome measures and reporting progress in the areas of instructional opportunities, professional learning, and parent and community involvement. Discussion concluded at 4:41 p.m.



- C. **Class Rank:** Daniel F. Keever, Senior Executive Director of High Schools, along with Kellam High School principal Daniel Smith, Ed.D., and Ocean Lakes High School principal Claire R. LeBlanc, Ed.D., presented survey results from the e-Town Hall conducted for stakeholders to provide input on the importance of class rank within the college admissions process, assess the level of support for a policy change to a Latin honors system of academic recognition and Grade Point Average (GPA) benchmarks drafted in the proposed Latin honors system, and determine the agreement level with maintaining the practice of designating Valedictorian and Salutatorian based solely on class rank as determined by GPA. In reporting results for consideration by the School Board to begin with the graduating class of 2022 (current 8<sup>th</sup> grade students), there appeared to be support for moving away from ratings based on student's GPA and desire to consider a change in the practice of designating the Valedictorian and Salutatorian solely on class rank. Following discussion, there was consensus for the Policy Review Committee to consider changes to policies related to awards for achievement and student evaluation outlined in Policy 5-29 and Policy 6-72, and bring forth a recommendation to the School Board in April. Discussion concluded at 5:37 p.m.

2. **Closed Meeting:** None at this time. See Item 18
3. **School Board Recess:** The School Board recessed at 5:37 p.m. to reconvene in the School Board Chambers for the formal meeting at 6:00 p.m.

#### **FORMAL MEETING**

4. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chairwoman Anderson called the formal meeting to order at 6:02 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:** None
7. **Superintendent's Report:** Noting a shift in the practice of sharing five things, Superintendent Spence's report further supported the workshop presentation on progress of the Five Year Special Education Plan. He introduced the newest Compass Keeper, Leilani Lane, fifth grade student at Princess Anne Elementary School, as one of approximately 6,300 students who use some form of assistive technology, and the life-changing result when she was outfitted with a specialized eye-gazer tablet to assist her in communicating, a journey that has been an inspiration to her school.
8. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Agenda Items:** None
9. **Approval of Minutes:**
- A. **February 27, 2018 Regular School Board Meeting:** Ms. Manning made a motion, seconded by Ms. Weems, that the School Board approve the minutes of their February 27, 2018 regular meeting as presented. The motion passed unanimously.



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- B. March 6, 2018 Special School Board Meeting: Ms. Riggs made a motion, seconded by Mr. Edwards, that the School Board approve the minutes of their March 6, 2018 special meeting as published. The motion passed unanimously.
- 10. Adoption of the Agenda**: Ms. Holtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. McLeod, that the School Board adopt the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.
- 11. Consent Agenda**: None
- 12. Action**  
Personnel Report: Ms. Rye made a motion, seconded by Ms. Felton, that the School Board approve the appointments and accept the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the Personnel Report dated March 13, 2018. The motion passed unanimously. There were no administrative appointments recommended.
- 13. Information**  
Policy Review Committee Recommendations: School Board Legal Counsel, Kamala H. Lannetti, Deputy City Attorney, presented an overview of the following Policy Review Committee recommendations regarding review, amendment and/repeal of certain policies reviewed by the committee at their February 15, 2018 meeting:
- A. Bylaw Appendix B School Board Standing Rules revised to change a reference title and the minutes allocated for citizens to address the School Board at regular meetings from three minutes to four minutes
  - B. Bylaw 1-5 Legal Counsel related to requests for a written legal opinion submitted by a School Board member revised to add language that requires the School Board Chair to present the request to the School Board for determination by majority consensus as to 1) whether the School Board's Legal Counsel should complete the opinion, 2) determine the scope of the opinion, and 3) the manner in which the opinion will be provided to the School Board. During School Board discussion, the Policy Review Committee was asked to reconsider language requiring a majority consensus as to whether Legal Counsel should complete the opinion after hearing opposition to the requirement from several School Board members
  - C. Bylaw 1-47 Public Participation revised to change the title to Public Comment, omit language no longer applicable and modify in association with the update proposed for Appendix B as it relates to the minutes allocated for citizens to address the School Board during a regular meeting
  - D. Bylaw 1-48 Decorum and Order – School Board Meetings revised to update appropriate decorum and add information on other methods of communicating with the School Board. During School Board discussion, the Policy Review Committee was asked to consider identifying the other methods of communication within the bylaw
  - E. Policy 2-42 School Improvement Process amended to include language that affirms measurable objectives align with the division's strategic plan



- F. Policy 4-57 Licensed Personnel – Contracts amended to update legal references
- G. Policy 4-62 Evaluation – Licensed Personnel amended to update legal references

14. **Standing Committee Reports:** On behalf of the School Modernization Committee, Ms. Riggs and Ms. McLeod reported on forums being held for the community to learn more and provide input about upcoming school construction projects as it relates to the division's review of the Long-Range Facilities Master Plan. Ms. Weems reported on the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee and announced upcoming events, Ms. Riggs reported on Sister City events, and Ms. Rye reported on the meeting of the Community Advisory Committee for Gifted Education.
15. **Conclusion of Formal Meeting:** The formal meeting concluded at 6:42 p.m.
16. **Hearing of Citizens and Delegations on Non-Agenda Items:** The School Board heard comments from the chair of the Virginia Beach Human Rights Commission commending the division for their support in maintaining the program and location of the Bayside Sixth Grade Campus; eight speakers regarding a request for weighted credit for students of the Governor's School for the Arts as it relates to class rank policies under review; five speakers regarding the student walkout scheduled by a national organization and comments made by elected official(s) regarding the event; a student regarding overall policies related to school safety; and a parent regarding concerns about an incident that involved his daughter at Bayside High School. The hearing concluded at 7:29 p.m.
17. **Recess into Workshop:** None
18. **Closed Meeting:** 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, Paragraph 19 of the *Code of Virginia*, 1950, as amended, for public safety matters namely to discuss matters of public safety and discussion of information subject to the exclusion in subdivision 2 or 14 of Virginia Code §2.2-3705.2. The motion passed unanimously, and the School Board recessed at 7:30 p.m. to reconvene in Room 113 in a closed meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Individuals Present for Discussion: School Board members; Superintendent Spence; Marc A. Bergin, Ed.D.; Dale R. Holt, Chief Operations Officer; Richard M. Ponti, Director of Safety and Loss Control; Terrie L. Pyeatt, Director of Internal Audit; 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 8:20 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



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identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered. The motion passed unanimously.

- 19. *Vote on Remaining Action Items:*** None
- 20. *Adjournment:*** There being no further business before the School Board, Chairwoman Anderson adjourned the meeting at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Dianne P. Alexander, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

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Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Chair