



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

Trenace B. Riggs, Chair
District 1 – Centerville

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

Beverly M. Anderson
At-Large

Kathleen J. Brown
District 10

Michael R. Callan
District 6

David Culpepper
District 8

Jennifer S. Franklin
District 2 – Kempsville

Victoria C. Manning
At-Large

Staci R. Martin
District 4

Kimberly A. Melnyk
District 2

Jessica L. Owens
District 3 – Rose Hall

Aaron C. Spence, Ed.D., Superintendent

School Board Special Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, March 7, 2023

Holland Road Annex
2323 Holland Road
Virginia Beach, VA 23453
(757) 263-1000

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

- 1. *Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:*** Chair Riggs convened the special meeting at 5:00 p.m. on the 7th day of March 2023 and announced in accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings approved by the School Board at their January 10, 2023 Organizational/Regular Meeting, and pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3707, the School Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, March 7, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the Holland Road Annex, 2323 Holland Road, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23453 in the Einstein Lab. The purpose of this special meeting is for the School Board to discuss and take action on the: (1) Schools Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24; and (2) Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Fiscal Year 2023-24 through Fiscal Year 2028-29.

Chair Riggs stated members of the public will be able to observe the special School Board meeting through livestreaming on schoolboard.vbschools.com/meetings/live, broadcast on VBT Channel 47, and on Zoom; welcomed members of the public both in person and online.

In addition to Superintendent Spence, the following School Board members were present in the Holland Road Annex/Einstein Lab: Chair Riggs, Vice Chair Weems, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Ms. Franklin, and Ms. Martin. The following School Board members were attending via Zoom: Mr. Culpepper (travel for work/Oregon), Ms. Manning (personal reason/Florida), Ms. Melnyk (personal reason/South Carolina), and Ms. Owens (personal reason/Hawaii).
- 2. *Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance***
- 3. *Adoption of the Agenda:*** Chair Riggs called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Riggs called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Anderson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Martin. With discussion, Chair Riggs called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.
- 4. *Action:***

 - A. Resolution Regarding School Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2023-24:** Chair Riggs called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding school operating budget for fiscal year 2023-24. Ms. Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Brown. A brief discussion followed regarding the budget; positive aspects of budget (pay increases, step pay increase, new pay scale); moving in right direction; wellness day; employees to feel valued; thanks to administrative staff for their hard work preparing budget. After the discussion, Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

Budget Resolution

WHEREAS, the mission of Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS), in partnership with the entire community, is to empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive and engaged citizen within the global community; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach has adopted a comprehensive strategic plan and school improvement priorities to guide budgetary decisions; and

WHEREAS, the School Board has studied the proposed FY 2023/24 Operating Budget in view of state and federal requirements, the strategic plan, priorities, community expectations, competitive compensation for employees, and the best educational interests of its students; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2023/24 Operating Budget adjusts the Instructional Experience-based Step Pay Scale to provide 1.5% between each step consistently throughout the structure without adjusting the entry rate, and adds an experience step for all eligible employees on the scale, per the recommendation of the division's compensation study consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2023/24 Operating Budget adjusts the Unified Experience-based Step Pay Scale to provide a 1% adjustment for pay grades 0-14 and a 1.5% adjustment for pay grades 15 and above, and adds an experience step for all eligible employees on the scale; per the recommendation of the division's compensation study consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2023/24 Operating Budget establishes a new pay grade on the Unified Experience-based Step Pay Scale, Professional Level II, for Behavior Intervention Specialists, School Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, and School Social Workers, per the recommendation of the division's compensation study consultants; and

WHEREAS, the proposed FY 2023/24 Operating Budget upgrades identified positions currently on pay grade 5 of the Unified Experience-based Step Pay Scale, which includes Bus Assistants, Cafeteria Assistants, Custodian I, and Fleet Shop Helper, to pay grade 7, which is closer to meeting the \$15.00 Virginia Minimum Wage requirement by 2026, and realigns other positions impacted by said move, per the recommendation of the division's compensation study consultants; and

WHEREAS, the City/School Revenue Sharing Policy provides 46.75% of certain general fund revenues to meet obligations of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, the total funds requested for the FY 2023/24 Operating Budget from the City of Virginia Beach to the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach are \$512,950,115, and

WHEREAS, the debt service payment is estimated to be \$50,071,611 leaving a balance of \$462,878,504 to allocate between the Operating Budget and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP); and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the \$462,878,504 be allocated as follows: \$460,878,504 to the FY 2023/24 Operating Budget, and \$2,000,000 to Schools' Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) for the CIP; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That federal funds of \$13,500,000, state funds of \$451,994,592, and other local funds of \$3,968,341 be added to the FY 2023/24 Operating Budget, bringing it to a total of \$930,341,437; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That \$333,591 of the School Reserve Special Revenue fund be added to the FY 2023/24 Operating Budget, bringing the total to \$930,675,028; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach requests a Lump Sum Appropriation of \$930,675,028 from the City Council of Virginia Beach for the School Board FY 2023/24 Operating Budget; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach requests an appropriation of \$208,666,087 for categorical grants and other special revenue funds comprised of categorical grants in the amount of \$142,411,540; Green Run Collegiate in the amount of \$4,363,929; and other special revenue funds in the amount of \$61,890,618; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach requests a Lump Sum Appropriation of \$1,139,341,115, for the total of all funds (\$930,675,028 for the Operating Budget plus \$208,666,087 for categorical grants and other special revenue funds); and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be spread across the official minutes of this School Board, and the Clerk of the School Board is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor, each member of the City Council, the City Manager, and the City Clerk.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 7th day of March 2023.

Without further discussion, Chair Riggs called for a vote to approve the resolution regarding school operating budget for fiscal year 2023-24 as presented. The School Board Clerk announced the motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

B. Resolution Regarding Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2023-24 through Fiscal Year 2028-29:

Chair Riggs called for a motion to approve the resolution regarding Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal year 2023-24 through fiscal year 2028-29. Ms. Martin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Franklin. A discussion followed regarding the costs for school replacement projects (Princess Anne High School, Bettie F. Williams, Bayside High School); explanation of data and costs; inflation numbers; cost per square footage; amount of funding per year in the CIP; PPEA; design-bid-build model; replacements and modernizations; age of buildings; size and scope of projects; conservative costs for projects.

Mr. Culpepper made a substitute motion to substitute last year's CIP data for those three specific projects into this year's CIP; Ms. Manning seconded the substitute motion. Mr. Culpepper restated the substitute motion to substitute for these three projects, Princess Anne High School, Bettie F. Williams, and Bayside High School, the numbers contained within last year's CIP into this year's CIP (Princess Anne High School \$162,650,000; Bettie F. Williams \$68,387,500; Bayside \$197,700,000)

The discussion continued regarding total cost of projects and six year appropriation; funding of projects; review and approve projects in the future; design-bid-build model; challenging position – long time to vet; value of tax payer dollars; square footage for buildings; purpose of using last year's numbers; scope of projects; cost of inflation; estimates; needs of buildings (shelters, classroom size); CIP funding/lottery funds; level funding and increasing inflation; inflation rates; challenge – funding not increasing and inflation is increasing; price per square foot; underserved neighborhoods; design process of schools; size of schools; impact of inflation; life span of buildings; funding goals for CIP; funding for school construction; PPEA; comparison of project figures from last year and this year; vote on CIP annually; shared concerns of cost over the various meetings.

Without further discussion, Chair Riggs called for a vote on the substitute motion made by Mr. Culpepper; Mr. Culpepper restated the motion – I moved to substitute the numbers offered as the total for these three schools, Princess Anne High School, Bettie F. Williams, and Bayside High School, the number they were proposed in the PPEA that are identical to the CIP approved from last year into this year's CIP. After Mr. Culpepper restated the substitute motion, Chair Riggs called for a vote on the substitute motion. The School Board Clerk announced there were four (4) ayes in favor of the substitute motion: Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Vice Chair Weems. There were seven (7) nays opposed to the substitute motion: Chair Riggs, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Martin, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Owens. The substitute motion did not pass, 4-7-0.

Without further discussion, Chair Riggs asked Ms. Anderson to read the resolution. Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

FY 2023/24 - FY 2028/29 Capital Improvement Program Budget Resolution

WHEREAS, the mission of Virginia Beach City Public Schools, in partnership with the entire community, is to empower every student to become a life-long learner who is a responsible, productive, and engaged citizen within the global community; and

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Holland Road Annex
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Tuesday, March 7, 2023
Special School Board Meeting
Page 4 of 4

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach has adopted a comprehensive strategic plan and school improvement priorities to guide budgetary decisions; and

WHEREAS, the primary funding sources for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are charter bonds, public facility revenue bonds, and reversion funding; and

WHEREAS, the City/School Revenue Sharing Policy provides 46.75% of certain general fund revenues to meet obligations of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, the City/School Revenue Sharing Policy allocates funds first to Debt Service, while the balance is used for the Operating Budget and the CIP; and

WHEREAS, \$2,000,000 will be allocated to Schools' Pay-As-You-Go (PAYGO) for the CIP;

WHEREAS, the School Board has comprehensively reviewed all sources of funding, projected various scenarios and prioritized the needs of the Operating and CIP budgets.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach adopts a CIP program of \$735,426,061 (as shown on the attached School Board Funding Summary and Project Summary Alternative A dated March 7, 2023), and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED: That a copy of this Resolution be spread across the official minutes of this School Board, and the Clerk of the School Board is directed to deliver a copy of this Resolution to the Mayor, each member of the City Council, the City Manager, and the City Clerk.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 7th day of March 2023.

Chair Riggs called for a vote to approve the resolution for the capital improvement program for fiscal year 2023-24 through fiscal year 2028-29 as presented. The School Board Clerk announced there were seven (7) ayes in favor to approve the resolution for the capital improvement program for fiscal year 2023-24 through fiscal year 2028-29 as presented: Chair Riggs, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, Ms. Franklin, Ms. Martin, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Owens. There were four (4) nays opposed to the resolution: Vice Chair Weems, Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, and Ms. Manning. The resolution passed, 7-4-0.

5. **Adjournment:** Chair Riggs adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.