



School Board Services

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District 10

Michael R. Callan
District 6

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District 8

Victoria C. Manning
At-Large

District 4

Jessica L. Owens
District 3 – Rose Hall

Trenace B. Riggs
District 1 – Centerville

Carolyn D. Weems
District 9

Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Superintendent

School Board Special Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 2024

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center

2512 George Mason Drive
P.O. Box 6038
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
(757) 263-1000

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

- 1. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chair Melnyk convened the special meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 4:00 p.m. on the 20th day of February 2024 and announced in accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings approved by the School Board at their January 9, 2024 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, February 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m., at the School Administration Building #6, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456 in the School Board Room.

The purpose of this special meeting is for:

1. FY 2024-25 School Board Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2024-25 through FY 2029-30 Capital Improvement Program – discussion by School Board and School Administration; and
2. Calendar recommendation for 2024-25 - public comments regarding the proposed calendars, presentation, discussion and vote by School Board.

Chair Melnyk noted, members of the public will be able to observe the School Board meeting through livestreaming onschoolboard.vbschools.com/meetings/live, broadcast on VBTv Channel 47, and on Zoom; thanked those that have joined us in person and online.

In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

- 2. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 9-0-0.
- 4. Discussion: School Board Budget Workshop for FY 2024-25 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2024-25 through FY 2029-30:** Crystal Pate, Chief Financial Officer, provided the School Board information on the Proposed School Operating Budget for FY 2024/25 and Proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2024/25 - FY 2029/30; reviewed the presentation agenda: questions from School Board members, City Council direction, State budget update; briefly summarized questions; projected

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enrollment in the SEON was correct, the projected enrollment in the CIP document was corrected online; Virtual Learning Center staff; VLC staff were 100% ESSER funded, staffing reduced to only one coordinator; reduction of central office staff positions; renegotiated contract for Panorama Ed; scalable options around the PPEA, the PPEA process never reached the scalable options step; cost for Vape detectors.

City Council direction – on February 14, the City Council directed the City Manager to deliver a proposed budget that reduces the real estate tax rate by 2 cents; VBCPS' portion of the reduction is approximately \$7.2 million; estimated increase of approximately \$1.5 million in the RSF (mentioned in the last meeting), the net reduction is approximately \$5.6 million less than what was presented in the SEON; State budget update – General Assembly timeline: February 13 – General Assembly crossover, February 18 – House and Senate Appropriations Committees completed action on budget bills, February 20 – amendments to budget bill are to be available, February 22 – both chambers are scheduled to approve their budget plans during the floor session, March 9 – General Assembly scheduled to adjourn; House Appropriations Committee: compensation increase (provides two 3 3/8% salary increases on July 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025), English Language Learners tiered staffing ratios, At-Risk add-on, Reading Specialists; Senate Finance and Appropriations Committee: compensation increase (provides two 3% salary increases on October 1, 2024 and July 1, 2025), remove support positions cap, English Language Learners, general fund payment in lieu of sales tax; additional questions – email questions to Dr. Robertson, Crystal Pate, and all School Board members, submit questions by Friday each week to provide answers before the next Tuesday.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the PPEA; interim agreement; scalable options; vape detectors; effectiveness of detectors; new construction projects (Bettie F. Williams/Bayside 6, Princess Anne High School); design and specifications; City Council resolution; size and square footage of buildings; design-bid-build; educational specifications; reference to previous presentation (January 9); Thoroughgood Elementary size; interim agreement, GMP (guaranteed maximum price); debt services; feedback and direction from School Board.

5. **Public Comments regarding proposed calendars:** There were five (5) in person speakers (including one (1) student speaker); topic discussed proposed calendars; class changes and instructional time; ending school early; internships starting early; economy; two calendar options; staff days; post-Labor Day and pre-Labor Day start; semesters are not balanced; time and effort producing calendars; staff days throughout the year; early start and training; and additional days at end of school year.

The Public Comments concluded at 5:03 p.m.

6. **Calendar recommendation 2024-25 - presentation and discussion:** Matthew Delaney, Chief Schools Officer, presented the School Board information on two calendar options, one Post-Labor Day and one Pre-Labor Day with both calendars consisting of 180 instructional days; reviewed purpose of presentation: review and compare the 2024-25 Pre-Labor Day calendar and the Post-Labor Day calendar options, gain School Board approval for the 2024-25 calendar; calendar options, 13 staff days included in both options; reviewed survey summary: 53% of respondents preferred a Post-Labor Day start date, 47% preferred a Pre-Labor Day start or had no preference on the start date, 64% of parents and 84% of staff were satisfied with no school prior to Thanksgiving, 53% of staff were satisfied with the number of staff days, 83% of staff were either very satisfied or somewhat satisfied with the October staff day; reviewed calendar options month by month; summary of Pre-Labor Day – 180-day option: flex day (staff) on Friday, August 16; six staff days for in-service week; holiday for staff on Friday, August 30; students return on Monday, August 26; staff day on Monday, October 7; staff day on Friday, November 1; flex day for staff on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day); holiday for students and staff on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving; two-week winter break; two staff days at the end of January; final day for students on Friday, June 13; flex day (staff) on Monday, June 16.

Summary of Post-Labor Day – 180-day option: staff returns on Wednesday, August 21; flex day for staff on Friday, August 23; eight staff days for in-service week; students return on Tuesday, September 3; staff day on Tuesday, November 5 (Election Day); adjusted dismissal day for students and staff on the Wednesday prior to Thanksgiving; two-week winter break; one staff day at the end of January; final day for students on Friday, June 13; flex day (staff) on Monday, June 16.



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The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding adjusted dismissal for high school students the last week of school; suggestion/consideration of elementary school also having adjusted dismissal last week of school; survey results; number of weeks in school year; number of days; graduation; winter break (two weeks); community input regarding Post-Labor Day option; meeting educational needs of students; survey results and community voice; survey provides good information, other factors to consider; teacher staff days and training; various constraints; academic outcome of students; issues to consider (new state requirements, need for prep/planning, work/life balance); calendar committee; and school calendar discussion for retreat.

7. Action

A. Vote on Calendar Recommendation 2024-25: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Pre-Labor Day – 180 Calendar. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were five (5) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Pre-Labor Day – 180 Calendar: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, and Ms. Riggs. There were four (4) nays opposed to the motion to approve the Pre-Labor Day – 180 Calendar: Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 5-4-0.

8. Adjournment: Chair Melnyk adjourned the meeting at 6:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kimberly A. Melnyk, School Board Chair