



School Board Services

Kimberly A. Melnyk, Chair
District 2

Jennifer S. Franklin, Vice Chair
District 2 – Kempsville

Beverly M. Anderson
At-Large

Kathleen J. Brown
District 10

Michael R. Callan
District 6

David Culpepper
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 Regular Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday, February 27, 2024

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
P.O. Box 6038
Virginia Beach, VA 23456
(757) 263-1000

- 1. Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:** Chair Melnyk convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 3:02 p.m. on the 27th day of February 2024.

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 (arrived at 3:27 p.m.), Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning (arrived at 4:02 p.m.), Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems (arrived at 4:12 p.m.)

Chair Melnyk noted members of the public will be able to observe the School Board meeting through live streaming on schoolboard.vbschools.com/meetings/live, broadcast on VBTV Channel 47, and on Zoom; welcomed members of the public both in person and online.

A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports*

***Special Presentation of Appreciation to School Board:** There was a special presentation to the School Board in honor of School Board Appreciation Month; the 7th and 8th grade Chorus students from Salem Middle School, under the direction of Dr. Monty Thomas, sang for the School Board.

After the special presentation, Chair Melnyk mentioned the sign-up sheet for March 1-to-1 meetings with Dr. Robertson.

- B. Strategic Plan Update:** Lisa Banicky, Ph.D., Executive Director, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability provided the School Board an update on the division’s strategic framework, Compass to 2025, including an overview of the 2022-2023 navigational markers identified to monitor progress and performance, highlights related to the strategic priorities for the 2023-2024 school year as well as an update on the planning process for the next strategic framework; workshop overview: review navigational markers, highlight strategic actions, share update on planning process; navigational markers – high level indicators aligned to goals, developed as part of the strategic planning process, data reviewed on an ongoing basis, final summary provided on an annual basis; **Goal 1: Educational Excellence** - reading on grade level remained relatively stable at 71%, SOL results relatively stable except in writing where notable increases were observed overall and for most student groups, SOL results relatively stable except in writing where notable increases were observed overall and for most student groups, percentage of students reporting proficiency in critical thinking and problem solving remained high and stable ($\geq 88\%$), maintained high on-time graduation rate of 95%; **Goal 2: Student Well-Being** - high % of stakeholder groups reported that their school or workplace was safe ($\geq 90\%$) and welcoming ($\geq 87\%$), small increase in the % of students with 90% or higher attendance (81% to 84%), notable increase in the % of students participating in extracurricular activities or clubs overall (56% to 61%), small increase in % of students participating in community service (35% to 38%);

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 2 of 14

Goal 3: Student Ownership of Learning - high % of students reported engaging in goal setting and engagement in learning ($\geq 85\%$), high % of students graduating with industry certifications (92%), small increase in % of graduates demonstrating college, career, and civic readiness (83% to 86%), the % of students enrolling in college one year after high school remained relatively stable (57%); Goal 4: An Exemplary, Diversified Workforce - demographic comparisons similar to prior years, large improvements for ranking of health insurance premiums, high % of staff reported positive perceptions of professional learning ($\geq 85\%$), small increase in % of staff expressing job satisfaction (82% to 85%), the within-year teacher retention rate increased slightly (88% to 90%); Goal 5: Mutually Supportive Partnerships - small increase in % of families aware of events, programs and resources (73% to 77%), high level of satisfaction with offerings among participating families ($\geq 88\%$), increased the total number of partnerships by 51, high % of partners and school expressed satisfaction with partnerships with a small increase among school respondents ($\geq 96\%$), small increase in % of students participating in a work-based or service-learning experience (28% to 32%); Goal 6: Organizational Effectiveness and Efficiency - all schools accredited, small decrease in % of non-school based staff expressing satisfaction with Central Office communication (76% to 74%) and assistance (83% to 81%), Met all identified operational targets.

Strategic Action Agenda highlights for 2023-2024 – 1) educational equity: Equity Update (Dec 2023), Equity Data Dashboard – coming soon; 2) Integrated Systems of Support: Teaching & Learning and All In VA Updates (Oct 2023), Chronic Absenteeism (Feb 2024), All In VA and Mental Health Updates (Mar 2024); 3) Future-Ready Learners: Level Up Virginia (Dec 2023), Equal Opportunity Schools (EOS) expanded to all high schools, Supporting Service-Learning; Strategic Planning update: Fall 2023 - Public Input Page (November to January), December 2023 - Stakeholder Focus Groups, January 2024 - Ad Hoc Committee Kick-Off, February 2024 - Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 2 and Strategic Planning Update for School Board; key themes from public input page - practical life skills, technology and digital literacy, social and emotional skills, work ethic and responsibility, critical thinking and problem solving, diversity and cultural competence, vocational and trade skills; Strategic Planning Focus Groups - over 200 participants across 20 focus groups representing a broad range of stakeholders, topics addressed: Division's Mission, areas of focus related to goals, issues facing students, staff retention and recruitment, community engagement; focus group findings - general consensus the division is meeting its mission, partnerships were viewed as crucial for accomplishing the mission, participants across groups advocated for including well-being in the mission statement, strong support for the soft skills in the Graduate Profile, curriculum needed to support the attributes, consensus across stakeholder groups that student well-being is critically important, consensus around the importance of students planning their own pathways and personalizing instruction to meet students' needs, two biggest issues facing students - mental health, technology, responses about staff recruitment and retention focused primarily on salary and programs to support new teachers and staff; March 2024 - Communitywide Strategic Plan Survey, Ad Hoc Committee Meeting 3.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the planning committee; met a student on the committee; important committee; good community involvement; information regarding the number of participants compared to last year; open ended comments to be sent to the School Board.

- C. Budget/CIP Workshop #3: Crystal Pate, Chief Financial Officer presented the following information to the School Board; reviewed presentation agenda: questions from School Board members, ESSER, Inflationary, and required expenses, administration's recommendations to City Council's 2 cent reduction, State budget update, CIP update; highlighted questions from School Board members – information on select budget code details, the dollar amount of that would be available for funding replacement building; overview of ESSER, inflationary, and required expenses; reviewed various line items; incurred an increase of approximately \$12.5 million; reviewed 1 cent reduction items: remove replacement school buses \$2,386,383; extend the maintenance cycle for landscape services \$478, 571; reduce general maintenance line item \$135,046; total equals \$3 million; reviewed 2 cent reduction items: cut central office temporary employment agreements \$725,000; cut FEV tutoring \$450,00; pay-to-play (additional revenue) \$876,700; cut 7.5 central office

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 3 of 14

positions \$596,842; total equals \$2,648,542; overview comparison of Governor's, House Appropriations, Senate Finance categories (grocery tax hold harmless, compensation, support staff, English language learners, Reading Specialists).

Jack Freeman, Chief Operations Officer, continued the presentation; reviewed loss of buying power since 2009; FY 09/10 – FY 28/29 estimated cumulative buying power loss: \$900.2 million; reviewed maintenance needs; various projects (foundation repairs, fire alarm replacements, etc.), estimated range replacement budget \$75 million - \$97 million; shared data on HVAC system conditions and roof systems conditions; 6-year funding proposed FY 24/25 – 29/30 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – cumulative 6-year funding: total CIP \$372.3 million; maintenance projects \$313.9 million (84.3%) and new construction projects \$58.4 million (15.7%); reviewed funding source scenarios and projected debt services requirements for Williams ES/Bayside 6 and Princess Anne HS replacements; moving forward – proceed toward adopting CIP, priority project, March 5 – finalize direction from the Board for next year's plan; future School Board meetings – review educational specifications and current design of priority school, receive direction from the School Board for areas to explore reductions, staff develop options based upon School Board guidance, return to the School Board with recommendations; proceed toward 100 percent design; targeting 2026 for start of construction; Crystal Pate continued the presentation and reminded the School Board members to email questions to Dr. Robertson, Crystal Pate, and all School Board members and submit questions by Friday each week to provide answers before the next Tuesday.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding building schools; pay to play sports; maintenance cost of non-replacement buses; line items under other purchased services – unclear; list of unfilled positions; cost, design, and size of new buildings; FEV tutoring; SOQ; clerical staff positions; outside speakers and trainings; music programs; allocations and course enrollment; City Council reductions (1 cent and 2 cent); budget challenges; raise for staff; attract and retain staff; ESSER funds; elective classes and core classes; student course selections and master schedule; upcoming career fair; square footage of new buildings; cost of new buildings; unfunded mandates; courses need to meet the required number of students; teachers teaching at two different schools; not sacrificing the arts; tough decisions; and only have a finite amount of dollars.

2. Closed Session: At 5:04 p.m., Vice Chair Franklin made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Owens, that the School Board recess into Closed Session in accordance with the exceptions to open meetings law set forth in Code of Virginia §2.2-3711, Part A, Paragraph, 1, 2, 7, and 8 as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:

1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals.
2. 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.
7. 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. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.
8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 4 of 14

the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Request for Grievability determination - set date.
- B. Status of certain student related matters.
- C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.
- E. Superintendent Evaluation Process for 2023-24- evaluation instrument and goals.
- F. District 4 Vacancy- interview questions and applications.

Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 5:08 p.m.

Individuals present for discussion in the order in which matters were discussed:

- A. Request for Grievability determination - set date: School Board members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, School Board Attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.
- E. Superintendent Evaluation Process for 2023-24- evaluation instrument and goals: School Board members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, School Board Attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.
- F. District 4 Vacancy- interview questions and applications: School Board members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, School Board Attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.
- B. Status of certain student related matters: School Board members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, School Board Attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., Superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 5:31 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Vice Chair Franklin read the Certification of Closed Session:

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 (D) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 5 of 14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach hereby certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) 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 (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the closed meeting was convened were heard, discussed, or considered.

Ms. Anderson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Brown. Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion for Certification of Closed Session: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

- 3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Melnyk adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:32 p.m.
- 4. **Formal Meeting (School Administration Building #6 – School Board Room) 6:00 p.m.**
- 5. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Melnyk convened the meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 6:01 p.m. on the 27th day of February 2024 and thanked the members of the public joining the meeting 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. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

- 6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
- 7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition:** There were no student, employee, or public award presented at the meeting.
- 8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Melnyk made the following modification request to move item #10B – Approval of the February 13, 2024 Regular School Board meeting minutes to the March 12 regular School Board meeting and add item #15D – Amendment to the School Board meeting calendar; to add an additional budget/CIP workshop to the March 5, 2024 Special School Board meeting and to move the adoption of the School Operating Budget for fiscal year 2024-205 and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for fiscal year 2024-25 through fiscal year 2029-2030 previously scheduled for the March 5 Special School Board meeting to the March 12, 2024 Regular School Board meeting.

Ms. Anderson made a motion to move Action item #15B – Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries to Information item #12D, seconded by Ms. Owens. There was a discussion regarding if topic was discussed in PRC; motion to amended Policy 6-65 from previous Board meeting; mention of Bylaw 1-32; public comments to weight in on matter; the policy has been on the agenda prior; came up in PRC on December 14; vote at last meeting to move to current meeting under Action; Bylaw 1-32; input and feedback from public. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were four (4) ayes in favor of the motion to move Action item #15B – Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries to Information item #12D: Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There were six (6) nays opposed to the motion to move Action item #15B – Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries to Information item #12D: Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. The motion did not pass, 4-6-0.

Mr. Culpepper made a motion to move Consent item #14C – Old Donation School Selection Process to Action item #15E, Ms. Manning seconded the motion. There was a brief comment regarding Robert’s Rules of Order about moving items from consent to action. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to move Consent item #14C – Old Donation School Selection Process to Action item #15E: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 6 of 14

Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

Chair Melnyk made a motion to remove item #10B – February 13, 2024 Regular School Board meeting minutes and move to the March 12 meeting and add item #15D (Action) – Calendar Amendment. Ms. Owens seconded the motion. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. Ms. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the adoption of the agenda as presented and modified: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

9. Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings):

Superintendent Robertson shared the following information: 1) The Virginia Association of Elementary School Principals has selected Assistant Principal Megan Thompson of Thoroughgood Elementary to represent the commonwealth for the National Outstanding Assistant Principal award; 2) on Feb. 9, staff and retirees gathered at the Virginia Beach Convention Center for Back to BEWell, participants reconnected with free wellness resources and programs; 3) Bus drivers, teachers and students recently raised money for the Special Olympics earlier this month by participating in the Cool School Challenge and Polar Plunge, Virginia Beach City Public Schools raised \$89,980 this year, 60 percent of which came from the Plaza Middle School community, and the 14 member bus driver team helped raise more than \$4,000; 4) Our community has rightfully expressed their thanks during School Board Appreciation Month. We appreciated the Tallwood High School cheer team giving School Board members a shoutout at our meeting a couple weeks ago, and our talented art students gave you some very nice gifts; and 5) positive local news coverage of the 20th annual Love Run on Feb. 10, about 300 participants laced up their shoes and spread love one step at a time to raise money for Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. February 6, 2024 Special School Board Meetings: Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the February 6, 2024 Special School Board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the February 6, 2024 minutes as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the February 6, 2024 minutes as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

B. February 13, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting

11. Public Comments (until 8:00 p.m.)

There were thirty (30) in person speakers and one (1) online speaker; topics discussed were bullying transgender students; book policy; Library Media Specialists; Policy 6-65; Code of Ethics; staff cuts; library books; PRC; amendment to Policy 6-65; school budgets; music education; Model Policy; LGBTQ students; Title I schools; tutoring program; positive relationships with parents; option to challenge materials; transparency; library committee; enrollment numbers; VLC; virtual students; fine arts in schools; FOIA requests; SEL; public hearing on policy; and parents rights.

The Public Comments were suspended at 7:59 p.m., to continue with the formal meeting and items on the Information Agenda.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 7 of 14

12. Information

- A. Interim Financial Statements – January 2024: Daniel Hopkin, Director of Business Services, presented the following financial information to the School Board: as of January 31, the overall revenue trend remains acceptable; waiting for the new Calc Tool from the State; Federal revenues are showing a favorable trend; received Impact Aid payments of approximately \$14.3 million to date; other sources of revenue year to date through January are acceptable; up about \$450,000 from last year due to class action settlement received and sale of capital assets; received the JUUL settlement of \$742,000 and another \$150,000 which will show in February, total amount from JUUL \$892,000; sales tax receipts are at an acceptable level; year to date through January, approximately \$6.4 million lower than the same time last year; expenditures and encumbrances trend remain acceptable.
- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment, and repeal of certain bylaws and policies as reviewed by the PRC at its February 15, 2024 meeting. School Board Attorney, Kamala H. Lannetti presented the following:
1. Bylaw 1-12/Oath of Office: The PRC recommends updating the legal references.
 2. Bylaw 1-13/Orientation/In-Service Programs: The PRC recommends adding “or as required by law or regulation” to section A.2.
 3. Policy 2-42/School Support Process: The PRC reviewed this policy to remain compliant with the required five (5) year review period. There are no recommended changes to this policy.
 4. Policy 2-50/ Appointment/Reappointment and Reclassification: The PRC recommends minor scrivener’s changes and removing the Editor’s Note to remain consistent with previous policy changes.
 5. Policy 5-45/Use of Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco Products and Nicotine Vapor or Alternative Nicotine Products: The PRC recommends adding language to the first paragraph in order to comply with Executive Order 28 regarding parental notification of student overdoses and updating the legal references to include VDOE’s Best Practices regarding Executive Order 28. There was a brief discussion on the policy regarding the time requirements to report to families; follow guidance from law; comply with Executive Order 28.
 6. Policy 6-69/Psychological Services: The PRC reviewed this policy to remain compliant with the required five (5) year review period. There are no recommended changes to this policy.
 7. Policy 7-43/Fund-Raising by Students: The PRC reviewed this policy to remain compliant with the required five (5) year review period. There are no recommended changes to this policy.
 8. Policy 7-48/Community Use of School Facilities/Generally: The PRC reviewed this policy to remain compliant with the required five (5) year review period. There are no recommended changes to this policy. There was a discussion on the policy regarding monthly report; what items to report; bring back to PRC; language to be compliant with the law; site based, school level; decided the Policy 7-48 would go back to the Policy Review Committee.
- C. Renaissance Academy Alternative Education Program: Year-One Implementation Evaluation: Noel G. Williams, Ph.D., Program Evaluation Specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, presented the School Board the Renaissance Academy Alternative Education Program: Year-One Implementation Evaluation Report and the administration’s recommendations; provided a history of Alternative Education in VBCPS; overview of the evaluation process and method; data collection: surveys, document review, data warehouse, interviews, budget documents; Renaissance Academy Middle and High School Alternative Education Program: offers general curriculum courses, addresses social-emotional learning, components to meet students’ needs; 720 students (284 middle and 436 high) enrolled during 2022-2023; reviewed the referral avenues: Office of Student Leadership (OSL), principal-to-principal placement, and parent request; Transition Process: three criteria (grades, attendance, behavior); reenrollment: 14% of students reenrolled; instructional staff: 11 years average teaching experience for middle school and 10 years for high school staff, 87% satisfied working at Renaissance Academy; family involvement: mandatory new student orientation,

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 8 of 14

94% of parents indicated orientation session was helpful, Open House, Quarterly newsletter, community outreach.

Goal 1: Build Relationships to Demonstrate SEL Competencies

- Student Perceptions of Their Relationships with Others at RA – at least 68% agreed; 98% of staff agreed they had positive relationships with students.
- SEL Competencies – at least 21% of staff agreed students demonstrated SEL skills; however, at least 46% of staff agreed students demonstrated improvement on the SEL skills.

Goal 2: Demonstrate Success in School While Attending Renaissance Academy

- Students Gained Tools/Strategies for Success While Attending RA – middle school 33%-67% and high school 59%-82%.
- Approximately half of RA staff agreed students' behavior and attendance improved while 62 percent agreed students' academic performance improved.

Goal 3: Transition Successfully to Home School

- Students Gained Tools/Strategies to Successfully Transition Back to Home School – students 82%-89%; parents 38%-67%; staff 46%-63%
- Students Were Prepared to Return to Home School – students 86%-87%; staff 52%-53%
- After Returning to Home School – there were a higher average number of discipline referrals, half of students had attendance rates similar or better than they did at Renaissance Academy, and a lower percentage of students had course grade averages that were similar or better once they returned to their home school.

Goal 4: Graduate and Develop Postgraduation Plans

- Students attending RA and graduating in four years – 61%
- Post-Graduation Plans – 45% had no plans or undecided; 38% will continue their education; 14% will be employed; 3% will join the military.

Total cost for 2022-2023 school year: \$14,062,434; three largest expenses: staffing, transportation, and building costs; Recommendations/Administration's Response: Administration concurs with recommendations from program evaluation.

Recommendation #1: Continue the Renaissance Academy middle and high school alternative education program with modifications as noted in recommendations 2 through 4.

- Administration concurs with recommendations from program evaluation.

Recommendation #2: Identify and implement strategies or activities to improve students' relationship skills with other students, self-management skills, and responsible decision-making skills especially at the middle school level at Renaissance Academy.

- Focus on interventions and supports; 1:1 and small group counseling sessions, Choices Program for behavior interventions in middle school, responsible decision-making and graduation supports in high school.

Recommendation #3: Increase the availability of professional learning opportunities for staff related to managing student behaviors in the classroom and teaching students strategies for anger management.

- Training in verbal de-escalation techniques, increased collaboration between behavior intervention specialist and staff, additional support for special education teachers

Recommendation #4: Review and strengthen the transition process from Renaissance Academy to the students' home school including evaluating the criteria and procedures for return to support student success.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 9 of 14

- Conducting a thorough review of the existing processes and procedures, including criteria to return to the home school, adjustments made to decrease delays in students' transition, concurrent enrollment with home school while at the Renaissance Academy.

Recommendation #5: Enhance instructional strategies and academic opportunities to improve Renaissance Academy students' SOL performance and readiness for academic demands when returning to their home school.

- Additional support provided by instructional specialist, data-driven instructional planning, focus on intervention and remediation strategies, professional learning.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding capacity of facility; series of goals; academic achievement; additional support; students transitioning back to home school; behavior, attendance, grades; mentorship; staff years of experience; enrollment process and how long it takes; length of time students at Renaissance Academy (45 days is goal); pacing and instruction offered; differentiated instruction; three pillars – work, higher education, military; students needs being met; professional learning; making adjustments – what is best for students.

- 13. Return to public comments if needed:** The Public Comments resumed at 9:20 p.m., and concluded at 9:30 p.m. See agenda item #11 for topics discussed.

- 14. Consent Agenda:** Chair Melnyk read the following items on the Consent Agenda:

A. Resolutions:

1. Women's History Month: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March 2024 as National Women's History Month. The Women's History Month theme for 2024 is "Writing Women Back Into History."
2. Fine Arts in our Schools Month: Recommended that the School Board approve the Month of March 2024 as "Fine Arts in Our Schools Month".
3. VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March as Virginia School Boards Association Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month.
4. National School Social Work Week: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March 3-9, 2024, as National School Social Work Week.
5. Read Across America: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution endorsing the National Education Association's Read Across America Day.

B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment, and repeal of certain bylaws and policies as reviewed by the PRC at its January 18, 2024 meeting.

1. Policy 6-60/Textbooks: The PRC recommends changes made to align with current School Division practices and update the Legal Reference section.
2. Policy 6-67/Social Work Services: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes as necessary.
3. Policy 6-79/Homebound Services: The PRC recommends updating the Editor's Notes to align with current School Division Guidelines.

C. Old Donation School Selection Process: (Note: item moved to Action item #15E during Adoption of the Agenda; see agenda item #8)

- D. VBCPS Technical & Career Education Center Welding Lab Renovations: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with SpaceMakers Inc. for the VBCPS Technical & Career Education Center Welding Lab Renovations in the amount of \$1,124,579.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 10 of 14

Chair Melnyk called for any objections from the School Board voting on the Consent Agenda items. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Owens. Chair Melnyk asked for the resolutions to be read.

Ms. Riggs read the following resolution:

Resolution
National Women’s History Month
March 2024

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our school division, communities and nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in our nation that are still evident today; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and other movements, especially the peace movement, creating a more fair and just society for all; and

WHEREAS, despite the significant contributions to education, business, military and healthcare, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of March 2024 as National Women’s History Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to support and recognize women in both the public and private sectors who provide healing and hope for the betterment of all throughout the community; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 27th day of February, 2024

Ms. Weems read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Fine Arts in Our Schools Month
March 2024

WHEREAS, fine arts programs in Virginia Beach City Public Schools provide curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular experiences in art, dance, music and theatre arts for all student members of the school community and for the Virginia Beach community at large; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the importance of fine arts to all our students, not only while they are in school but also throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, art, dance, music and theatre arts are now and have been a vital part of the curriculum and instruction of the public schools of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, the month of March has been designated as Music in Our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, and Theatre in the Schools Month by their national associations;

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 11 of 14

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the month of March 2024 as Fine Arts in Our Schools Month in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach expresses its appreciation to our fine arts educators for enhancing our lives and the lives of our children through art, dance, music and theatre arts; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, this 27th day of February 2024

Ms. Brown read the following resolution:

Resolution
VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month
March 2024

WHEREAS, challenging environments in schools have become an increasingly significant area of concern in the United States and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the code of the Commonwealth of Virginia, through the acts of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, acknowledges geographical and local challenges with funding public education and seeks to remedy disparities across the state; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that factors including, but not limited to, disability, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status have a demonstrated history of impacting the educational opportunities provided to a student; and

WHEREAS, the promise of public education is for every child to be successful in school and life; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Virginia Beach families, students, teachers and school administrators to be aware of the diverse needs and strengths of learners, and to encourage discussion of the challenges and opportunities as a school community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of March 2024 as VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to advocate and increase awareness about the supports necessary to improve Virginia Beach's challenged school environments; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 27th day of February, 2024

Ms. Owens read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
National School Social Work Week
March 3-9, 2024

WHEREAS, the week of March 3-9, 2024, is set aside to honor the contributions school social workers have made to help identify and remove environmental barriers to learning, thus allowing students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Beach City Public Schools social workers are committed to mobilizing family, school and community resources to enable students to learn and fully benefit from their educational program; and

WHEREAS, social workers are valuable members of the multidisciplinary team serving schools, providing a wide range of services to students, parents and staff; and

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 12 of 14

WHEREAS, social workers use their expertise in child development, community resources, mental health and crisis intervention to develop and implement interventions to support educational success; and
WHEREAS, social workers assist the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including children with disabilities, children living in homelessness, children living in poverty, pregnant teens, suicidal teens, truants and other at-risk children; and
WHEREAS, this shared approach to assisting students promotes students' learning and helps guide students to high school graduation and postsecondary experiences and the skills necessary to be productive citizens;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognize the second full week of March 2024 as National School Social Work Week in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it
FURTHER RESOLVED: That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 27th day of February, 2024

Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Read Across America Day
March 2, 2024

WHEREAS, the citizens of Virginia Beach stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future and their ability to compete in a global economy; and
WHEREAS, Virginia Beach City Public Schools has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education of our youth, grounded in the principle that education investment is key to the community's well-being and long-term quality of life; and
WHEREAS, "National Education Association's (NEA) *Read Across America Day*," a national celebration of reading on March 2, 2024, motivates students to read a variety of literature that are about everyone, for everyone;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach calls on all the citizens of Virginia Beach to assure that every child is in a safe place reading together with a caring adult on March 2, 2024, and be it **FURTHER RESOLVED:** That this body enthusiastically endorses "*NEA's Read Across America Day*" and recommits our community to engage in programs and activities that improve the reading abilities of all children; and be it **FINALLY RESOLVED:** That a copy of this resolution be spread across the official minutes of this Board.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 27th day of February, 2024

After the resolutions were read, Chair Melnyk called for a vote on the Consent Agenda. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Consent Agenda as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

15. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the February 27, 2024 personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson that the School Board approve the appointments and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the February 27, 2024 personnel report along with the administrative appointments as recommended by the Acting Superintendent. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the February 27, 2024 personnel report and administrative appointments: Chair Melnyk, Vice

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 13 of 14

Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following: Laura D. Celentano, Assistant Principal, Fairfield Elementary School as Principal, Brookwood Elementary School; Shana N. Remian, Ph.D., Assistant Principal, Kellam High School as Principal, Virginia Beach Middle School; and Bethany A. Bayliss, Administrative Assistant, Kempsville Middle School as Assistant Principal, Kellam High School.

- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding review, amendment, and repeal of certain bylaws and policies as reviewed by the PRC at its January 18, 2024 meeting and the February 13, 2024 School Board Meeting.
1. Bylaw 1-9/Qualifications: The PRC recommends changes to align with the recent federal district court decision made regarding voting districts in Virginia Beach and to more clearly explain the expectations laid out in this Bylaw.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve Bylaw 1-9/Qualifications. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Franklin. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Bylaw 1-9/Qualifications: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

2. Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries: Recommended that the School Board approve an Amendment to Policy 6-65 Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries to require the Superintendent or designee to create a Content Committee to develop procedures related to library materials with sexually explicit content in schools.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries. Mr. Culpepper made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. A discussion followed regarding the policy; regulations; parents need to know what is in libraries; parents have ability to control what books students take out; unfunded mandates on LMS; intent verse action; creation of content committee; incoming library materials; develop a process for schools; instructional materials verses library materials; sexually explicit material; parent choice; public comments; Regulation 6-65.2; and elementary school libraries. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were six (6) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries: Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. There were four (4) nays opposed to the motion to approve Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries: Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 6-4-0.

- C. School Board Committee Assignment Modifications for Term Ending June 30, 2024: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the School Board Committee Assignment Modifications for Term Ending June 30, 2024 as distributed with the additional modification of Beverly Anderson and Jennifer Franklin (alt.) for the Sister Cities Association of Virginia Beach. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. There was a brief discussion regarding item C4 – Governance, Ms. Brown had been the at large seat, replacing Ms. Owens; the committee list will be updated accordingly. Without further 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 School Board Committee Assignment Modifications for Term Ending June 30, 2024: 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. Note: Ms. Owens was not present in School Board Chamber at the time of the vote.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 27, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 14 of 14

- D. Amendment to the School Board Meeting Calendar: (Note: item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda; see agenda item #8): Chair Melnyk read the following the motion to amend the School Board meeting calendar to add an additional Budget/CIP Workshop to the March 5, 2024 Special School Board Meeting and to move the Adoption of the School Operating Budget for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for Fiscal Year 2024-25 through Fiscal Year 2029-2030 previously scheduled for the March 5 Special School Board meeting to the March 12, 2024 Regular School Board meeting. Ms. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to amend the School Board meeting calendar as stated: 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. Note: Ms. Owens was not present in School Board Chamber at the time of the of the vote.
- E. Old Donation School Selection Process: (Note: item moved from Consent item #14C during Adoption of the Agenda; see agenda item #8): Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Old Donation Selection Process as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Franklin. There was a brief discussion on the topic; Mr. Culpepper mentioned the random selection process and should not be part of the 5-Year Plan. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Old Donation Selection Process as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

- 16. *Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Ms. Anderson mentioned the School Board members should have received an invitation to the Sister Cities Ambassador event on March 8 at the MOCA, event is also open to the public – tickets are \$25.00, there will also be a silent auction; Vice Chair Franklin shared information about GRC, 100% of first time test takers passed the writing SOL or Work Keys test, shared pass rates for Science, History; chronic absenteeism rate declined, the GRC Gala is coming up, looking for sponsors.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the implementation timeline for Policy 6-65; work to be done at the secondary level; requested to have until June 1 to make operational; there was informal consensus from the School Board.

- 17. *Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters***

- 18. *Adjournment:*** Chair Melnyk adjourned the meeting at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kimberly A. Melnyk, School Board Chair