



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

**Shannon L. Kendrick**  
District 4  
*Interim*

**Victoria C. Manning**  
At-Large

**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, September 24, 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 3:31 p.m. on the 24th day of September, 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 3:37 p.m.), Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick (arrived at 3:43 p.m.), and Ms. Riggs.

The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Ms. Owens (personal/Bahrain for military promotion ceremonies). Ms. Owens joined the meeting via Zoom at 3:56 p.m.

The following School Board Members were not in attendance at the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session: Ms. Manning and Ms. Weems (medical reasons/Texas).

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: Chair Melnyk mentioned the divisionwide memo regarding school threats. The following sign-up sheets were given to the School Board Members: October 1-on-1 meetings with Superintendent Robertson, October school visits with Superintendent Robertson, and VSBA Conference in November.
- B. School Division Services School Opening Update: The School Board received updates from the offices within the Department of School Division Services. Mr. Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, provided a brief introduction. Ms. Melisa Ingram, executive director of Facilities Services, provided the following information: summer work at all school and administrative facilities, CIP maintenance projects (roof, HVAC, chiller and boiler replacements, foundation repairs, gym flooring, etc.), preventative maintenance, special event support, summer school programs and more. Mr. Eric Woodhouse, director of Maintenance Services, mentioned the 80 major repair projects and preventative maintenance, enhancements to the learning environment (IMAC computer labs, Lu Interactive Systems, study labs,) and connecting with students (career day, field trips).

Mr. Sam Nix, director of Custodial and Distribution Services, continued the presentation. He reviewed the summer planned projects which included over 130 projects (20 gym floors, stripped and waxed floors, pressure washed high school bleachers, and preformed overall cleaning protocols for school readiness). Custodians engaged in other responsibilities outside of cleaning such as preparing for special events, support for Parks & Recreation programs, bus support, and relocating classroom furniture, to name a few. Mr. Nix shared efforts towards filling staff vacancies and improving retention. The office received over 5,500 work order requests this summer.

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Mr. James Lash, executive director of Transportation and Fleet Management Services, mentioned approximately 1,700 work orders were completed during the period of June 19 – August 23. All school buses had preventive maintenance performed over the summer. There were 21 drivers trained between July 1 and September 24, and 15 drivers and 16 assistants have been recommended for hire. Over 51,000 students registered for transportation this year, 525 total buses were utilized daily, and there were 3,760 total number of bus runs.

Ms. Rachel Amato, acting director of Food Services, shared information regarding the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools and meal prices for breakfast and lunch. During FY 2023-2024, a total of 9.2 million student meals were served. Scratch initiative's menu items are part of the divisionwide cycle menu, 48 school kitchens have been modernized and have new scratch cooking equipment, and there are 42 active school gardens.

Mr. Thomas DeMartini, director of Security and Emergency Management (SEM), shared various tasks the SEM coordinators do, such as weekly checks, training security assistants, public safety liaison, monitor Securly, technology guidance, and special events. He mentioned the VBCPS emergency response plans, Armed School Security Officers (SSO II) in secondary schools, the various training provided by SEM (Security Assistant Training, Crisis Prevention Training, technology, etc.), and technology upgrades and replacements. The total grant funding for supporting schools is \$573,423 and awaiting award notification on two additional grants. Brief information regarding the School Safety Task Force was shared.

Mr. Frank Fentress, administrator for Parks & Landscape Services, shared information regarding routine grounds maintenance. There is a 16-to-18-day maintenance cycle, and some tasks performed are mowing and trimming, litter/debris removal, weed control, and line/prepare fields for 2,100-plus games. He reviewed site infrastructure maintenance (fences/gates, drainage repairs, stormwater, playground inspection/repair, etc.), athletics-focused support (stadium fields, irrigation/well installation, etc.), and teaching curriculum support (Scratch Cooking gardens, floating wetlands islands, etc.).

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding bookbags; armed security officers in secondary schools; SROs in elementary schools; concerns from community; applying for free and reduced lunch and other benefits available; custodians; Safety Task Force; handheld metal detectors; and unfunded mandates.

- C. **Building Utilization Committee Update:** Ronald Berkebile, demographer/GIS manager, provided the School Board information from the September 13, 2024, Building Utilization Committee (BUC) meeting to include the recommendation from the BUC at that meeting and the Proposed 2025/2026 School Rezoning Plan for Point O'View Elementary School. This recommended plan impacts Point O'View, Kempsville, Pembroke, and Arrowhead elementary school attendance zones, as well as Larkspur, Independence, and Kempsville middle school attendance zones, as feeder zones. The School Board also received information on the public outreach and communications plan.

Mr. Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, provided a brief introduction. Mr. Berkebile continued the presentation and mentioned Policy 5-14. He provided an overview of factors to be considered by the Building Utilization Committee (BUC): optimal utilization of space, keeping neighborhoods together, developing long-term solutions, and construction considerations. Maps were shared of the current Point O'View Elementary School zone and the proposed 2025/2026 school rezoning plan for Point O'View Elementary. Information was shared regarding Point O'View's new housing developments and projected student increase. Mr. Berkebile shared data regarding Point O'View and Kempsville elementary school capacities. The BUC recommendation rezoning features and benefited were reviewed. Data maps were reviewed regarding Point O'View's existing attendance zone and proposed rezoning plan and proposed rezoning plans for Independence and Kempsville middle schools.

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Melisa Ingram continued the presentation and reviewed the public outreach and communication plan. The rezoning website to go live September 25, the survey link available September 25 – October 9, notification to be sent about public community meetings, and a press release to local media and social media. The timeline was reviewed including public community meeting dates, School Board information and public hearing dates, and School Board action date.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding process to collect public input; proposed rezoning maps; number of students for rezoning; notification to parents about input meetings; transportation zones; thank you to the team and BUC for work done; link to website for School Board members; streets affected by rezoning; and information on the website tomorrow (surveys, FAQ sheet, contact information, etc.)

- D. Forecast of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Topics FY 25 – Second Quarter: October, November, December: Superintendent Robertson provided the School Board the Administration’s forecast of agenda topics to be presented at School Board meetings during the second quarter, October, November, December, of the 2024-2025 school year. Dr. Robertson highlighted various presentation topics and voting items for upcoming School Board meetings through December 2024.

2. **Closed Session:** There was no Closed Session during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.
3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Melnyk adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:12 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 6:00 p.m. on the 24th day of September 2024 and thanked the members of the public for 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. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Riggs.

The following School Board Members attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Owens (personal/Bahrain for military promotion ceremonies) and Ms. Weems (medical reasons/Texas). Note: throughout the meeting, Ms. Weems experienced technical difficulties and was unable to participate or vote.

6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Kellam High School Knightingales sung the National Anthem.
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**
  - A. United Way Awards – Virginia Beach City Public Schools: Representatives from the United Way, Ms. Christina Patterson, senior director of Corporate and Community Relationships, and Mr. Trevellis Lewis, senior manager of Nonprofit Campaigns and Certifications, recognized Virginia Beach City Public Schools as the United Way and Combined Charities Campaign District Champion. Mrs. Laura Beth Mattson, intergovernmental affairs and constituent services specialist, was recognized as the Rookie of the Year for her outstanding leadership in Virginia Beach City Public Schools’ United Way and Combined Charities Campaign.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Ms. Manning made the following modification request – to move Consent Agenda, Item #14A5 (Resolution: LGBTQIA+ History Month) to Action Item #15D. Without further modifications, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. 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

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approve the agenda as presented and modified: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 10-0-0. Note: Ms. Weems was not present on Zoom at the time of the vote.

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

Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Robertson shared the following information: 1) On September 4, chief communications and community engagement officer, Nicole Livas and Superintendent Robertson participated in the Virginia Beach Council of PTAs' annual Fall Leadership Training Institute at Corporate Landing Middle School; 2) The grand opening of a new welding lab and classroom at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center was on September 6; 3) There was community roundtable discussions aimed at fostering open dialogue and collaboration between VBCPS and business leaders within the region. The roundtable offers an opportunity to strengthen relationships, foster transparency, and build trust among leaders; 4) Students had fun Friday during STEM Lab Learning Day at the NAS Oceana Air Show. Through this amazing partnership with the Navy, thousands of our fifth graders took part in hands-on activities related to science, technology, engineering and math; and 5) The Office of Technical and Career Education commissioned new videos to promote programs that cultivate future-ready students. A video was shared about the Virginia Teachers for Tomorrow program.

Administrative Recognition – Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointment that was approved at the September 10, 2024, School Board meeting: Brain K. Jackson II whose recent position was an employee relations manager at Old Dominion University is now recognized as the employee relations specialist for the Department of Human Resources.

**10. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

A. September 10, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the September 10, 2024, regular School Board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the September 10, 2024, minutes as presented. Ms. Kendrick made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. 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 September 10, 2024, meeting minutes as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 10-0-0. Note: Ms. Weems was not present on Zoom at the time of the vote.

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

There were seven (7) in person speakers (including one (1) student speaker) and one (1) online speaker. The topics discussed were backpacks in school; the need for backpacks; guns in schools; LGBTQIA Resolution; bullying; Safe Gun Storage Resolution; secure gun storage; responsible gun ownership; increase awareness regarding gun storage; protecting children; book process; and removal of Thoroughgood name from Thoroughgood Elementary School.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:42 p.m.

**12. Information**

A. Interim Financial Statements – June (unaudited), July, and August 2024: Daniel Hopkins, director of Business Services, presented financial information to the School Board for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024. The overall final revenue trend was favorable with an actual over budget amount of approximately \$9.7 million. The Commonwealth of Virginia revenue source was favorable with actual over budget of approximately \$3.3 million. The State Sales Tax revenue source was unfavorable with an actual under budget of approximately \$4.9 million. The Federal Government revenue source was favorable with an actual over budget of approximately

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\$8.7 million. Other revenue sources were favorable with an actual over budget of approximately \$2.6 million. A graph was shared related to total revenue by major source in FY 2024: City of Virginia Beach 51.5%, Commonwealth of Virginia 36.6%, State Sales Tax 9.1%, Federal Government 2.2% and other sources .6%. The final expenditures trend for FY 2024 was favorable in all categories. A graph was shared related to total expenditures incurred in FY 2024 by category: Instructional 69.3%, Operations & Maintenance 11.9%, Pupil Transportation 5.6%, Technology 4.3%, Administration, Attendance, and Health 4.3%, and Debt Service 4.6%. Mr. Hopkins mentioned reversion funds and presentation to the School Board on October 8 regarding potential future use of reversion funds.

- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board review Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies as recommended by the PRC at its September 12, 2024, meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, presented the following:
1. Policy 5-61/First Aid/Emergency Care: The PRC recommends adding language to align with 8VAC20-131-260, as amended. School facilities and safety.
  2. Policy 6-30/Family Life Education (FLE): The PRC recommends adding clarifying language to Section A from Code of Virginia § 22.1-207.1, as amended, Code of Virginia §22.1-207.1:1, as amended, Code of Virginia § 22.1-207.2, as amended, and minor changes to be consistent with recent changes to other policies. Additionally, the PRC added a sentence to the Opt-out Procedures section to ensure the distribution of opt-out forms to all parents 30 days before the beginning of the Family Life curriculum. There was a brief discussion regarding the review cycle of seven years for the family life education curricula.
  3. Policy 6-47/Interscholastic Competition: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes.
  4. Policy 6-55/Resources for Parental Home Instructional Assistance: The PRC recommends formatting changes to be consistent with recent changes made to other policies.
  5. Policy 6-71/Class Rank, Weighted/Bonus Credit/ Dual Enrollment: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's and formatting changes, removing the Editor's Notes, and updating language to match current practices. There was a discussion regarding Policy 6-71 regarding the changes; regulation; Dual Enrollment; communication to parents; and the work done by School Board and Policy Review Committee.
  6. Internal Audit Charter: The PRC recommends adding language on the first page to clarify that the School Board Chair may attend an Audit Committee Meeting as a substitute for an appointed member who is absent from the Audit Committee meeting in person and virtually and fulfill the duties of the appointed member when substituting. There was a discussion regarding clarification of the role of the Chair; review of changes; voting; request for item to go back to the Policy Review Committee (PRC); quorum at meeting; Internal Audit updates to the School Board; and PRC reviewing charter.
- C. Standards of Learning (SOL) Pass Rates and Accountability Designations Based on 2023-2024 Performance: Tracy LaGatta, director of student assessment in the Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board information on the SOL Pass Rates and Accountability Designations based on 2023-2024 performance. The presentation covered the following items: 2023-2024 VDOE Annual SOL Pass Rate data, compared VBCPS data to state data and other divisions, 2024-2025 state accreditation and federal accountability status of our schools, and support of areas of focus. A summary of accomplishments included pass rates improved on 43% of tests; improvement for most groups in math and a 4-percentage point improvement for English Learners in reading; VBCPS outperforms the state on 27 of 29 SOL tests; VBCPS outperforms other Hampton Roads cities; 94% of School Quality Indicators met benchmarks; and more schools met federally required participation requirements. The areas of focus are mathematics (grades 3-8; special emphasis on grade 7), reading (grades 3-8; special emphasis on grade 3), science (exception of Earth Science), history, all reporting groups (special emphasis on students with disabilities, English Learners, and Black students), and level 2/3 schools.

Matthew Delaney, chief school officers, continued the presentation and reviewed continuous improvement efforts. He mentioned the strategic plan, *Compass to 2025*, and the three main areas of focus (advancing educational equity, using integrated systems of support, and creating future ready students). Other components included are school concept map, plan for continuous improvement, and observation and feedback. Strategic school support is universal, targeted, and intensive.

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The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding reporting group summary for reading; schools accredited with conditions; pass advance rates; trends across schools; needs assessments; Learning Walks; tiered interventions; data from division pass rates; and VBCPS accomplishments.

- D. New Construction Guidance: Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, provided the School Board additional information related to the discussion on new construction for the two schools listed in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP): CIP 1-015 Princess Anne HS Replacement Project and CIP 1-028 Williams ES/ Bayside 6th Grade Replacement Project. Mr. Freeman reviewed Bayside 6<sup>th</sup> grade student options (new building construction, Bayside Middle School Campus) and Tri-Campus options (existing Tri-Campus model, Bi-Campus model, K-5 schools model). The following recommendation was shared: Bayside 6<sup>th</sup> students move to Bayside Middle School in SY 2025-26 and School Board direct staff to evaluate and recommend a preferred alternative to the Tri-Campus model. Data were reviewed regarding priority schools, facility condition, debt service analysis, and CIP budgeting considerations. Operating budgeting opportunities for capital funding included potential school closure, Stop Arm Camera, school rental, utility savings, planned reversion funds, one-time reversion funds, and grants/other financing. Mr. Freeman reviewed the following recommendations: CIP 1-015 Princess Anne HS Replacement Project - proceed this budget cycle), Bayside 6<sup>th</sup> students - move to Bayside Middle School in SY 2025-26, and Tri-Campus – School Board direct staff to evaluate and recommend a preferred plan. The next step is to add this item to the October 8 School Board Agenda for Action.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the Bi-Campus model to include cost, reducing the number of transitions for students; clarification on next steps; the recommendations; underserved community; moving sixth grade students; name of school, keeping the Williams name; rezoning; and appreciation for work done and providing options.

- E. Resolution: Safe Gun Storage: Ms. Anderson read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Safe Gun Storage**  
**October 8, 2024**

**WHEREAS**, firearm injuries are the number one killer of children and teens in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, almost every single day a child accesses a gun and unintentionally kills or injures themselves or someone else in the United States; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes and mourns the multiple lives of the students who have been lost to gun violence and firearm injuries over the past few years and strives to prevent the senseless loss of additional young lives to firearm-related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach City Public Schools is committed to educating and supporting the children of Virginia Beach in a safe community and safe schools; and

**WHEREAS**, research shows that one of the best ways to protect children from accessing firearms is making sure all guns are stored unloaded, locked, and separate from ammunition; and

**WHEREAS**, steps can be taken by gunowners and non-gunowners alike to make sure kids cannot access a gun and put themselves and others in danger; and

**WHEREAS**, an estimated 54% of gun owners do not lock all their guns securely and an estimated 4.6 million children live in a home with at least one unlocked and loaded gun in the United States; and

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**WHEREAS**, when guns are not properly stored, tragedy can strike — whether it is a child finding a firearm and injuring or killing themselves or someone else, or someone stealing it and using it to commit crime in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach City Public Schools educating the public on the crucial role of reducing injuries and deaths by promoting secure gun storage and safety so that children can live in a safe community and attend school in a safe environment;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens of Virginia Beach to support secure gun storage and safety; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens of Virginia Beach to practice gun safety for the well-being of all adults and children in the City of Virginia Beach; and be it

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

A discussion followed regarding the background and reason for the resolution; support for parts of the resolution; concerns about data and statistics; and revising the resolution. The resolution is to be voted on at the next School Board meeting, October 8.

**13. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:42 p.m.

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

A. Resolutions:

1. Bullying Prevention Month: Recommended the School Board approve October 2024 as Bullying Prevention Month.
2. Disability History and Awareness Month: Recommended the School Board approve a resolution recognizing October as Disability History and Awareness Month.
3. Dyslexia Awareness Month: Recommended the School Board approve a resolution recognizing October as Dyslexia Awareness Month.
4. Filipino American History Month: Recommended the School Board approve a resolution recognizing Filipino American History Month.
5. LGBTQIA+ History Month: Note, Item moved to Action, Item #15D. See Adoption of the Agenda, Item #8.
6. Indigenous Peoples' Day: Recommended the School Board approve a resolution recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day.

Chair Melnyk asked for the resolutions to be read. Ms. Kendrick read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Bullying Prevention Month**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, school bullying has become an increasingly significant problem in the United States and Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, nearly thirty percent of youth in the United States are estimated to be involved in bullying each year, either as a bully or as a victim; and

**WHEREAS**, students who experience bullying are at increased risk for depression, anxiety, sleep difficulties, lower academic achievement, and dropping out of school; and

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**WHEREAS**, bullying can occur in many forms, including physical, social and verbal, and can happen in many places on and off school grounds as well as online; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important for Virginia Beach families, students, school counselors, teachers, and school administrators to be aware of bullying, and to encourage discussion of the problem as a school community; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach has developed a policy on anti-bullying to encourage positive behaviors and to eliminate bullying behaviors; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach City Public Schools, through sustained and dedicated efforts, has implemented programs for all employees and students that recognizes a deep commitment at all levels to raise awareness of bullying and its prevention.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the month of October 2024, as Bullying Prevention Month in Virginia Beach City Public Schools, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the issue of bullying and its prevention be discussed in Virginia Beach City Public Schools classrooms during this time, 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 24th day of September, 2024

Ms. Manning read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Disability History and Awareness Month**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, Americans with Disability Act of 1990 was founded on four principles: inclusion, full participation, economic self-sufficiency and equality of opportunity for all people with disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia General Assembly has designated the month of October as Disability History and Awareness Month to increase public awareness and respect for persons with disabilities; to inform the public concerning their many contributions to society; and to emphasize the abilities and rights of persons with disabilities rather than their exceptionalities; and

**WHEREAS**, public schools, institutions of higher education, the business community, civic organizations and other interested entities are encouraged to promote Disability History and Awareness Month in the Commonwealth of Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, the Virginia Department of Education's 2023-2024 Virginia State Quality Profile reported the Virginia public school divisions served 181,085 students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Virginia Beach City Public Schools 2023-2024 Quality Profile reported the division served 8,737 students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; and

**WHEREAS**, Virginia Beach City Public Schools believes in having the highest expectations for students with disabilities and believes that students with disabilities make significant academic and social progress when educated, as appropriate, in general education environments; and



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**WHEREAS**, it is necessary to increase public awareness, knowledge, and understanding of disabilities, the rights of persons with disabilities, and to foster a culture of mutual respect and equal opportunities for all in our schools, businesses, and communities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of October as Disability History and Awareness Month; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to support and participate in the various school activities during Disability History and Awareness Month; 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Mr. Callan read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Dyslexia Awareness Month**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, dyslexia is a language-based learning disability that causes difficulties with reading, writing, spelling, and word pronunciation; and

**WHEREAS**, the onset and severity of dyslexia varies for each individual; and

**WHEREAS**, it takes individuals with dyslexia longer to process phonemic information, thus affecting academic growth, achievement, and self-esteem; and

**WHEREAS**, it is important to provide effective teaching approaches and educational intervention strategies for individuals with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS**, Dyslexia Awareness Month is an opportunity to acknowledge educators utilizing effective teaching strategies, and to celebrate the many achievements of adolescents, students and adults with dyslexia; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach is committed to a continued focus on educating students, parents, and school staff about effective teaching strategies to address the needs of students with learning disabilities;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach designates the month of October to be Dyslexia Awareness Month; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That strategies and interventions to address the needs of students with learning disabilities be ongoing in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Vice Chair Franklin read the following resolution:

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**RESOLUTION**  
**Filipino American History Month**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, one of our nation’s greatest strengths is its vast diversity, which enables Americans to see the world from many viewpoints; and

**WHEREAS**, Filipino Americans are the second largest Asian American group in the nation and the City of Virginia Beach has the highest percentage of Filipino Americans in Virginia; and

**WHEREAS**, through the study of Filipino Americans’ contributions, all students may find role models whose participation, commitment and achievement embodies the American spirit and ideals; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the importance of multicultural diversity education within the school division; and

**WHEREAS**, in 2009, the U.S. Congress recognized October as Filipino American History Month in the United States;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of October 2024 as Filipino American History Month, whose theme is “1898: Recognizing 125 Years of Philippine-American History”; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to support and participate in various school activities during Filipino American History Month; 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Mr. Culpepper read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**Indigenous Peoples’ Day**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board recognizes that Native Americans have lived and thrived in North America from time immemorial; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board recognizes that Indigenous people contribute to the academic, economic and cultural success and well-being of the City of Virginia Beach and Commonwealth each and every day; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board values the many contributions made to our community by Indigenous people; and the deep cultural contributions that have substantially shaped the character of the City of Virginia Beach; and

**WHEREAS**, Indigenous people in America have often suffered persecution and removal from their homelands at the hands of governing bodies and through the colonization and settlement of America; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board supports the resilience of Indigenous people to thrive and prosper to the present day; and

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2512 George Mason Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, September 24, 2024  
School Board Regular Meeting  
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**WHEREAS**, the School Board promotes the closing of the equity gaps for Indigenous people through policies and practices that promote the culture, history and their many contributions in society;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognize the second Monday in October 2024, as Indigenous Peoples' Day, and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That all schools and our community are encouraged to support and celebrate the resilience of our tribal communities on Indigenous Peoples' Day, 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

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

Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 10-0-0. Note: Ms. Weems had technical difficulties and was unable to vote.

**15. Action**

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the September 24, 2024, personnel report and administrative assignments. Ms. Anderson made the motion and seconded by Ms. Riggs that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the September 24, 2024, personnel report along with the administrative appointments as recommended by the 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 September 24, 2024, personnel report and administrative appointments: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 10-0-0. Note: Ms. Weems had technical difficulties and was unable to vote. Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointments: Rachel M. Amato, assistant director of Food Services, as director of Food Services; Pamela J. Johnson-Ballard, administrative assistant at Holland and Rosemont elementary schools, as coordinator of special education; and Mary E. Telinde, instructional specialist for special education, as coordinator of special education.
- B. Budget Calendar: School Operating Budget FY 2025/26 and FY 2025/26 - FY 2030/31 Capital Improvement Program: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Budget Calendar for the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget and FY 2025-26 – FY 2030-31 Capital Improvement Program. Ms. Anderson made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kendrick. There was a brief comment from Mr. Culpepper regarding the budget meetings and his schedule during the month of February. 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 Budget Calendar: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 9-0-0. Note: Ms. Brown was not present in the School Board Chamber at the time of the vote and Ms. Weems had technical difficulties and was unable to vote.
- C. Schedule of School Board Meetings through June 30, 2025: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the schedule of School Board meetings for the period ending June 30, 2025. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded

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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 the schedule of School Board meetings for the period ending June 30, 2025: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 10-0-0. Note: Ms. Weems had technical difficulties and was unable to vote.

Note: School Board Member Ms. Kendrick left the meeting at approximately 9:05 p.m.

- D. Resolution: LGBTQIA+ History Month: Note, item moved from Consent Agenda, Item #14A5. See Adoption of the Agenda, Item #8. Chair Melnyk read the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION**  
**LGBTQIA Month**  
**October 2024**

**WHEREAS**, the School Board requires that all students and staff have a safe and supportive learning and work environment free from discrimination and harassment; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board recognizes that LGBTQIA students, staff and their families are important members of the Virginia Beach City Public Schools community and values their inclusion and contributions; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board acknowledges that LGBTQIA students and staff are subject to many challenges that contribute to higher rates of isolation, depression, bullying, discrimination and harassment, and suicidal ideations or attempts; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board has adopted policies and the School Division has implemented regulations and practices to prohibit bullying, discrimination and harassment based on sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board supports the needs and rights of LGBTQIA students, staff and their families to ensure that their learning and work experiences in Virginia Beach City Public Schools are free from bullying, harassment and discrimination.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of October 2024, as LGBTQIA month; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach will comply with state and federal laws and regulations regarding anti-bullying, non-discrimination and non-harassment of LGBTQIA persons; 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 24<sup>th</sup> day of September, 2024

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to adopt the resolution. Ms. Anderson made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Franklin. There was a brief discussion regarding the resolution. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were five (5) ayes in favor of the LGBTQIA+ History Month Resolution: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There were four (4) nays opposed to the LGBTQIA+ History Month Resolution: Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, and Ms. Manning. The motion passed, 5-4-0. Note: Ms. Kendrick already left the board meeting at the time of the vote. Ms. Weems had technical difficulties and was unable to vote.

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- 16. *Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Chair Melnyk shared information regarding the Superintendent’s Roundtable meeting and needs. Superintendent Robertson shared information regarding the last meeting including the topic of career and technical education programs, support for unfunded mandates, engagement with community leaders, and Chesapeake Public Schools. Ms. Anderson shared information regarding the Sister Cities and the application for the 2025 Youth Ambassador to include information for school counselors about the application and scholarships associated with Youth Ambassador. The Sister Cities will also be present at the Neptune Festival.
- 17. *Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** None.
- 18. *Adjournment:*** Chair Melnyk adjourned the meeting at 9:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

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Kimberly A. Melnyk, School Board Chair