



School Board Services

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**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, October 8, 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 3:30 p.m. on the 8th day of October 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, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Owens (arrived at 4:17 p.m.), Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems (arrived at 3:38 p.m.).

The following School Board Members attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Kendrick (illness/Virginia Beach) and Ms. Manning (personal reasons/Virginia Beach).

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: Chair Melnyk mentioned Action Agenda item #15B – New Construction Guidance and Direction, and the request from a School Board Member to have a motion for the item. School Board Attorney, Ms. Lannetti, worked with staff to create the motions for the item. There will be three different motions presented. Chair Melnyk provided additional background information. Ms. Brown mentioned she was the School Board Member requesting the motion and a copy in writing as per Bylaws.
- B. Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) School Performance and Support Framework: Tracy LaGatta, director of student assessment, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board an update on the Virginia Department of Education’s new School Performance and Support Framework. The presentation outlined how elementary, middle, and high schools will be evaluated based on mastery, growth, and readiness indicators, including measures such as test performance, chronic absenteeism, and graduation. The presentation also introduced new metrics for student growth, advanced coursework, 5C’s performance task, and a ready for Life 3E framework. The 5C’s performance tasks include critical thinking, creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and citizenship. Middle school has an additional indicator of career exploration. At the high school level, Ready for Life includes 3E Readiness Framework: enrollment, employment, and enlistment. The weighing of the framework was reviewed for elementary school (mastery 65%, growth 25%, readiness 10%), middle school (mastery 60%, growth 20%, readiness 20%), and high school (mastery 50%, readiness 35%, and graduation 15%).

The performance categories for schools were reviewed: distinguished, on track, off track, and needs intensive support. Data results were shared regarding 2022-2023 growth versus mastery for elementary and middle school. The following timeline was reviewed: Fall 2024 – pending approval from USED on State ESSA Plan, preliminary view of school performance under new framework with 23-24 data; Spring 2025 – completion of

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work on new cut scores for the 2025 administration of math and reading SOL assessments; and Fall 2025 – report school performance and support outcomes under new framework.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding development of guidelines; support for schools with the most need; unfunded mandates; chronic absenteeism, tardiness; requirements of school division; focusing on day-to-day in the classrooms; military students; learning loss recovery due to pandemic; and VDOE standards.

- C. Cell Phone-Free Education Update: Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, provided the School Board an update on the guidance from the Virginia Department of Education regarding the implementation of a cell phone-free education. The purpose of the presentation is to provide a summary of the final guidance from the Virginia Department of Education on a cell phone-free education, identify the differences in the guidance from current policy and regulations, and share steps that Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) will take to implement the final guidance.

Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 33 was briefly reviewed. The following definitions from the Guidance for Cell Phone-Free Education were reviewed: cell phone, personal electronic communication device, instructional time, bell-to-bell, and stored. The VBCPS Regulation 3-65.1 was mentioned. The guidance for elementary, middle and high school students was shared. VBCPS existing policies and regulations regarding cell phone-free education will need to be reviewed. The need to develop clear procedures for off-site events or activities and develop procedures for identifying any exemptions (IEP, 504, health plans) was mentioned. Another area discussed was to publicly share how school-based personnel are trained to manage crisis situations and to clearly define a family-based emergency in documents and communicate family-based emergency protocols with families. The following informational session dates were shared October 16 – Kempsville High School, October 23 – Princess Anne High School, and October 30 – Kellam High School. The sessions will begin at 6:00 p.m. and are open to all VBCPS parents, students, and staff.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding school phone policy currently in effect; public information sessions; information to the School Board on November 12 (Workshop) and November 26 (Information); need for PRC to create a new policy; Regulation 3-65.1; following the guidelines; student discipline; what other school divisions are doing; educating parents; and the need to address cell phone use in schools.

- D. 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Calendar: Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, presented the School Board an overview of the calendar development process that includes a summary of the School Board consensus on guidance for the development of two-year calendars. Results from the calendar survey were shared and the calendar workgroup pre-Labor Day and post-Labor Day calendar options for 2025-26 and 2026-27 were provided. During the July School Board retreat, the School Board directed staff to create calendars for the 2025-26 and 2026-27 school year. The School Board came to consensus on the following items regarding the calendar development process: 180 instructional days, 13 staff workdays, holiday on the Wednesday before Thanksgiving, two-week winter break, maximum of 6 days for teacher in-service week, two staff days at the end of the first quarter (November), and two staff days at the end of the first term (January).

The data from the September 2024 Calendar Development Survey were reviewed. Overall, there were over 6,800 respondents. Parents and instructional staff were the largest respondent groups. The survey results and overall themes were reviewed. The calendar workgroup convened on September 26 with the purpose to develop a pre-Labor Day and post-Labor Day calendar for the 2025-26 school year and the 2026-27 school year. A monthly comparison of each calendar (pre-Labor Day start and post-Labor Day start) was provided for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years. The school calendars will be presented to the School Board October 22 under Information and November 12 under Action.

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The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding other divisions starting before Labor Day; length of winter break and satisfaction rate from survey; concerns with two-week holiday break; availability of SROs in schools prior to Labor Day; members on the calendar committee; Wednesday before Thanksgiving; support for two-week winter break; and flex day for teachers.

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 5:29 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 8th day of October 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. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

The following School Board Members attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Kendrick (illness/Virginia Beach) and Ms. Manning (personal reasons/Virginia Beach).

6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**
  - A. **National Blue-Ribbon Award – Green Run Collegiate:** The School Board recognized Green Run Collegiate as a National Blue Ribbon Award winner. The U.S. Secretary of Education recognized Green Run Collegiate as one of the 356 schools in the 2024 cohort of National Blue Ribbon Schools. This prestigious recognition highlights schools that excel in academic performance or make significant strides in closing achievement gaps among different student groups. The award was accepted by Rianne Patricio, head of school; Tonia Waters, coordinator of the International Baccalaureate program; Erin Vickrey, academic dean; and Monica Miller, school counseling department chair. Green Run Collegiate is one of four schools in Virginia being celebrated as an Exemplary High Performing School.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Brown. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.
9. **Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings):** There was no Superintendent's Report presented at the meeting.

**Administrative Recognition:** Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments which were approved at the September 24, 2024, School Board meeting: 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.
10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
  - A. **September 24, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting:** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the September 24, 2024, regular school board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the September 24, 2024, minutes as presented. Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. There was a brief discussion regarding abstentions and not being present during a vote; suggestion to take to the PRC for clarification and consistency; notation in the minutes when a School Board Member is not present during a vote; and checking which Bylaw would need to be reviewed. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes

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in favor of the motion to approve the September 24, 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. There was one (1) abstention: Ms. Weems. Ms. Weems explained the reason for abstaining. She was in a remote part of Texas for medical reasons and was unable to vote or participate in the September 24, 2024, meeting. The motion passed, 10-0-1.

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

There were thirteen (13) in person speakers and one (1) online speaker. The topics included school choice; zoned schools; ODS; resolution for safe gun storage; National Chaplain Program; speaking with kindness; Bylaw 1-47; CIP projects; budget costs; *Compass to 2030*; minority business council and fostering partnerships; mentorship programs; mental health and safety; well-being of students; achievement goals; LGBTQA resolution; parental rights; SEL; and removal of Thoroughgood name from Thoroughgood Elementary School.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:53 p.m.

**12. Information**

A. *Compass to 2030 Strategic Framework*: Lisa Banicky, Ph.D., executive director, Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board the draft strategic framework that is intended to guide the work of the school division through 2030. The presentation recapped the strategic planning process to date and will serve as the official launch for the public comment period. The draft framework will be posted on VBSchools.com with a form for gathering public comment from October 9, 2024, through October 21, 2024. A summary of the public comments received will be shared with the School Board as an information item on November 12, 2024.

The five goals in the strategic framework were reviewed: Goal 1 – Challenge and support each student to excel and be future ready; Goal 2 – Enhance student well-being, resilience, and responsibility; Goal 3 – Value and invest in staff; Goal 4 – Partner with families and the community to support students; and Goal 5 – Advance organizational excellence. The next steps were reviewed and included the following: October 9 – October 23, 2024 – gather public comment, November 12, 2024 – present the strategic framework for information, November 26, 2024 – present *Compass to 2030* for action, January – March 2025 – facilitate strategy sessions with offices/departments, and April 2025 – initial roll-out to schools.

B. *Budget Resolution Regarding FY 2023-24 Reversion and Revenue Sharing Formula Reconciliation*: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information regarding the FY 2023-24 reversion and revenue sharing formula reconciliation. The net estimated funding available for reappropriation is \$30,531,524. The breakdown of reversion funds was reviewed, and the FY 2023-24 reversion funds totaled \$31,693,623. This was 1.8% of the school operating budget. The revenue sharing formula true up totaled \$(1,162,099). The proposed spending plan was shared, Capital Improvement Program: \$10,031,525; School Reserve fund for use in the FY 2025-26 CIP: \$10,500,000; and Health Insurance Fund: \$10,000,000. The next step dates were reviewed: October 22 – School Board action, November 12 – present to the City Council and City Council Public Hearing, and November 19 – City Council action.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding use of funds; reversion funds for one-time use items; reversion funds not guaranteed every year; try to stay within 2% of total budget; health insurance; current rates for open enrollment; debt services; bus replacement cycle; and funds for CIP.

**13. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted under Agenda item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:53 p.m.

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

A. *Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations*: Recommended that the School Board approve Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies by the PRC at its September 12, 2024, meeting.

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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.
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. Note: requested to move item to Action Agenda. See below.

- B. Religious Exemption(s): Recommended that the School Board approve Religious Exemption Case No. RE-24-06, RE-24-07, and RE-24-08.

Chair Melnyk called for any objections from the School Board voting on the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Anderson requested for Consent Agenda Item #14.A.5. – Policy 6-71/Class Rank, Weighted/Bonus Credit/Dual Enrollment, be moved to the Action Agenda Item #15E. Without further discussion or changes, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented minus Policy 6-71. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kendrick. Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the Consent Agenda as presented and amended. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

## 15. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the October 8, 2024, personnel report and administrative assignments. Ms. Owens made the motion, seconded by Ms. Brown that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the October 8, 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 eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the October 8, 2024, personnel report and administrative appointments. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: Samantha R. Phillips, administrative assistant, Newtown Elementary School as assistant principal for Lynnhaven Middle School. (Note: reassigned on 9/20/24; promoted to assistant principal before starting administrative assistant position.)

- B. New Construction Guidance and Direction: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to open the discussion for new construction guidance and direction. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Owens. Chair Melnyk mentioned the motions given to the School Board. Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, presented the following recommendations to the School Board: Bayside 6 students – move to Bayside Middle School in SY 25-26; CIP 1-015 Princess Anne High School replacement project – proceed this budget cycle, bid 2026, move in estimate SY 31-32; Tri-Campus – School Board direct staff to evaluate and recommend a preferred plan, investigate the plan in 2024-2025, potential bid (if needed) 2026, and potential move in SY 28-29.

Based on the recommendations presented, Chair Melnyk mentioned the following possible motions for discussion: that the School Board schedule a public hearing and subsequent vote, in accordance with applicable law, regarding moving the Bayside 6<sup>th</sup> grade students into Bayside Middle School in SY 25-26 and authorizing the Superintendent to determine the appropriate timeframe for this move and to take all other necessary actions related to this move; that the School Board approve CIP 1-015 Princess Anne High School Replacement Project to be the next priority replacement school within the CIP; and that the School Board

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direct the Superintendent and staff to evaluate and recommend to the School Board a preferred plan for the Tri-Campus model that reduces the number of transitions for students and moves students enrolled in the Tri-Campus schools.

A discussion followed regarding the possible motions: timeframe for moving Bayside 6<sup>th</sup> grade students; future vote on Princess Anne High School design; need for educational specifications for Princess Anne High School; design-bid-build; Tri-Campus timeline; Bayside 6 Campus; need for and scheduling a public hearing; Bettie F. Willams Elementary School, current CIP, direction to shift; new construction priority school, shared flow chart from previous presentations; direction from School Board to do the work; statute for public hearing, Code of Virginia 22.1.79 Subsection 8; suggestion to combine all motions together; to add addition of public hearings in 24-25 to the motion; logistics regarding public hearing; reducing transitions of students in Tri-Campus; Chair replying to emails from citizens; and support for the district.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk made the following motion: I move that the School Board schedule a public hearing and subsequent vote, in accordance with applicable law, regarding moving the Bayside 6 Grade students into Bayside Middle School in SY 25-26 and authorizing the Superintendent to determine the appropriate timeframe for this move and to take all other necessary actions related to this move.

In addition, that the School Board approve CIP 1-015 Princess Anne HS Replacement Project to be the next priority replacement school within the CIP, and that the School Board direct the Superintendent and staff to evaluate and recommend to the School Board a preferred plan for the Tri-Campus model that reduces the number of transitions for students and moves students enrolled in the Tri-Campus schools starting with public hearings in SY24-25. Ms. Owens seconded the motion.

Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion read by Chair Melnyk. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- C. Resolution: Safe Gun Storage: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Safe Gun Storage Resolution. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Owens. Ms. Anderson read the following resolution.

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

**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 almost every 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**, research shows that one of the best ways to protect children from accessing firearms is making sure all guns are securely stored; 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

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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 is 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 safe gun storage and 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.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 8th day of October 2024.

A discussion followed regarding the resolution; reasons for the resolution; responsible gun ownership; storing guns; term gun violence; Second Amendment; privately owned firearms, not appropriate for the school system to dictate but have other organizations do so; teaching firearm safety, safety byproduct of good training; right to keep and bear arms; Virginia Constitution; appreciate changes to resolution; any actions by School Board; SROs in schools; number of lives lost; reminders from the school district, safety considerations (i.e., fire safety, securing medications, etc.); and public service announcement.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the Safe Gun Storage Resolution: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown,

Mr. Callan, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. There were two (2) nays opposed to the Safe Gun Storage Resolution: Mr. Culpepper and Ms. Manning. The motion passed, 9-2-0.

D. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations:

1. Audit Charter Amendment: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendation regarding the amendment of the Internal Audit Charter by the PRC at its September 12, 2024, meeting. Ms. Kendrick made the motion, seconded by Ms. Brown.

A brief discussion followed regarding the charter going back to PRC to review; issue resolved with charter; and term within the charter regarding quorum.

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 Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendation regarding the amendment of the Internal Audit Charter: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There was one (1) nay opposed to the motion: Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-1-0.

- E. 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. Note: item was moved from the Consent Agenda, see Agenda Item #14A5.

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Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve Policy 6-71/ Class Rank, Weighted/Bonus Credit/ Dual Enrollment. Ms. Owens made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. A discussion followed regarding the policy and the use of the Latin Honors system; Policy 5-29 mentions honor designations; the following change was suggested and agreed upon: (section) *h. Honor graduation determination. Honor graduation determinations will be made in accordance with School Board Policy 5-29.*

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a substitute motion to approve Policy 6-71 with the following change: (section) *h. Honor graduation determination. Honor graduation determinations will be made in accordance with School Board Policy 5-29.* Ms. Owens made the substitution motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the substitute motion to approve Policy 6-71 with the noted change. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- 16. Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Vice Chair Franklin mentioned the Gifted Advisory Committee meeting on Monday that included discussion on the Special Education Advisory Council, indicating there was a student representative at the meeting, and the work of the committee.
- Vice Chair Franklin made a request to the members of the Policy Review Committee to look at the policy regarding voting and defining majority. Ms. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, mentioned the Bylaw was sent to the PRC Chair.
- 17. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** None.
- 18. Adjournment:** Chair Melnyk adjourned the meeting at 8:40 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