



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, November 12, 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 4:00 p.m. on the 12th 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. Kendrick, Ms. Owens (arrived at 4:02 p.m.), Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. School Board Member, Ms. Manning was not present during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: There were no administrative matters or reports.
- B. ALL in VA Update: Lorena L. Kelly, Ph.D., executive director of elementary teaching and learning provided the School Board an update regarding the All in VA funds. The division received approximately \$20 million dollars. The funds were divided among the following: tutoring (70%), Virginia Literacy Act (20%), and attendance/chronic absenteeism (10%). Approximately \$13.2 million was used for tutoring (All in Tutoring, Imagine Math, Zearn, Lexia, Title I, FEV and academic support tutoring). Dr. Kelly provided a brief update on attendance and *EveryDay Labs*. She mentioned over 14,000 students' attendance improved after receiving nudges, more professional learning opportunities for staff, and access to the attendance dashboard, expansion of the attendance ambassador program, Student Response Team interventions, and flexible in-person instructional time. An overview was provided regarding the remaining funds and obligated amounts.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding carry-over of funds for SY 2025-2026; progress with chronic absenteeism; plan for funds; number of teachers completing training; funds for professional development; and funds for training.

- C. Cell Phone-Free Education Update: Matthew D. 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 was to provide an update on VBCPS response to the Guidance for a Cell Phone-Free Education, highlight the major difference between the guidance from VBCPS current policy and regulations, and share next steps VBCPS will take in responding to a Cell Phone-Free Education. There was a brief overview of Governor Youngkin's Executive Order 33 and guidance for Cell Phone-Free Education. The differences between Virginia Department of Education Guidance and VBCPS Regulation 3-65.1 were reviewed. During the month of October, Superintendent Robert held three informational sessions on

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cell phone-free education. The following hopes were identified: improve focus and academic engagement, enhance social skills and interpersonal interaction, increase independence and responsibility, to name a few. Some of the fears identified were safety and emergency communication, mental health and emotional security, and distraction substitution and non-compliance. The next steps were reviewed and included the November 21 Policy Review Committee Meeting, School Board meetings on November 26 (item for information) and December 10 (item for action) and finalize preparation based on School Board decision.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding attendance at informational meetings; definitions (bell-to-bell, instructional hours, instructional days); VDOE Guidance; Regulation 3-65.1; use of phones during one lunch and changing classes; preparedness for real world; teaching responsibility; smart watches; PRC meeting; social interaction; high school students need to get notifications (extracurricular activities, work, internships); discipline; and item on November 26 School Board meeting.

- 2. Closed Session:** At 4:43 p.m., Vice Chair Franklin made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Franklin 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 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. Settlement offer in negligence claim.
 - B. Student discrimination appeal.
 - C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
 - D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.

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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. Kendrick, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 4:46 p.m.

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

- B. Student discrimination appeal: School Board Members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Crystal M. Pate, chief financial officer; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- A. Settlement offer in negligence claim: School Board Members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Crystal M. Pate, chief financial officer; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases; and
- D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters; School Board Members: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Crystal M. Pate, chief financial officer; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

School Board Member, Ms. Weems left the Closed Session at 5:01 p.m. and returned at 5:06 p.m.

The School Board reconvened at 5:06 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.

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. Brown made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. 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. Kendrick, 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 5:09 p.m.

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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 12th day of November 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 Board Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

- 6. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the New Castle 5th Grade Chorus sang the National Anthem.

7. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition

- A. Arbor Day Tree Campus National Recognition – Corporate Landing Elementary School, Thalia Elementary School, and Corporate Landing Middle School: The School Board recognized the following schools who have earned a national distinction as Arbor Day Tree Campuses: Corporate Landing Elementary School, Thalia Elementary School, and Corporate Landing Middle School. These schools met Tree Campus requirements through Arbor Day celebrations, hands-on experiences and school-wide learning. Only 84 schools earned this honor nationwide with only five in Virginia.
- B. Virginia Association of Adult Continuing Education Teacher of the Year – Adult Learning Center: The School Board recognized Lisa Markovic as the Virginia Association of Adult Continuation Education’s Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Markovic is also the Virginia Beach Adult Learning Center’s Teacher of the Year.
- C. Virginia Board of Education Highest Achievement Award – Cox High, Green Run Collegiate, Ocean Lakes High, Old Donation School, Princess Anne Elementary, Shelton Park Elementary, Tallwood Elementary, Tallwood High: The School Board recognized the eight schools who received the Virginia Board of Education’s Highest Achievement Award. To earn this recognition, schools must be accredited and meet state benchmarks in reading, math and science. In addition, all student groups within the school must meet state benchmarks in reading and math and have no more than 10 percentage points between the lowest performing group and all other students in the school. They must also demonstrate a current year chronic absenteeism rate of 15 percent or lower.
- D. Virginia Board of Education Continuous Improvement Award – Green Run High School: The School Board recognized Green Run High School who received the Virginia Board of Education’s Continuous Improvement Award. Green Run High School is one of 49 schools in Virginia receiving this distinction. To qualify, schools must be accredited or accredited with conditions and meet a least one of the following criteria with three years of data:
 - An increase in the combined rate for math, reading and science for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of 10 points or more;
 - An increase in the combined rate for two or more student groups in reading and math for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of 10 points or more; or
 - An increase in the Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) for each of the past three years with a total increase across the three years of 4 percent or more; and the school demonstrates a decrease in the dropout rate for each of the past three years with the total reduction across three years of 15 percent or more of the first year’s dropout rate.

- 8. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Chair Melnyk mentioned the following modifications: add to Consent Agenda, Item #15E – Ms. Kendrick’s Resolution and add to Action, Item #16E – VSBA Proposed Legislative Positions Amendments and Proposed Bylaw Amendments. Without further modifications, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Ms. Kendrick 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 modified. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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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 Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments, which were approved at the October 22, 2024 School Board meeting: Aaron R. Popp, administrative assistant, Princess Anne and Three Oaks elementary schools, as assistant principal of W.T. Cooke Elementary School; Meghan M. Scott, instructional specialist, as coordinator of gifted education for the Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs; and Alicia D. Smith, coordinator of procurement services, as director of procurement services for the Office of Procurement Services.

10. ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

- A. October 22, 2024, Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the October 22, 2024, regular school board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the October 22, 2024, minutes as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. 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 22, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

11. ***Public Hearing on the Building Utilization Committee's rezoning recommendation for Point O'View Elementary School and Larkspur Middle School***

There were two (2) in-person speakers and one (1) online speaker for the Public Hearing. The topics included ranking of schools; student to teacher ratios; rezoning; plan for achievement; rezoning of area; building projects; changing schools; waivers to attend school; and keeping students at current school.

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

There were four (4) in-person speakers. The topics included school calendar; adjusted dismissal; chaplains in public schools; National Chaplain Program; discipline; early dismissal days for elementary and middle schools; planning time (elementary school); End-of-Year checkout procedures for teachers; educating students; Department of Education; VBEA; politics versus education; and *Compass to 2030*.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:39 p.m.

13. ***Information***

- A. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board review Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding the amendment of certain bylaws and policies as recommended by the PRC at its October 17, 2024 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, presented the following:
1. Bylaw 1-25/Public Complaints and Procedures: The PRC recommends removing part of Section B which references the Governance Committee and correcting the lettering.
 2. Bylaw 1-28/Committees, Organizations and Boards – School Board Member assignments: The PRC recommends removing Section C 3 regarding the Governance Committee.
 3. Bylaw 1-33/Formulation and Approval/Revision/Recission of Regulations: The PRC recommends removing language that limits the School Board's authority over School Board Regulations and add language that aligns with the Code of Virginia regarding the same. There was a discussion regarding the Bylaw; the reason for the change; Superintendent's responsibility regarding regulations; Code of Virginia 22.1-78; right of School Board to vote on regulations; making changes to regulations; bylaw to match Code of Virginia; the PRC committee members were all in agreement with the changes to the bylaw.
 4. Policy 2-9/Superintendent: Evaluation: The PRC recommends removing references to the Governance Committee.
 5. Policy 3-61/Tobacco and nicotine vapor products: The PRC recommends adding language that could include the use of alternative nicotine products, such as nicotine cessation products, during school hours or at school sponsored events.

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6. Policy 7-1/Relations with the Public: The PRC recommends formatting and other changes that align with similar changes recently made to other policies and updating the name of the Department of Communications and Community Engagement.
 7. Policy 7-6/Relations with the News Media: The PRC recommends changes to the policy and removing the Editor's Note as the information is located in the Related Links section of the Policy.
 8. Policy 7-10/Communications from the Public: The PRC recommends removing the Editor's Note as the information is located in the Related Links section of the Policy.
 9. Policy 7-15/Distribution/Announcement of Outside Communications: The PRC recommends updating the name of the Department of Communications and Community Engagement and removing the Editor's Note as the information is located in the Related Links section of the Policy.
 10. Policy 7-18/Community Engagement/Volunteers: The PRC recommends updating the name of the Department of Communications and Community Engagement, updating the name of the Office of Family and Community Engagement, adding a link to the www.vbschools.com page that contains the online volunteer application, and removing the Editor's Note as the information is located in the Related Links section of the Policy.
 11. Policy 7-31/Parent Teacher Associations (PTAs) and Parent Teacher Student Associations (PTSAs): There are no recommended changes to this Policy. It is being reviewed to meet the requirements under the Code of Virginia.
 12. Policy 7-32/Gifts, Grants and Bequests: The PRC recommends changes to formatting to align with other recent changes to policies and adding titles to Sections B and C.
- B. Building Utilization Committee: Ronald D. Berkebile, demographer/GIS manager provided the School Board information regarding the Building Utilization Committee's (BUC) proposed rezoning recommendation for school year 2024-2025, including information on the public outreach and communications plan that the BUC discussed at their October 23, 2024 meeting. The proposed rezoning plan impacts Point O'View ES, Kempsville ES, Pembroke ES, Arrowhead ES, Larkspur MS, Independence MS, and Kempsville MS attendance zones. The rezoning plan maps and number of students moving for Point O'View Elementary School and middle schools (Independence, Kempsville, Larkspur) rezoning were reviewed. Rezoning factors considered were optimal school space utilization, keeping neighborhoods together, new residential construction, and minimizing zonal movements. The community outreach included over 8,400 email notifications to parents and staff at all schools impacted, over 5,500 ParentSquare notifications, social media postings, and survey link and QR code were available September 25 to October 9. The data from the public input meetings and survey overview were reviewed, as well as parent and staff top factors.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding community input; number of proposals; consideration of overcrowded and under enrolled schools; transportation; continuation of services for students (i.e. IEP, programs, etc.); number of students affected; capacity at schools; out-of-zone waivers; feeder schools; demographics; and Title I schools and impact of rezoning.

- C. Compass to 2030 Strategic Framework – Report on Public Comment: Lisa A. Banicky, Ph.D., executive director of planning, innovation, and accountability provided the School Board the final strategic framework that is intended to guide the work of the school division through 2030. The presentation recapped the public comments received from October 9 through October 23, 2024, revisions made to the framework, and next steps in the planning process. The presentation reviewed the feedback from the comments received, shared the various themes that emerged, and reviewed *Compass to 2030* revisions. Specific revisions were highlighted for Goal 1 – Challenge and Support Each Student to Excel and Be Future Ready, definition of digital literacy, and acknowledgments. An overview of the next steps was provided from November 2024 through November 2025.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding digital literacy; Artificial Intelligence; key themes; and providing the School Board with comments from survey.

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- D. Behavioral and Mental Health Supports for Students: Year-One Implementation Evaluation: Allison M. Bock, Ph.D., and Noel G. Williams, Ph.D., program evaluation specialists, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability provided the School Board the Behavioral and Mental Health Supports for Students: Year-One Implementation Evaluation Report and the administration's recommendations. The program evaluation focused on six specific initiatives that were expanded or first implemented in 2023-2024 to address students' mental health and behavior challenges: Responsive Practices, Schoolwide Behavior Intervention Support Professional Learning, Communities in Schools, Behavior and Social Emotional (BASE) Program, Rapid Response, and Bridge Program. These six behavioral and mental health initiatives offer supports at different school levels (i.e., elementary, middle, and high) within a tiered Integrated Systems of Support Framework. The year-one implementation evaluation during 2023-2024 focused on each initiative's purpose, target audience and participants, program components, goal areas, perceptions, and cost to the school division. Additionally, the evaluation included data related to staff members' familiarity with the initiatives and general perceptions of the behavioral and mental health supports for students. Recommendations were also included based on the results of the evaluation.

Robert Jamison, executive director of student support services provided the administration's response. The administration concurred with the recommendations. VBCPS departments and offices will continue to use integrated systems of support to address students' academic, social-emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs. For the remainder of the 2024-2025 school year, the Department of School Leadership and the Department of Teaching and Learning commit to working with Communications and Community Engagement to leverage multiple forms of communication, continue to prioritize the identification of behavioral supports, and expand access to mental health services for all PreK-12 students.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding funding; Bridge Program; Mental Health Task Force; communication in schools; rapid response; CHKD; Surely; communication with parents; parental involvement; intervention strategies; parental consent; behavior issues; Behavior Intervention Support Team (BIST); student accountability; Student Code of Conduct; tier system of support; BASE Program; behavior challenges in primary grades; supporting teachers; professional development; and social emotional learning.

- E. New Courses: Thomas Quinn, executive director of secondary teacher and learning and Sara L. Lockett, Ed.D., director of technical and career education provided the School Board information on new courses.
1. Freshman Transition Strategies: Recommended the School Board receive information regarding the proposed course, Freshmen Transition Strategies, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. The course is designed to focus on building the resilience and confidence of the individual student, peer to peer and teacher to peer relationships, social and emotional learning, organization, stress management, leadership skills, community service, career planning, self-reflection and creating post-secondary plans and will align strongly with that of the AVID system.
 2. Introduction to Welding: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed one credit Introduction to Welding course, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2024-2025 school year. The proposed Introduction to Welding class will allow students who either do not capture a seat at the Tech Center or do not have the time to commit to a six-credit program to explore Welding in just one 4x4 semester. The proposed program will be housed at the Renaissance Academy and Adult Learning Center (ALC). It will serve students from all high school sites including the Renaissance Academy during the day and adult learners in the evenings.
 3. DE Aviation Maintenance I & II: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed three credit DE Aviation I and Aviation II courses, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Students who enroll in DE Aviation Maintenance Technology I & II will work with airframe and control surfaces, power plants, and basic aviation electricity, and perform ground operations and servicing procedures, as specified by Federal Aviation Administration (FAA)

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requirements. Students will also practice lab and tool safety, apply science and mathematics principles to aviation maintenance tasks, and research and use maintenance publications, forms, and records. Both proposed courses will be taught at the Aviation Institute of Maintenance (AIM) at 2329 E Little Creek Road, in Norfolk.

4. DE Medical Assistant I & II: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed three credit DE Medical Assistant I and II courses, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Students who choose DE Medical Assistant I & II gain foundational knowledge in basic anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, medical ethics, medical asepsis, medical terminology, medical mathematics, and legal responsibilities. Students also develop basic skills and techniques to assist the healthcare provider and/or other medical professionals in patient examinations, basic emergency care, simple laboratory tests, and administrative duties. Both proposed courses will be taught at Centura College at 7020 North Military Highway, in Norfolk.
5. DE Emergency Medical Services I & II: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed one credit DE Emergency Medical Services I and II courses, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Students who choose DE Emergency Medical Services I & II gain foundational knowledge in basic anatomy and physiology, pharmacology, medical ethics, medical asepsis, medical terminology, medical mathematics, and legal responsibilities. Students also develop basic skills and techniques to assist the healthcare provider and/or other medical professionals in patient examinations, basic emergency care, simple laboratory tests, and administrative duties. Both proposed courses will be taught at Tidewater Community College's Virginia Beach Campus and are dual enrolled with the Emergency Medical Services Career Studies Certificate (9 Credits).
6. DE Paralegal I & II: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed one credit DE Paralegal I and II courses, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Students who choose DE Paralegal I & II gain foundational knowledge in various areas of law (e.g., civil, criminal, family, real estate, estate, and probate) while preparing for employment in the legal field. Students gain knowledge and skills in legal document preparation, office communications, legal terminology, client services, records management, financial records, and business ethics. Both proposed courses will be taught at Tidewater Community College's Virginia Beach Campus and are dual enrolled for twelve credit hours.
7. DE Renewable Energy Technologies I & II: Recommended that the School Board receive information about the proposed one credit DE Renewable Energy Technologies I and II courses, and corresponding course objectives for implementation in the 2025-2026 school year. Virginia Beach City Public Schools began offering Renewable Energy Technologies in the fall of 2023 at the Advanced Technology Center. This request enhances that program to include dual enrollment credit for the work students do in the courses. DE Renewable Energy Technologies I & II will explore select renewable energy concepts and skills as students gain hands-on experience in their design and function. Contextual instruction and student participation in co-curricular career and technical student organization (CTSO) activities will develop leadership, interpersonal, and career skills. Both proposed courses will be taught by existing Virginia Beach Schools faculty at the ATC.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding Introduction to Welding course; total number of seats available, seats available for Renaissance Academy students, dependent upon demand; certification for welding; OSHA safety cards; other certifications; workforce opportunities; programs at Bayside High School and Princess Anne High School; equipment; Freshman Transition course, an elective, replace study block, how to measure success, offered division-wide; transportation to programs; sponsorships; and presenting to City Council.

- 14. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted under Agenda Item #12, the Public Comments concluded at 6:39 p.m.

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- 15. Consent Agenda:** Chair Melnyk mentioned a request to move Consent Agenda Item #15A – Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement to Action, Item# 16F.
- A. Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Sprinturf for the Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement in the amount of \$647,200.

Chair Melnyk read the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- B. Tallwood High School Track & Field Improvements: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with SCG Fields, LLC for the Tallwood High School Track & Field Improvements in the amount of \$2,544,750.
- C. Religious Exemption(s): Recommended that the School Board approve Religious Exemption Case No. RE-24-09, RE-24-10, RE-24-11 and RE-24-12.
- D. Resolution: Celebrating Thanksgiving Day: Recommended that the School Board approve the Resolution Celebrating Thanksgiving Day.
- E. Ms. Kendrick's Resolution: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item# 8.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda without item A. Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. Chair Melnyk asked for the resolution to be read. Mr. Culpepper read the following resolution:

Resolution
Celebrating Thanksgiving Day

WHEREAS, Thanksgiving Day is one of our nation's most beloved holidays, observed for centuries as a time to pause and give thanks to God for His many blessings; and

WHEREAS, the actual first Thanksgiving was held in 1619 in Berkeley Hundred, Virginia where Captain John Woodlief and thirty-seven Englishmen offered thanks to God for safe passage across the Atlantic; and

WHEREAS, President George Washington, in 1789, declared Thursday the 26th of November "to be devoted. . . to the service of that great and glorious Being, who is the beneficent Author of all the good that was, that is, or that will be"; and

WHEREAS, President Abraham Lincoln, in 1863, declared a national holiday on the last Thursday in November "as a day of Thanksgiving and Praise to our beneficent Father who dwells in the Heavens"; and

WHEREAS, that the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach and its public schools have much to be thankful for, including an industrious and prosperous community which has abundantly provided for Virginia Beach City Public Schools, its students and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: Virginia Beach City Public Schools and its offices will be closed on November 27-29, 2024, in observance of the national holiday of Thanksgiving, and to provide Virginia Beach families with an opportunity for time with family, friends, and loved ones, and to give thanks to our Creator for our abundant blessings; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: We call this observance to the attention of our division, 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 12th day of November 2024.

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Chair Melnyk read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
SHANNON I. KENDRICK
INTERIM SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 4

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

WHEREAS, through the governance and oversight of the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach and the leadership of the Superintendent and staff, Virginia Beach City Public Schools is a world class School Division that continually strives to chart the course for our students. School Board Members have vital roles in preparing Virginia Beach City Public School students to be future leaders in our community and the world and work tirelessly to address those needs: and

WHEREAS, Shannon L. Kendrick was sworn in as the Interim School Board Member District 4 and fulfilled her duties as a School Board Member from March until November 2024; and

WHEREAS, During her time as the Interim School Board Member Ms. Kendrick was an advocate for the needs of District 4 students and families and an avid participant in many school functions. Ms. Kendrick used her unique experience with local, state and federal governments to bring awareness of educational needs to the attention of the community and its representatives.

WHEREAS, Ms. Kendrick served with distinction on numerous committees including Student Discipline and the Legislative Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Shannon Kendrick, Interim School Board Member District 4, for a job well done; and be it **Further Resolved:** That a copy of this Resolution be spread across the official minutes of this School Board; and be it

Finally Resolved: That this original resolution be presented to Shannon Kendrick, Interim School Board Member District 4 in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 12th day of November 2024.

After the resolutions were read, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

16. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the November 12, 2024 personnel report and administrative appointments. Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Owens, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the November 12, 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 November 12, 2024, personnel report and administrative appointments. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: Erin C. Mullins, instructional specialist, as coordinator, secondary English for the Department of Teaching and Learning.

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- B. 2025-26 and 2026-27 School Calendar: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars. Ms. Kendrick made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Franklin. A discussion followed regarding the calendars. Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer reviewed the following calendar items: November 4, 2025 and November 3, 2026 as flex days and June 15, 2026 and June 14, 2027 as flex days. The end of year testing scheduled was mentioned regarding adjusted dismissal days.

The discussion continued with questions and comments regarding the 2025-2026 calendar and an adjusted day in March, there was no March adjusted day in the calendars presented. Ms. Owens made the following substitute motion to include the 2025-26 and 2026-27 pre-Labor Day with the change of having the Thursday prior to the last day being a half day on both those calendars. Ms. Anderson seconded the substitute motion. There was a clarification that it would be an adjusted dismissal day and not a half day.

A discussion followed regarding the substitute motion; loss of learning time; reduction of instructional days; clarification on the motion – to approve the pre-Labor day calendars as presented with the modification to have the Thursday before the last day of school as adjusted dismissal days (June 11, 2026 and June 10, 2027); impact on elementary school and middle school; teachers requesting time to complete end of year work; testing for SOLs; adjusted dismissal days; pre-Labor day start; equitable for elementary and middle school teachers; and impacts to transportation. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote on the substitute motion. The School Board Clerk announced there were five (5) ayes in favor of the substitute motion: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There were six (6) nays opposed to the substitute motion: Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. The substitute motion failed, 5-6-0.

The discussion continued with the original motion on the floor – to approve the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars as presented; cannot support pre-Labor Day start; other district starting after Labor Day; other districts using instructional days or hours; two weeks at winter break – too long; administration recommendation for calendar; feedback from community regarding winter break; and mention of data from calendar survey regarding start date. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were six (6) ayes in favor of the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, Ms. Kendrick, and Ms. Riggs. There were five (5) nays opposed to the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school calendars as presented: Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 6-5-0.

- C. Division Literacy Plan: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Division Literacy Plan as mandated by the Virginia Literacy Act (VLA). Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kendrick. 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 Division Literacy Plan: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Mrs. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. There was one (1) nay opposed to the motion to approve the Division Literacy Plan: Ms. Anderson. The motion passed, 10-1-0.
- D. Bayside Middle School Consolidation: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the consolidation of the Bayside 6th Grade Campus and Bayside Middle School into one school at Bayside Middle School, located at 965 Newtown Road, Virginia Beach, beginning the 2025-2026 school year. Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Kendrick. A discussion followed regarding the Bayside Middle School consolidation; student/teacher ratios and continued supports for sixth grade students; staffing; and morale. Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, provided a brief overview and introduced James Smith, Ed.D., senior executive director middle schools. Dr. Smith shared the benefits of combining the schools. The benefits included reducing student transition, school spirit and belongingness, vertical team planning, and eliminate shared staffing.

The discussion continued with questions and comments regarding community input; number of transitions for students; transition of staff to Bayside Middle School; and preparing for the 2025-2026 school year. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11)

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ayes in favor to approve the consolidation of the Bayside 6th Grade Campus and Bayside Middle School into one school at Bayside Middle School, located at 965 Newtown Road, Virginia Beach, beginning the 2025-2026 school year. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- E. VSBA Proposed Legislative Positions Amendments and Proposed Bylaw Amendments: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8. Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the VSBA proposed legislative positions amendments and proposed bylaw amendments. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Ms. Owens. A discussion followed regarding the legislative positions; cannot support; issues with legislative positions; upcoming VSBA delegate meeting and convention; clarification on voting on items, as a whole or one at a time; Legislative Committee meeting; and VSBA process.

Ms. Owens made a call to question and the motion was seconded by Ms. Manning. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote on the call to question. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the call to question: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Mr. Callan, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

There were three (3) nays opposed to the call to question: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, and Mr. Culpepper.

Chair Melnyk called for a vote to approve the VSBA proposed legislative positions amendments and proposed bylaw amendments. The School Board Clerk announced there were five (5) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the VSBA proposed legislative positions amendments and proposed bylaw amendments: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. There were six (6) nays opposed to the motion to approve the VSBA proposed legislative positions amendments and proposed bylaw amendments: Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. The motion failed, 5-6-0.

- F. Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Sprinturf for the Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement in the amount of \$647,200. Note, item was moved from the Consent Agenda. See Agenda Item #15A. Before the discussion, Ms. Riggs a motion, seconded by Ms. Kendrick, to approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Sprinturf for the Kellam High School Turf Field Replacement in the amount of \$647,200.

A discussion followed regarding the turf field replacement; clarification on the replacement cycle; other schools having turf replacement; testing of turf field for safety; sustainability; other high schools still do not have turf fields; CIP funding and debt services; cost benefit between grass and turf field; cannot play on turf field if it does not pass testing; need to maintain turf fields; annual testing; and monitoring of fields.

Ms. Manning made a substitute motion to defer the vote on Kellam HS turf field replacement. Ms. Anderson seconded the substitute motion. A discussion followed regarding turf fields; facilities update; CIP program and projects; concerns about the ability to sustain turf fields; more feedback and discussion on turf fields; costs related to turf fields; pros and cons of turf fields and grass fields; safety of students; the vote for turf field at Tallwood High School (Consent Agenda); and testing of field in December.

Ms. Manning and Ms. Anderson withdrew the substitute motion to defer the vote on Kellam HS turf field replacement. There was a brief discussion on the replacement timeline for the Kellam HS turf replacement; turf field at Tallwood HS; other issues at Tallwood HS, track field, drainage; and correcting issues.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote on the Kellam HS turf field replacement. The original motion was made by Ms. Riggs and seconded by Ms. Kendrick. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion for the Kellam High School turf field placement. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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Mr. Culpepper made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manning to reopen Consent Agenda vote and revote to separate/remove Tallwood High School Track and Field Improvements (Item B) from the Consent Agenda and reconsider. Without discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to reopen Consent Agenda vote and revote to separate/remove Tallwood High School track and field improvements (Item B) from the Consent Agenda and reconsider: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Kendrick, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. There were two (2) nays opposed to the motion: Ms. Owens and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 9-2-0.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to vote on the Consent Agenda without Tallwood High School track and field improvements. Ms. Kendrick made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. Noted, the Consent Agenda includes Religious Exemptions, Resolution: Celebrating Thanksgiving Day, and Resolution for Ms. Kendrick. Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to vote on the Consent Agenda without Tallwood High School track and field improvements. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Ms. Brown made a motion, seconded by Ms. Manning to move Tallwood High School track and field improvements to Action at the November 26, 2024 School Board meeting. There was a brief discussion regarding delaying the vote and the timeline for completing the track and field improvements at Tallwood HS; currently Tallwood HS has a grass field; impact on sports; and need for direction at the next School Board meeting. 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 Tallwood High School track and field improvements to Action at the November 26, 2024 School Board meeting: 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.

- 17. Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Ms. Kendrick mentioned the legislative priorities will be presented to the School Board at the November 26 meeting, Legislative Breakfast scheduled for December 13 at 8:30 a.m., and the November 14 Legislative Committee meeting is cancelled. Ms. Weems mentioned the Mental Health Task Force met last week, November 13 is the Audit Committee meeting at 1:15 p.m., followed by the Jericho Road Ad Hoc Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m. and in December the Workforce Development Committee will be meeting.
- 18. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** There were no administrative, informal or workshop matters. See Agenda Item #2 for the Closed Session.
- 19. Adjournment:** Chair Melnyk adjourned the meeting at 10:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kimberly A. Melnyk, School Board Chair