



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

Dr. Alveta J. Green
District 4

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, December 10, 2024

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center

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

1. **Swearing-In Ceremony for Newly Elected School Board Members Serving a Four-Year Term Commencing January 1, 2025:** The School Board gathered in the School Board Room at the School Administration Building #6 at 1:33 p.m. for the swearing-in ceremony. Virginia Beach Circuit Court Chief Deputy, Ms. Tracey Entwisle administered the required oath of office individually for newly elected School Board Members to serve for a term commencing January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2028 as follows:
 - A. Rose Dwyer, District 1
 - B. Mark Bohensiel, District 3
 - C. Melinda Rogers, District 5
 - D. Matthew Cummings, District 7
 - E. Sharon Felton, At Large

The Swearing-In Ceremony ended at 1:44 p.m.
2. **New Member Reception:** A reception was held after the Swearing-In Ceremony in Room 113.
3. **Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:** Chair Melnyk convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 3:30 p.m. on the 10th day of December 2024.

In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper (arrived at 3:51 p.m.), Dr. Green, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems.

The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Vice Chair Franklin (illness/Virginia Beach). School Board Member, Ms. Manning was not present during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop Session.

A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports

1. Leadership Interest: Chair Melnyk mentioned the January 14, 2025 meeting and the election of the Chair and Vice Chair. Chair Melnyk opened the floor if any School Board Members wanted to express interest in either position. Ms. Weems suggested to remove the topic from future agendas since School Board Members rarely discuss or share interest.
2. Schedule of Meetings: Remaining FY25 Affirmed; FY26 Proposed: Chair Melnyk stated the information was provided to the School Board Members in their packet of materials. The schedule of meetings will be voted on at the January 14, 2025 meeting. The School Board retreat is scheduled for July 8-9, 2025.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 2 of 14

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the possibility of having the School Board meetings on a different day of the week to not conflict with City Council meetings. Chair Melnyk stated currently our meetings are on different days than the formal City Council meetings but are on the same days as their informal sessions.

- B. Recovery School Update: Robert B. Jamison, executive director, Office of Student Support Services provided the School Board with an update on the progress of the Region II Recovery School Steering Committee's work. The presentation included responses to questions posed by School Board members, a timeline of the completed tasks, information from the program proposal, and preliminary details for the proposed regional recovery school. The progress previously reported was briefly revisited. The questions from School Board Members from the previous workshop were reviewed. The Regional Steering Committee progress included creating a tentative daily schedule, coordinated with Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health (CIBH) for staffing and oversight of clinical staff, created a mandatory drug testing policy statement, and developed an enrollment and application framework. The Regional Steering Committee also outlined a recruitment and marketing plan, received a review from VBCPS legal of potential code and policy waivers which may be required, and developed preliminary Harbor Hope Center first year program costs. The year-one 2025-26 projected expenses (July 1 – June 30) are approximately \$709,000 not including transportation costs. The projected annual transportation cost for Virginia Beach is approximately \$34,000. An overview was provided regarding funding, grants and a shared funding formula. The steering committee's work in progress items and next steps were reviewed.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the shared funding formula; funds earmarked for recovery school; staffing; salary levels for staff; anticipated number of students and enrollment; rolling admissions; discipline; drug screenings; transportation costs; student selection; marketing plan; academics; and presentation for new School Board Members.

- C. Forecast of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Topics FY25 Third Quarter – January, February, March: Superintendent Roberston reviewed the forecast of agenda topics to be presented at School Board meetings during the third quarter (January, February, March) of the 2024-2025 school year. It was noted the document is a "living" document and subject to change. The January topics include: organizational meeting items, budget process overview, middle school master schedule, Renaissance Academy Alternative Education Program: year-two implementation evaluation, regional recovery school program, focusing on a competitive future, and preliminary operating budget. The February topics include: PreK and Early Childhood, instructional technology/update on AI, Superintendent's estimate of needs for FY 2025-2026 and Capital Improvement Program, budget workshops, Achievable Dream attendance zone expansion, and interim financial statements. The March topics include: ALL In Virginia update, proposed FY 2025-2026 School Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program, sustainable schools energy and economics, Building Utilization Committee report, interim financial statements, Carl D. Perkins Grant, and Local Special Education Annual Plan – application and report for VDOE. There was a brief discussion/request regarding adding the topic of the Bayside 6 move to Bayside Middle School.

The School Board recognized Susan Keipe, the school board deputy clerk, who is retiring after 45 years of service.

4. **Closed Session**: There was no Closed Session during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.
5. **School Board Recess**: Chair Melnyk adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 4:38 p.m.
6. **Formal Meeting (School Administration Building #6 – School Board Room)** **6:00 p.m.**
7. **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 10th day of December 2024 and thanked the members of the public for joining the meeting in person and online.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 3 of 14

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

The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Vice Chair Franklin (illness/School Administration Building, Room 113) Note: there were times during the meeting in which Vice Chair Franklin was present in the School Board Chamber.

8. ***Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:*** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Brandon Middle School Chorus sang the National Anthem.
9. ***Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition***
 - A. VBCPS Librarian of the Year and the Virginia Association of School Librarians "Librarian of the Year" – Great Neck Middle School: The School Board recognized Stephanie Baker as the VBCPS Librarian of the Year and the Virginia Association of School Librarians "Librarian of the Year."
 - B. Virginia Art Education Elementary Association Art Teacher of the Year – Princess Anne Elementary School: The School Board recognized Meredith Synder as the statewide Art Teacher of the Year.
 - C. Virginia AHPERD Middle School Teacher of the Year, Secondary Teacher of the Year, Supervisor of the Year–Princess Anne Middle School, Tallwood High School, DTAL K-12 Programs: The Virginia Association for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance gave awards for excellence in health and physical education. The School Board recognized the following teachers/staff: Michelle Shoffstall, from Princess Anne Middle School, was awarded Middle School Teacher of the Year, Lori Morris-Platte, from Tallwood High School, was awarded Secondary Teacher of the Year, and Lei Dunn, from Department of Teaching and Learning, was awarded Supervisor of the Year.
 - D. Multiple Schools – Virginia Department of Education Purple Star Designation: The VDOE and the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunity for Military Children recognized 24 VBCPS "Purple Star" schools for demonstrating their commitment to meeting the needs of military-connected students and their families. The School Board recognized the following "Purple Star" schools: Bayside High School, Brandon Middle School, College Park Elementary School, Corporate Landing Elementary School, Corporate Landing Middle School, First Colonial High School, Floyd E. Kellam High School, Great Neck Middle School, Hermitage Elementary School, Kempsville High School, Kingston Elementary School, Landstown Middle School, Linkhorn Park Elementary School, Malibu Elementary School, New Castle Elementary School, North Landing Elementary School, Princess Anne Elementary School, Princess Anne High School, Salem Elementary School, Shelton Park Elementary School, Virginia Beach Middle School, W.T. Cooke Elementary School, Windsor Wood Elementary School, and Woodstock Elementary School.
10. ***Adoption of the Agenda:*** Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Dr. Green requested to reorder the items under Action and move the Legislative Agenda before the policies. The order would be Item #15B – Legislative Agenda and Item #15C1-5 – Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations.

Mr. Callan made a motion to move the Legislative Agenda to Information. The motion was seconded by Ms. Manning. There was a brief discussion regarding the motion; clarification on the motion; and possibility to vote on the Legislative Agenda later in the meeting. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were six (6) ayes in favor of the motion to move the Legislative Agenda to Information: Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. There were five (5) nays opposed to the motion to move the Legislative Agenda to Information: Chair Melnyk, Ms. Anderson, Dr. Green, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The motion passed, 6-5-0.

The Legislative Agenda was added as Item #15E under Information.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 4 of 14

There was a brief discussion regarding the Legislative Agenda topic; adding the topic to Action after the discussion; Action Item #18D – Book Content Committee; Bylaw 1-32; amendment to Policy 6-65 (D); timeline; change and amend policy; suspending bylaw; voting requirements; Bylaw 1-32 (C3); make adjustments for LMS; point of order – discussing the adoption of agenda not the topic of the Book Content Committee; clarification on the changes to the agenda. The change to the agenda is the addition of Information Item #15E – Legislative Agenda.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes to approve the agenda as amended: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Dr. Green, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Weems. There were three (3) nays opposed to approve the agenda as amended: Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Riggs. The adoption of the agenda as amended passed, 8-3-0.

- 11. 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 appointment, which was approved at the November 26, 2024 School Board meeting: Tiffany L. Jacobs, grants manager, as director of budget for the Department of Budget and Finance.

12. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- A. November 26, 2024 Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Melnyk called for any modifications to the November 26, 2024, regular School Board meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the November 26, 2024, minutes as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. 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 26, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- 13. Public Hearing on FY2025/26 School Operating Budget and FY2025/26 through FY2030/31 Capital Improvement Program:** There was one (1) in-person speaker. The topics included taxpayer funds; fiscal responsibility; no tax increases; sole source contracts; federal funding; review of current programs; priority for education; and salaries for bus drivers, food service workers, and custodians.

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

There were ten (10) in-person speakers. The topics included cell phone policy; acceptable use of cell phones; how to implement policy; use of cell phones during One Lunch; thank you to outgoing School Board Members for service; LMS, books to review, workload; discipline of students; moral compass; National Chaplain Program; swearing-in ceremony; budget; explicit materials; book content committee; bullying; and School Board Members leaving.

The Public Comments concluded at 7:06 p.m.

15. Information

- A. 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 November 21, 2024 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, presented the following:
1. Policy 6-33/Special Education: The PRC recommends making changes that align with current practices in identifying and evaluating students for special education services, removing the Editor's Notes, and adding referenced documents in the Editor's Notes to the Related Links.
 2. Policy 6-63/Copyrighted Materials: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes and adding language that aligns with recent changes to other policies.
 3. Policy 6-72/Student Evaluation and Grading: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes and removing the reference to the 2017-18 school year.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 5 of 14

- B. College Coursework and Readiness Assessments: Robert A. Veigel, research specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board information on College Coursework and Readiness Assessments. Students in Virginia Beach City Public Schools (VBCPS) have the opportunity to participate in various Advanced Placement (AP) courses and have the potential to earn college credit if they receive a score of 3 or higher on their AP exam. Students in VBCPS also participate in the PSAT/NMSQT assessment in eleventh grade and may elect to take the SAT assessment. Participation and performance data for AP exams and the PSAT/NMSQT and SAT assessments were reviewed based on data released by the College Board. Data for student groups and for the state and nation were also included.

The summary of data/information is as follows, AP exam participation increased slightly and PSAT participation decreased, participation on the SAT decreased slightly, 66% of AP exam scores were 3 or higher, 57% of students met the ERW (evidence-based reading and writing) and 31% met the math benchmark on the PSAT, 86% of students met the ERW and 56% met the math benchmark on the SAT. Compared to prior year, overall percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher on an AP exam, meeting the benchmarks on the SAT, and meeting the math benchmark on the PSAT increased. The percentage of Black and Hispanic students in VBCPS who met ERW and math SAT benchmarks increased and percentages were higher than Virginia, and AP exam participation and performance increased for all student groups.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding AP scoring and benchmarks; PSAT participation, offering to students in 10th and 11th grade; reasons for lower scores, other pathways (enrolled, employed, enlisted); comparison data between AP score and grade in class; Dual Enrollment, AP classes; advance course opportunities, rigor of courses; percentage of students taking AP exams; number of AP courses offered; and increase enrollment in AP classes and increase AP test scores.

- C. Academic and Career Planning Update: Robert B. Jamison, executive director, and Ann M. Chowns, coordinator, from the Office of Student Support Services presented the School Board information regarding how Virginia Beach City Public Schools organizes and implements the academic and career planning (ACP) process for all students in grades K-12. The presentation included a definition for academic and career planning, a review of data, an overview of the ACP student experiences, and an outline of ACP events schedule for the 2024-25 school year.

The Academic and Career Planning summary included the following information, at each level, students are provided opportunities to deepen their awareness of the connections between their interests and careers, participate in activities to help them pursue post-secondary goals, course selection is an important part – it allows students to connect their interests and post-secondary goals with courses offered in VBCPS, and school based and division wide events are hosted throughout the year giving students exposure to opportunities available to them in middle and high school and after graduation.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding what EOS is the abbreviation for – equal opportunity survey and number of opportunities offered to students.

- D. Canvas: Year-Two Comprehensive Evaluation: Allison M. Bock, Ph.D., program evaluation specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board the Canvas: Year-Two Comprehensive Evaluation Report and the administration's recommendations. Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) adopted by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) in 2020-2021 to deliver educational content to students online. The VDOE offered Canvas to school divisions at no cost. In addition, Mastery Connect is an application that is integrated within Canvas to assess student learning in a variety of ways. Following a pilot of Canvas with seven schools in Virginia Beach during the 2021-2022 school year, all schools were expected to use Canvas during the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 school years with students in grades 3 through 12.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 6 of 14

Data was reviewed from the evaluation which focused on the instructional and assessment components of Canvas, data management and integration processes, professional learning, parent access, progress toward meeting outcome goals, stakeholder satisfaction, and cost to the division. The following recommendations were reviewed: Recommendation #1 – continue Canvas with modifications noted in recommendations 2 through 4, Recommendation #2 – continue to encourage fourth- and fifth-grade teachers to expose students to Canvas to prepare for more regular use as they progress to higher grade levels, Recommendation #3 – continue to encourage teachers to use Canvas for collaboration by providing examples of how other teachers across the division are successfully collaborating using Canvas, and Recommendation #4 – continue to provide support to secondary classroom teachers and ITSs for issues related to the grade passback process between Canvas and Synergy to ensure the process is efficient and accurate for teachers.

Sharon Shewbridge, Ph.D., director of instructional technology, provided the administration's response to the recommendations. The administration concurred with the recommendations from the program evaluation. Recommendation #1 – continue to implement Canvas as the learning management system, Recommendation #2 – continue to highlight opportunities to leverage Canvas, when appropriate, for fourth- and fifth-grade students, Recommendation #3 – continue to train coaches on the available resources in Canvas to support teacher collaboration and planning, and Recommendation #4 – continue to support the grade passback process in partnership with the Department of Technology.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding funding for program; VDOE covering costs; use of system – parent awareness, feedback on assignments, assignment due dates, managing and tracking work, tool for communicating; teacher satisfaction; Canvas implementation cost and savings; and administration satisfaction.

- E. Legislative Agenda: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8. Joel Andrus, legislative consultant was present for discussion regarding the legislative agenda. The topics discussed were assessment reform, SOL tests, accreditation, new assessment system, SOL tests for verified credits; performance assessments; Department of Education; accreditation and accountability; concerns regarding growth measures, mastery and growth; common benchmarks; and local data.

Vice Chair Franklin made a motion to move the topic of the Legislative Agenda from Information to Action. Ms. Riggs seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding the district having a legislative plan; complexity of SOL topic; advocacy; number of votes required to have Legislative Agenda to pass under Action, majority vote needed; General Assembly going into session in January; testing to a high level of performance (mastery); the Legislative Agenda as a starting point, to start a discussion; in favor of bringing the topic to Action; upcoming Legislative Breakfast; need for the Legislative Committee to meet earlier, not wait until the Fall, and provide regular updates to the School Board; and SOL reform.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to move the topic of the Legislative Agenda from Information to Action. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- 16. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted under Agenda Item #14, the Public Comments concluded at 7:06 p.m.
- 17. Consent Agenda:** Chair Melnyk read the following items on the Consent Agenda:
- A. Resolution: National Mentoring Month: Recommended the School Board approve a resolution recognizing National Mentoring Month.
 - B. Resolutions for School Board Members: Recommended the School Board approve the Resolutions honoring the following School Board Members who are completing their terms of office on December 31, 2024: Trenace B. Riggs, School Board Member District 1; Jennifer Franklin, School Board Member District 2 – Kempsville; Jessica L. Owens School Board Member District 3 – Rose Hall; Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Member At-Large; and, Victoria Manning, School Board Member At-Large.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 7 of 14

1. Beverly M. Anderson
2. Jennifer S. Franklin
3. Victoria C. Manning
4. Jessica L. Owens
5. Trenace B. Riggs

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda, Chair Melnyk asked if there were any objections to voting on the Consent Agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Riggs made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. Dr. Green read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
National Mentoring Month
January 2025

WHEREAS, January 2025 will mark the 23rd anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an opportunity to focus attention on the need for mentors as well as how each of us can work together to increase the number of mentors to help ensure positive outcomes for our young people; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Beach City Public Schools honors volunteer mentors who support young people by showing up for them every day and demonstrating their commitment to helping them thrive; and

WHEREAS, mentoring programs make our communities and our school division stronger by driving impactful relationships that increase social capital for young people and provide invaluable support networks for adults; and

WHEREAS, mentoring plays a pivotal role in career exploration and supports workplace skills by helping young people set career goals, equipping mentors with the skills needed to support the professional growth of young people, and driving positive outcomes for young people and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the annual African American Male Summit on Jan. 25, 2025, hosted by Green Run High School, is an example of mentorship that promotes healthy relationships and communication, positive self-esteem, emotional well-being, and growth of our young men and their relationships with adults both in our division and throughout the community; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of January 2025 as National Mentoring Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourage citizens to celebrate, elevate and encourage mentoring across Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it

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

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December, 2024.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 8 of 14

Chair Melnyk read the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION
BEVERLY M. ANDERSON
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AT-LARGE**

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, Beverly M. Anderson has served with high distinction and outstanding dedication on the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as School Board Member from January 1, 2013, through December 31, 2024. Ms. Anderson served as School Board Chair from January 1, 2017, through December 2019; and

WHEREAS, prior to her career tenure as a School Board Member, Ms. Anderson served a thirty-year career as a public school teacher which allowed her to bring unique perspectives to her work on the School Board and her advocacy for educators and military connected families; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Anderson represented the School Board on numerous committees and boards including Governance, Policy Review, Planning and Performance Monitoring, Building Utilization, Student Discipline and Virginia Beach Sister Cities; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Member At-Large, 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 Beverly M. Anderson, School Board Member At-Large, in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December 2024.

**RESOLUTION
JENNIFER S. FRANKLIN
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 2 – KEMPSVILLE**

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

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 9 of 14

WHEREAS, Jennifer S. Franklin has served with high distinction and outstanding dedication on the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as School Board Member District 2 – Kempsville from January 1, 2021, through December 31, 2024; Ms. Franklin served as the Vice Chair of the School Board from January – December 2024; and

WHEREAS, as a School Board Member, Ms. Franklin brought her unique perspective as a former military member and private business professional to her service on the School Board. Ms. Franklin has consistently championed for the rights of students, the importance of trade and alternative educational programs, as well as military service; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Franklin represented the School Board on numerous committees and boards including Audit, Gifted Advisory, the Green Run Collegiate Board and Student Discipline; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Jennifer S. Franklin, School Board Member District 2 – Kempsville, 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 Jennifer S. Franklin, School Board Member District 2 – Kempsville, in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December 2024.

Ms. Weems read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
VICTORIA C. MANNING
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER AT-LARGE

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, Victoria C. Manning has served with high distinction and outstanding dedication on the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as School Board Member from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, throughout her tenure on the School Board, Ms. Manning has been a tireless advocate for student excellence, respect for parental rights, responsible business practices, and compliance with law and regulation; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning has served on many School Board Committees such as Student Discipline, Policy Review, Legislative, School Health Advisory Board, and Long-Range Facilities Planning; and

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 10 of 14

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Victoria C. Manning, School Board Member At-Large, 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 Victoria C. Manning, School Board Member At-Large, in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December 2024.

Chair Melnyk read the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION
JESSICA L. OWENS
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 3 – ROSE HALL**

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, Jessica L. Owens has served with high distinction and outstanding dedication on the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as School Board Member District 3 – Rose Hall from May 2019 through December 31, 2024; and

WHEREAS, as a School Board Member, Ms. Owens brought her unique perspective as a social work and child protective services professional to her service on the School Board. Ms. Owens has consistently championed the mental health, parenting and social needs for students and their families; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Owens represented the School Board on numerous committees and boards including Audit, Governance, Policy Review, Superintendent's Mental Health, Equity Council and Student Discipline; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Jessica L. Owens, School Board Member District 3 – Rose Hall, 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 Jessica L. Owens, School Board Member District 3 – Rose Hall, in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December 2024.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 11 of 14

RESOLUTION
TRENACE B. RIGGS
SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER DISTRICT 1 – CENTERVILLE

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, Trenace B. Riggs has served with high distinction and outstanding dedication on the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia, as School Board Member District 1 – Centerville from January 1, 2017, through December 31, 2024; Ms. Riggs served as School Board Chair from January 1, 2023, through December 2023; and

WHEREAS, prior to her tenure as a School Board Member, Ms. Riggs served a thirty-year career as a public school teacher and then served as the president of the Virginia Beach Education Association. Ms. Riggs used her professional teaching experience to advocate for the rights of school employees and to ensure that students received excellent educational experiences; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Riggs represented the School Board on numerous committees and boards including Audit, Governance, Policy Review, Legislative, Student Discipline, Virginia School Board Association Delegate, and Virginia Beach Sister Cities Association; and

NOW THEREFORE, be it Resolved: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach commends and extends its grateful appreciation to Trenace B. Riggs, School Board Member District 1 – Centerville, 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 Trenace B. Riggs, School Board Member District 1 – Centerville, in recognition of her service.

This Resolution is to be adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 10th day of December 2024.

Note: Each of the outgoing School Board Members shared a few words and reflections after their resolutions were presented.

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 as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

18. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the December 10, 2024, personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Owens made the motion, seconded by

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 12 of 14

Ms. Brown, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the December 10, 2024, personnel report along with the administrative appointment 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 December 10, 2024, personnel report along with the administrative appointment as recommended by the Superintendent. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: Casey L. Conger, coordinator, health and physical education, Department of Teaching and Learning, as the principal of Creeds Elementary School.

- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board rescind Policy 3-65 as recommended by the Policy Review Committee, approve Policy 5-52 as amended by the School Board on November 26, 2024 and that the School Board approve Regulation 5-52.1.

1. Policy 5-52/Cell Phone-Free Education – cellular phones and personal electronic communication devices – student use: The PRC recommends adopting the policy.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve Policy 5-52/Cell Phone-Free Education – cellular phones and personal electronic communication devices. Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Anderson. Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney, reviewed Policy 5-52. There was a discussion regarding what the vote was for; vote for Policy 5-52 then Regulation 5-52.1, which is the supporting regulation, delete Policy 3-65, voting on three items; Ms. Brown, chair of the Policy Review Committee, provided additional information/clarification; Ms. Lannetti read Policy 5-52; mention of Regulation 5-52.1 and the Superintendent and designees developing regulations.

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Policy 5-52. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

2. Regulation 5-52.1/Cellular phones and personal electronic communication devices – limitation on use: The School Board determined the School Board would approve Regulation 5-52.1.

Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve Regulation 5-52.1/Cellular phones and personal electronic communication devices. Ms. Owens made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs. Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney, provided an overview of the regulation, read and reviewed various sections, Section A.2. – Definitions – Instructional Time and Section C.2. – High School students may use personal electronic communication devices during their designated lunch period.

Ms. Weems made a substitute motion with the following changes: under Section A.2. – Definitions – Instructional Time, to include “*Lunch times for elementary, middle, and high school students,...*” and under Section C. – Student use of personal electronic communication devices – non instructional time or special events, the removal of Item #2 – High School students may use personal electronic communication devices during their designated lunch period, then renumbering remaining items; move to adopt the Regulation 5-52.1 as amended. Mr. Callan seconded the substitute motion.

A discussion followed regarding the substitute motion; topic discussed during the PRC meeting; bell-to-bell cell phone-free; discipline issues with cell phones; consistency with cell phone policy; using cell phones during lunch; preparing students to be responsible using cell phones; enforcement of policy; high school students having cell phone for receiving work information, extra-curricula information, and contacting parents; cell phone research and impact on students, academic performance, and mental health; administration supports bell-to-bell, challenge to implement policy change mid-year, creating a regulation to implement with the policy, help students regulate and management themselves, and referrals.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 13 of 14

Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote on Ms. Weems substitute motion. The School Board Clerk announced there were four (4) ayes in favor of the substitute motion: Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Manning, and Ms. Weems. There were seven (7) nays opposed to the substitute motion: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Mr. Callan, Dr. Green, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Riggs. The substitute motion did not pass, 4-7-0.

Before voting on the original motion to approve Regulation 5-52.1, there was a brief discussion regarding the School Board having future discussions on cell phone-free use from bell-to-bell. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Regulation 5-52.1 (as originally presented). The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

3. Policy 3-65/Security of Building and Grounds: cellular phones and other portable telecommunications devices: The PRC recommends deleting this policy and replacing it with Policy 5-52 Cell Phone-Free Education – cellular phones and personal electronic communication devices –student use. Chair Melnyk called for a motion to delete Policy 3-65/Security of Building and Grounds: cellular phones and other portable telecommunications devices. Ms. Owens made the motion, seconded by Ms. Manning. There was a brief discussion for clarity regarding the motion and Ms. Lannetti, school board attorney provided an explanation. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to delete Policy 3-65. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- C. Book Content Committee: Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney, provided an overview of the intent regarding amending Policy 6-65/Library Media Centers/Professional Libraries/Content Committee; the addition of word “incoming” to Section D. Content Committee, to align elementary schools with the same procedures as secondary schools to review only incoming book for explicit content; in order to amend the policy, need to suspend a portion of Bylaw 1-32 (C)(3) to have a majority vote instead of “... *an affirmative vote of seven of the School Board Members if there are eleven School Board Members present at the meeting*”. After the explanation, Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Book Content Committee suspension of Bylaw 1-32 (C) (3). Vice Chair Franklin made the motion, seconded by Ms. Riggs.

Ms. Lannetti, school board attorney, mentioned there was an amendment to the motion, the incorrect Bylaw was noted, it should be Bylaw 1-30 (B) – Suspension of a Bylaw; through Bylaw 1-30 (B), you are requesting to suspend the portion of Bylaw 1-32 (C)(3) for the seven person vote. A discussion followed regarding 24-hour notice to School Board Members about the change; the need for seven votes, cannot support suspension of Bylaw 1-30; and need for consistency in the process. Without further discussion, Chair Melnyk called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were two (2) ayes in favor of the motion to suspend Bylaw 1-30: Ms. Anderson and Ms. Riggs. There were nine (9) nays opposed to suspend Bylaw 1-30: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Dr. Green, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, and Ms. Weems. The motion did not pass, 2-9-0.

There was a motion to Amend Policy 6-65 made by Vice Chair Franklin and seconded by Ms. Anderson. A discussion followed regarding the intent of the change; timeline to complete the task of reviewing books in the elementary schools; some Library Media Specialist overwhelmed by process; options to change deadline, to change policy, remove deadline; timeline is in the regulation; implementing policy; developing a process to review books, overview of development of timeline, need for a deadline; assessing where elementary schools are in the task; updates from content committee; false information on social media; two different topics – workload and changing policy; and June 1st deadline to complete task. After the discussion, Vice Chair Franklin withdrew the motion and Ms. Anderson concurred.

- D. Legislative Agenda: Chair Melnyk called for a motion to approve the Legislative Agenda as presented.

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

Tuesday, December 10, 2024
School Board Regular Meeting
Page 14 of 14

Ms. Anderson made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. 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 Legislative Agenda as presented: Chair Melnyk, Vice Chair Franklin, Ms. Anderson, Ms. Brown, Mr. Culpepper, Dr. Green, Ms. Manning, Ms. Owens, Ms. Riggs, and Ms. Weems. There was one (1) nay opposed to the motion to approve the Legislative Agenda as presented: Mr. Callan. The motion passed, 10-1-0.

19. **Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Ms. Anderson mentioned the Sister Cities Student Ambassador application is due by January 31, information is on the Scholarship Central website and the school counselors also have information.
20. **Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** There were no administrative, informal, workshop or Closed Session matters.
21. **Adjournment:** Chair Melnyk wished everyone a happy holiday. The meeting adjourned at 10:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

School Board Chair