



School Board Services

Kathleen J. Brown, Chair
District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

Mark Bohenstiel
District 3

Michael Callan
District 6

David Culpepper
District 8

Matt W. Cummings
District 7

Rose M. Dwyer
District 1

Sharon R. Felton
At-Large

Dr. Alveta J. Green
District 4

Kimberly A. Melnyk
District 2

Melinda J. Rogers
District 5

Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent

School Board Special Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday, February 18, 2025

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

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD OF THE CITY OF VIRGINIA BEACH

- 1. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Vice Chair Weems convened the special meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 4:00 p.m. on the 18th day of February 2025 and announced in accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings approved by the School Board at their January 14, 2025, Organizational/Regular Meeting, and pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and Virginia Code § 2.2-3707, the School Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 4:00 p.m., at the School Administration Building #6, 2512 George Mason Drive, Virginia Beach, Virginia 23456 in the School Board Room.

The purpose of this special meeting is for:

1. Presentations on:
 - a. Budget Workshop #1 – Debt Service Overview
 - b. The Rising Costs of Student Activities
 - c. Bayside 6 Transition Update
2. FY 2025-26 School Board Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2025-26 through FY 2030-31 Capital Improvement Program – discussion by School Board and School Administration

In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Chair Brown (illness).

The following School Board Member was not in attendance: Mr. Culpepper.

2. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Adoption of the Agenda: Vice Chair Weems called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Vice Chair Weems called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. Without discussion, Vice Chair Weems called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.

- 3. Budget Workshop #1 – Debt Service Overview:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, presented the School Board information on debt service. The presentation provided an overview of means of financing and debt service for the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Program to support the FY2025/26 budget development process. The following terminology was reviewed: PAYGO, fund balance, and bonds (Charter Bonds, Public Facility Revenue Bonds,

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authorized, and issued). An overview was provided on the relationship between the operating budget and capital improvement program (CIP), the impact on the operating budget, City and School programmed bonds, and monitoring and planning for bonds used in CIP.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding State construction grants; finding funding for CIP; factors to consider – LCI (Local Composite Index); change in legislation (2008); and lottery funds.

4. ***The Rising Costs of Student Activities:*** Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, and Leeane Turnbull, director, Office of Student Leadership, provided the School Board information on the rising costs of our student activities programs. They provided a historical overview of student activity costs, a recommendation for increasing coaches' salaries and a recommendation on offsetting these expenses with an overarching goal of increasing revenue to one million dollars annually. Mr. Delaney provided a brief introduction and overview.

Ms. Turnbull continued the presentation and reviewed the following purpose of presentation: provide a historical overview of student activities costs, recommendation for increasing coaches' salaries by 10% and share opportunities to offset costs with new revenue streams. A list of sports and activities was shared as well as a history of state championships. Budget item costs were reviewed which included coaches' salaries, athletic trainers, police coverage for events, officials, and equipment. Fund strategies to offset costs was proposed – increase ticket prices and implement a student fee structure.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding Policy 5-69; direction from School Board regarding fees; other school districts and student fees; fee compatible with other organizations, VHSL fees and recreation leagues; challenges with fees, may prevent students from trying other sports/activities; impact to families; offsetting costs; ticket prices and processing fees; list of student activities; collection of fees; parental input on topic; costs for free and/or reduced students; new sport – Esports and costs; ticket increase and pay for play; fundraising; which sports/activities need tickets to watch; and coaches and salaries.

5. ***Bayside 6 Transition Update:*** Melisa Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services, and Dr. James Smith, senior executive director of middle schools, Department of School Leadership, provided the School Board an update of the Bayside 6 transition to Bayside Middle School for the approved 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. Ms. Ingram began the presentation with an overview of items regarding transition – minimal building modifications required, transportation bus routing, summer move being conducted by Distribution Services, and move meetings from February – June 2025 with various offices. An overview floor plan was shared of Bayside Middle School with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade core spaces, support and resource spaces, Special Education spaces and Career and Technical Education spaces.

Dr. Smith continued the presentation and shared information on Bayside transition and family events (grades 6-7): March – Spring school visit to Bayside Middle School; August – Summer Transition Program and Meet and Greet; Fall – Open House. Regarding staffing, there were multiple meetings held which provided key insights. The next steps include identified priority staff one-on-one meetings, identified priority staff will receive personalized letters outlining their status and key information, meetings with departments, and ongoing meetings with principals. The Department of Communications and Community Engagement will keep the community updated on the consolidation of Bayside Middle School with Parent Square/AlertNow messaging to feeder schools, media alerts, social media and VBSchools website.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding upcoming events and which grades are participating; school visits for students; sharing list of dates with community; capacity of building; transition of the staff; administration at Bayside Middle School; and priority staff.

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6. **Discussion: School Board Budget Workshop for FY 2025-26 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2025-26 through FY 2030-31:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, reviewed questions from the School Board regarding the budget. The question topics included impact of budget and student's education, experiences, and outcomes; Green Run Collegiate expenditures, student enrollments; narrative explanations for certain budget items; various salary options; budget reductions; vacancy positions; number of PBIS coaches; Panorama Education; impact of Pre-K program; number of students from Pre-K cohorts still enrolled in VBCPS; debt services; and community meetings.

The budget discussion continued with questions and comments regarding Pre-K program; health benefits; additional budget question submissions by Friday; vacancy positions and allocation of funds; and an upcoming benefits presentation for the School Board.

There was a brief discussion regarding upcoming inclement weather and the status of school and office operations. It was mentioned the Policy Review Committee meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2025, would be cancelled due to the inclement weather.

7. **Adjournment:** Vice Chair Weems adjourned the meeting at 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair