



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Service

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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 Regular Meeting MINUTES
Tuesday, February 25, 2025

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 Brown convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 4:01 p.m. on the 25th day of February 2025.

In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member was not in attendance: Mr. Culpepper.

- A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chair Brown mentioned the March sign-up sheets for 1-to-1 meetings with Superintendent Robertson and school visits with Superintendent Robertson. There was a brief discussion from Superintendent Robertson regarding VDOE and clarification on the new performance framework and the possibility of setting up a meeting with the VDOE on the topic.
- B. **Tri-Campus Reconfiguration Options:** Melanie Hamblin, Ed.D., senior executive director, elementary schools, Department of School Leadership, provided the School Board information regarding transitioning the Tri-campus from three schools into two schools. The presentation provided two potential options to best serve the educational needs of students. The most preferred educational option is to have two Pre-K through 5 schools. The other option would be a Pre-K through 1 school and a 2nd through 5th grade school. Staff is seeking direction from the School Board on investigating the two options.

The option for two (2) Pre-K through 5th grade schools would allow continuity of education and a stable learning environment, sense of community, enhanced parent to school relationships, and teach collaboration. The alternative option of one (1) Pre-K through 1st grade and one (1) 2nd grade through 5th grade school would remove the need for rezoning and the potential for lower costs to provide an addition and alteration. In reference to the options, a few items to consider are the cost of building additions and alterations, additional transition for students and families, and preserving the Bettie F. Williams tradition.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the school options; teacher vacancies for staffing; timeline to prepare schools; reducing number of school transitions; community input; attendance zones; preserving/retaining Bettie F. Williams name; cost differential for each option; staff at one school, not having to travel between schools; and option preferences.

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- C. Budget/CIP Workshop #2: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer provided the School Board information on the Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan which included questions from School Board Members, State budget update, and planning for additional State funds. The questions from the School Board included topics on revenue sources for Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Plan; general fund; PAYGO; student activities budget; allocation of vacancy funds; MTSS and PBIS; pay scales (instructional and unified); employee retention and retention strategies; Virginia Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and public meetings; tickets for events; "pay to play"; Esports and potential costs; funding for K-2 Chromebooks; and transportation.

The State budget update included information on technical support, support cap, and Special Education along with bonuses for SOQ positions. There is an anticipation of additional State funding. Plans for additional State funding entail to close the gap in vacancy funds usage, bonuses, Wellness Day, implement additional compensation options provided by Segal (unified and instructional), and educational allowances.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding bonuses for all employees; calc tool from the State; workforce development, grants, and new course expansion; allocation of vacancy funds; number of vacancies; compensation and healthcare/benefits; Wellness Day; streamlining staff; buses; budget transfers (athletic fund, GRC); Esports; and professional development and travel.

2. **Closed Session:** At 5:14 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings 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, Paragraphs 2, 7, and 8 as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:
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. However, any such student, legal counsel and, if the student is a minor, the student's parents or legal guardians shall be permitted to be present during the taking of testimony or presentation of evidence at a closed meeting, if such student, parents, or guardians so request in writing and such request is submitted to the presiding officer of the appropriate board.
 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. Appointment of a hearing officer for a student discrimination complaint appeal.
 - B. Status of certain student related complaints and investigations.
 - C. Status of VEC COVID claims review.
 - D. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
 - E. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.

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Chair Brown 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 Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 5:18 p.m.

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

- A. Appointment of a hearing officer for a student discrimination complaint appeal: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Ph.D., superintendent; Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer; Walter C. Brower, Jr., Ed.D., senior executive director, high schools, Department of School Leadership; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- B. Status of certain student related complaints and investigations: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Ph.D., superintendent; Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer; Walter C. Brower, Jr., Ed.D., senior executive director, high schools, Department of School Leadership; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- C. Status of VEC COVID claims review: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Jr., Ph.D., superintendent; Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer; Walter C. Brower, Jr., Ed.D., senior executive director, high schools, Department of School Leadership; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

Mr. Matthew Delaney and Dr. Walter C. Brower, Jr. left the Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.
The School Board reconvened at 5:31 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Vice Chair Weems 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.

Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings. Without discussion, Chair Brown 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 Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:32 p.m.
4. **Formal Meeting (School Administration Building #6 – School Board Room) 6:00 p.m.**
5. **Call to Order and Roll Call:** Chair Brown convened the meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 6:01 p.m. on the 25th day of February 2025.

In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.

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

6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Ocean Lakes High School Madrigals sang the National Anthem.
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition:** There were no awards presented at the meeting.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown mentioned the following modifications to the agenda, under Action – Item #16B – Appointment of a Hearing Officer and request from Dr. Robertson to add under Information – Item #13C – Response to School Closures. Chair Brown called for any other modifications to the agenda as presented and modified. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as modified. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as modified: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.
9. **Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings)**
Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Robertson shared the following information: 1) February is American Heart Month and Abby Larsen, a fifth grader at New Castle Elementary School, is the Youth Heart Ambassador to the American Heart Association of Hampton Roads.; 2) Students and staff participated in the Virginia Kindness Week earlier this month. The Virginia Department of Education encouraged schools to make special notice of acts of kindness from February 9 through February 15.; 3) The program "Coats for Kids and Books Too!" was a success February 5 at the Plaza Annex. Families received for than 200 coats as well as books.; 4) On February 14, students and staff welcomed Virginia Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Lisa Coons and other leaders as they observed our innovative Bio-Fit classes.; and 5) A video clip was shared about our transportation team supporting the Special Olympics during the Polar Plunge earlier this month at the oceanfront.

Administrative Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments, which were approved at the February 11, 2025, School Board Meeting: Latashia C. Bates, administrative assistant, Kempsville High School as assistant principal for Renaissance Academy; Rikki J. Betancourt, AVID instructor, Princess Anne High School as coordinator, secondary English, Department of Teaching and Learning; Christopher D. Harriman, coordinator, food services, as assistant director, food services, Office of Food Services; Lori A. Taylor, coordinator, food services as grants manager, Office of Budget Development; and Gloria "Ashlee" Williams, instructional specialist as coordinator, Academic Support Programs K-12, Department of Teaching and Learning.

10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
 - A. **February 11, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the February 11, 2025, regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the February 11, 2025, minutes as presented. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the February 11, 2025, minutes as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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11. Public Hearing on Proposed School Operating Budget FY 2025/26 and Capital Improvement Program for FY2025/26 - FY2030/31

There were three (3) in-person speakers for the Public Hearing. The topics included State legislation; support caps; instructional pay scale and non-instructional pay scale; supporting VB educators; need for excellent teachers; SEON (Superintendent Estimate of Needs); compensation; working 2 or more jobs; cost of living; and raises not keeping with inflation.

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

There were three (3) in-person speakers. The topics included educational story – ionic bonds/atoms; concerns about ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), legal protection; Regulation 5-64.1; student privacy; and Black History Month.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:37 p.m.

13. Information

- A. Interim Financial Statements – January 2025: Daniel Hopkins, director of Business Services presented financial information to the School Board for the period ending January 31, 2025. The overall revenue trend remains acceptable at this point in the fiscal year. The School Board will be updated on any changes to the State budget. Federal revenues are showing an acceptable trend at the end of January. We have received Impact Aid Payments of approximately \$9.8 million year-to-date. Sales tax receipts are at an acceptable level. Year to date through January, is approximately \$700,000 higher than the same time last year. The expenditures and encumbrances trend continues to remain acceptable at this point in the fiscal year.
- B. Achievable Dream Attendance Zone Expansion: The School Board received information proposing the expansion of the school/transportation zones for An Achievable Dream Academies. Matthew Delaney, chief school officer provided a brief introduction to the presentation. Amasa Andes, chief strategy officer, An Achievable Dream, Inc. continued the presentation and provided a historical overview of An Achievable Dream (AAD). Ms. Andes shared the mission and vision of AAD, and mentioned 100% of AAD schools are accredited, AAD has a 100% on time graduation rate since their first graduating class in 2001, and 99% of AAD's graduates current attend or have graduated from college or trade school, serve in the military and/or in the workforce. Strong community partnerships and support provide a social, academic and mindset education, extended learning time, additional exposure and enrichment experiences, and post-secondary support.

Walter C. Brower, Jr., Ed.D., senior executive director of high schools, Department of School Leadership, continued the presentation and reviewed enrollment expectations. Enrollment should meet or exceed a threshold of 75%. The current enrollment is 69%. To meet expectations, there is a need to increase enrollment by 60 students to meet the 75% threshold. Dr. Brower shared information on the efforts to increase enrollment, which included a secondary Academy Coordinator was added for the 2024-2025 school year, AAD participated in the division-wide academy information night, AAD website was included with all VBCPS academies, and recruitment tours and site-based information nights were established. To increase enrollment, the administration recommends expanding the transportation zone for students to attend An Achievable Dream from the Larkspur and Bayside school zones.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding transportation; data on graduates; scholarship opportunities; cost of transportation; number of students needed to meet threshold; number of applicants; recruitment for middle and high school; post-secondary education and supports; partnerships; athletics; application and admission process; acceptance rate; curriculum; expanding zones; and partnership with AAD.

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- C. Response to School Closures: Note, items was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8. Superintendent Robertson presented the following to the School Board: 1) Administration is seeking School Board approval to count the five asynchronous learning days on January 23-24 and February 19-21 towards the VDOE "Remote Learning" day provision to meet the 180-day requirement.; and 2) Administration is seeking School Board approval to change the March 13 and April 3 early release day schedule for students to a full day. This request is made based on the loss of in-person instructional time as a result of school closures as noted above.

A discussion followed regarding loss of in-person instructional time; students at afternoon programs losing instruction time when there are early release days; staff office hours during snow days; 180 days and seat time; outcomes from days missed; professional learning for teachers; no substitute for face-to-face instruction; and last-minute changes to calendar.

Ms. Melnyk made a motion to have this added to the Action item of the agenda. Mr. Callan seconded the motion. Chair Brown mentioned for clarification, the motion would need seven (7) votes to move the topic to Action. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to have this added to the Action item of the agenda: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Melnyk. There were two (2) nays opposed to the motion to have this added to the Action item of the agenda: Mr. Cummings and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 8-2-0.

14. Return to public comments if needed:

As noted under Agenda Item#12, the Public Comments concluded at 6:37 p.m.

15. Consent Agenda: Chair Brown read the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- A. Resolutions:
1. Fine Arts in our Schools Month: Recommended that the School Board approve the Month of March 2025 as "Fine Arts in Our Schools Month".
 2. National Women's History Month: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March 2025 as National Women's History Month. The Women's History Month theme for 2025 is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating Inspiring Generations."
 3. VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March as Virginia School Boards Association Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month.
 4. National School Social Work Week: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution recognizing March 2-8, 2025, as National School Social Work Week.
 5. Read Across America: Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution endorsing the National Education Association's *Read Across America*.
- B. First Colonial High School Roof Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with TeamCraft Roofing, Inc for the First Colonial High School Roof Replacement in the amount of \$5,926,400.

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda, Chair Brown asked if there were any objections to voting on the Consent Agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Mr. Bohensiel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk. Chair Brown asked for the resolutions to be read.

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Ms. Rogers read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Fine Arts in Our Schools Month
March 2025

WHEREAS, fine arts programs in Virginia Beach City Public Schools provide curricular, co-curricular and extracurricular experiences in art, dance, music and theatre arts for all student members of the school community and for the Virginia Beach community at large; and

WHEREAS, the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the importance of fine arts to all our students, not only while they are in school but also throughout their lives; and

WHEREAS, art, dance, music and theatre arts are now and have been a vital part of the curriculum and instruction of the public schools of Virginia Beach; and

WHEREAS, the month of March has been designated as Music in Our Schools Month, Youth Art Month, and Theatre in the Schools Month by their national associations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognizes the month of March 2025 as Fine Arts in Our Schools Month in Virginia Beach City Public Schools; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach expresses its appreciation to our fine arts educators for enhancing our lives and the lives of our children through art, dance, music and theatre arts; 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, Virginia, this 25th day of February, 2025

Ms. Dwyer read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
National Women's History Month
March 2025

WHEREAS, American women of every race, class and ethnic background have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of our school division, communities and nation in countless recorded and unrecorded ways; and

WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play critical economic, cultural and social roles in every sphere of the life of the nation by constituting a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment of early charitable, philanthropic and cultural institutions in our nation that are still evident today; and

WHEREAS, American women have been leaders, not only in securing their own rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement and other movements, especially the peace movement, creating a more fair and just society for all; and

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WHEREAS, despite the significant contributions to education, business, military and healthcare, the role of American women in history has been consistently overlooked and undervalued, in the literature, teaching and study of American history;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of March 2025 as National Women's History Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to support and recognize women in both the public and private sectors who provide healing and hope for the betterment of all throughout the community; 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 25th day of February, 2025

Mr. Bohenstiel read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month
March 2025

WHEREAS, challenging environments in schools have become an increasingly significant area of concern in the United States and Virginia; and

WHEREAS, the code of the Commonwealth of Virginia, through the acts of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, acknowledges geographical and local challenges with funding public education and seeks to remedy disparities across the state; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that factors including, but not limited to, disability, race, ethnicity and socioeconomic status have a demonstrated history of impacting the educational opportunities provided to a student; and

WHEREAS, the promise of public education is for every child to be successful in school and life; and

WHEREAS, it is important for Virginia Beach families, students, teachers and school administrators to be aware of the diverse needs and strengths of learners, and to encourage discussion of the challenges and opportunities as a school community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach officially recognizes the month of March 2025 as VSBA Students and Schools in Challenging Environments Month; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach encourages all citizens to advocate and increase awareness about the supports necessary to improve Virginia Beach's challenged school environments; 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 25th day of February, 2025

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Dr. Green read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
National School Social Work Week
March 2-8, 2025

WHEREAS, the week of March 2-8, 2025, is set aside to honor the contributions school social workers have made to help identify and remove environmental barriers to learning, thus allowing students to reach their full potential; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Beach City Public Schools social workers are committed to mobilizing family, school and community resources to enable students to learn and fully benefit from their educational program; and

WHEREAS, social workers are valuable members of the multidisciplinary team serving schools, providing a wide range of services to students, parents and staff; and

WHEREAS, social workers use their expertise in child development, community resources, mental health and crisis intervention to develop and implement interventions to support educational success; and

WHEREAS, social workers assist the most vulnerable children and adolescents, including children with disabilities, children living in homelessness, children living in poverty, pregnant teens, suicidal teens, truants and other at-risk children; and

WHEREAS, this shared approach to assisting students promotes students' learning and helps guide students to high school graduation and postsecondary experiences with the skills necessary to be productive citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach recognize the second full week of March 2025 as National School Social Work Week in 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 25th day of February, 2025

Ms. Melnyk read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION
Read Across America
March 3, 2025

WHEREAS, the citizens of Virginia Beach stand firmly committed to promoting reading as the catalyst for our students' future academic success, their preparation for America's jobs of the future and their ability to compete in a global economy; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Beach City Public Schools has provided significant leadership in the area of community involvement in the education of our youth, grounded in the principle that education investment is key to the community's well-being and long-term quality of life; and

WHEREAS, "National Education Association's (NEA) *Read Across America*," a national celebration of reading on March 3, 2025, motivates students to read a variety of literature that are about everyone, for everyone;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

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RESOLVED: That the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach calls on all the citizens of Virginia Beach to assure that every child is in a safe place reading together with a caring adult on March 3, 2025, and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED: That this body enthusiastically endorses “NEA’s *Read Across America*” and recommitts our community to engage in programs and activities that improve the reading abilities of all children; and be it

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

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach this 25th day of February, 2025

After the resolutions were read, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

16. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the February 25, 2025, personnel report and administrative appointment. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the February 25, 2025, personnel report along with the administrative appointment as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the February 25, 2025, personnel report and administrative appointment: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: Brittany E. Gulick, administrative assistant, Bayside and Luxford elementary schools, as assistant principal for Glenwood Elementary School.

- B. Appointment of a Hearing Officer: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8. Chair Brown called for a motion to approve Ed Jones to serve as the hearing officer for the student discrimination complaint appeal filed by a Princess Anne Middle School parent in February 2025. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Ed Jones to serve as the hearing officer for the student discrimination complaint appeal filed by a Princess Anne Middle School parent in February 2025: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The following items are from the Information discussion on Response to School Closures.
See Agenda Item#13C.

- C. Chair Brown called for a motion to accept the five asynchronous learning days on January 23-24 and February 19-21 towards the VDOE “Remote Learning” day provision to meet the 180-day requirement. Ms. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to accept the five asynchronous learning days on January 23-24 and February 19-21 towards the VDOE “Remote Learning” day provision to meet the 180-day requirement: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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- D. Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the change for March 13 and April 3 early release day schedule for students to a full day. This request is being made based on the loss of in-person instructional time. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bohenstiel.

A discussion followed regarding report cards; face-to-face learning; wanting half-day for teachers; negative impact for staff; number of students in afternoon programs and loss of learning days; staff working on the snow days; social and emotional needs of students; are the half-days an A day or B day schedule; concerns about learning loss; and number of days out of school.

Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the change for March 13 and April 3 early release day schedule for students to a full day: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Melnyk. There were two (2) nays opposed to the motion to approve the change for March 13 and April 3 early release day schedule for students to a full day: Mr. Cummings and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 8-2-0.

- 17. *Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Vice Chair Weems mentioned the Policy Review Committee met today before the School Board meeting. The next Policy Review Committee meeting is scheduled for March 19. Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney mentioned the Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow, February 26 at 1:00 p.m. Chair Brown mentioned tickets for the Virginia Beach Education Foundation Oyster Roast.
- 18. *Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** There was none. The Closed Session took place after the workshop. See Agenda Item #2.
- 19. *Adjournment:*** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair