



School Board Services

Kathleen J. Brown, Chair
District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

Mark Bohensiel
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, March 4, 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:** Chair Brown convened the special meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 4:00 p.m. on the 4th day of March 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, March 4, 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 #3 – Consolidated Benefits Overview
 - b. Mid-Year School Support 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: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green. Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.
The following School Board Member was not in attendance: Ms. Dwyer.

- 2. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. 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 presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green. Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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4. Budget Workshop #3 – Consolidated Benefits Overview:

Mr. Cummings shared the following statement before the presentation, *To avoid any conflict of interest, I will recuse myself from discussions on health plans tonight. While I work for Sentara Health Plans, I am not involved in plan negotiations, rate setting, or have access to any VB Schools Health Plan data. To ensure transparency and integrity, I will not participate in these discussions, provide feedback on benefits, or answer questions related to health insurance.*

Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, Linda Matkins, director, Consolidated Benefits, and David Keogh, principal, Senior Health Benefits Consultant provided the School Board information on consolidated benefits. Ms. Pate began the presentation with a brief introduction. Ms. Matkins continued the presentation and provided an overview of the topics to be discussed: plan oversight, health plan offering, cost considerations, and observations/takeaways. She provided information on the Benefits Executive Committee Members and mentioned the committee goals. Ms. Matkins introduced Mr. Keogh, and the presentation continued.

Mr. Keogh discussed important terminology and gave an overview of the two plans: POS and CDHP. The following health plan components were highlighted: health savings account, self-insured, third-party administration services, and eligibility for health plan. Data was shared regarding enrollment in which approximately 90% of eligible City employees enroll in health coverage and 75% of eligible School employees enroll in health coverage. Additional data was shared on enrollment by entity, plan demographics, population type and health savings account. Financial data was reviewed regarding health care cost projections, historical claims trend, historical health plan cost share, and historical health fund balance. Examples were shared for employee contribution comparisons for 2026 preliminary rate option 1 and option 2.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the effects of option 1 and 2 and deductibles; supporting the health fund; self-insured; review of historical health fund balance; various tiers of health plans (example: subscriber only, subscriber and child, family, etc.); employee contribution and increase per pay check; claims, pharmacy costs; employee compensation, premium costs, help retain and recruit staff; increase cost of options to staff (example used for employee only); schools separate from city (separate plan and employee codes); fiscal year and calendar year; and amounts in the SEON (Superintendent's Estimate of Needs).

5. Mid-Year School Support Update: Danielle Colucci, Ed.D., chief academic officer, provided the School Board information on the data-driven mid-year support being offered to schools by the Department of Teaching and Learning. The data for the Virginia Language & Literacy Screener (VALLS) for Kindergarten through third grade was reviewed. The growth data for Pre-K Virginia Language & Literacy Screener were compared from the beginning of the year and mid-year for the following skills letter names, letter sounds, and syllable segmenting. The support provided by elementary teaching & learning and Title I & Pre-K offices includes curriculum, assessment, and resource development, professional learning and instructional coaching, instructional planning and data meetings, federal and state grant programs. The Northwest Evaluation Association, Measures of Academic Progress (NWEA MAP) growth assessments is another source of data. The assessments measure a student's skill level and determines growth from one test to the next. An example was shared of the growth quadrant chart.

The secondary teaching and learning mid-year strategic supports were reviewed. An example of a curriculum unit assessment for Algebra I was shared. The Term 1 SOL test data from Fall 2023 and Fall 2024 was reviewed for the following subjects: math, English, and biology. Data was reviewed for Term 1 locally awarded verified credit for VDOE social studies alternative assessment in World Geography, World History I, and Virginia/US history. The number of tests taken for CTE mid-year strategic support included 8,484 tests taken, 6,869 passed, with 81% pass rate. The various supports provided by secondary teaching & learning and CTE were briefly highlighted. The various offices under the Department of Teaching and Learning include elementary teaching and learning, secondary teaching and learning, programs for exceptional children, student support services, K-12 and gifted programs, and instructional technology.

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The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding certifications; SOL testing data and the 4X4 schedule; collaboration between offices and schools; various testing assessments; participation for CTE tests; and textbooks used for history/social studies courses.

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 budget. The question topics included bus purchase; salary increases, different salary options and costs for each option; budget transfers, Early Reading Intervention Grant, elementary classroom; VRS item portions and total costs; computer software; dues and association memberships; travel/professional development; and HVAC systems. After reviewing the questions, Ms. Pate provided a proposed final FY26 budget in the amount of \$994,914,560.

Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, continued the presentation and reviewed a timeline of various School Board direction regarding the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The following information was reviewed regarding historic and project inflation data, loss of buying power since 2009, approved FY24-25 CIP funding summary (total CIP, maintenance, and new construction). Mr. Freeman reviewed assumptions for proposed FY25-26 CIP: appropriations over the 6-year CIP addresses inflation, plan to increase Debt Service, address maintenance projects, and address new construction projects. Information was shared regarding approved FY24-25 CIP funding sources and proposed FY25-26 CIP funding sources, proposed FY25-26 CIP Debt Services, and new construction needs – proposed FY25-26 school modernization/replacement program.

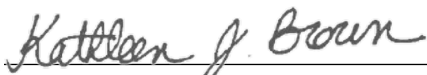
The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding additional funds (one-time or ongoing); teacher salary; reversion funds; City budget and percentage to the school system; student fees; reviewing budget, saving money; against pay to play for students; staff raises; travel expenses; rebuilding the budget (starting from beginning); state funding; starting salaries and benefits; compensation; discussion budget over the summer (retreat); classroom size; SEON; unfunded mandates; workforce development; revenue sharing formula; priorities for the School Board; review of budgets, finding funds; CIP funding, maintenance projects, new construction; LEED buildings and return on investment; Policy 3-67; educational specifications for new construction; sustainability; Debt Services; and funding for new construction.

7. **Adjournment:** Chair Brown noted there will be another special meeting after VBTV prepares for the transition. Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:



Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair



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

- 1. Call to Order and Verbal Roll Call:** Chair Brown convened the special meeting of the School Board at the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber at 7:31 p.m. on the 4th day of March 2025 and announced in accordance with School Board Bylaw 1-46, the School Board will hold a Special Meeting on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at the Conclusion of the School Board Special Meeting for the Budget. The purpose of this Special Meeting is to have a Closed Session for the purpose of discussing with School Board Legal Counsel the Virginia Employment Commission litigation and other pending litigation matters.

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. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.
The following School Board Member was not in attendance: Ms. Dwyer.

Adoption of the Agenda: Chair Brown called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to adopt the agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

- 2. Closed Session:** At 7:33 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk 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 7 and 8 as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:
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.

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Namely to discuss:

- A. Status of VEC litigation.
- B. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- C. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.

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. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 7:35 p.m.

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

- B. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff; Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.

Mr. Delaney left the Closed Session at 7:43 p.m.

- A. Status of VEC litigation: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff; and Regina M. Toneatto, School Board Clerk.

3. *Reconvene from Closed Session:* The School Board reconvened at 7:55 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.



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Mr. Bohenstiel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk. 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. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

Mr. Bohenstiel made the following motion, which was seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the Superintendent pay the outstanding VEC bills but continue to seek reimbursement for those claims and interest determined to be fraudulent, overpaid, or otherwise inappropriately awarded. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion that the Superintendent pay the outstanding VEC bills but continue to seek reimbursement for those claims and interest determined to be fraudulent, overpaid, or otherwise inappropriately awarded: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

4. **Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the special meeting at 7:57 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair