



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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District 4

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District 2

Melinda J. Rogers
District 5

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

School Board Regular Meeting MINUTES **Tuesday, April 22, 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 4:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of April 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. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.

- A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: Chair Brown mentioned the May sign-up sheets for one-to-one meetings with Superintendent Robertson and school visits with Superintendent Robertson.
- B. Mental Health Task Force Update: Robert Jamison, executive director, Office of Student Support Services, provided the School Board information on the work of the Mental Health Task Force. The presentation covered the current needs and challenges, updates from the task force, and the next steps. Data was shared regarding suicide risk assessments completed by VBCPS staff this year. The work of the task force was shared by groups: access; awareness; and stigma/identification. Under access, information was shared about VB Child and Youth Behavioral Health, CHKD and VBCPS Bridge Program, and collaboration with community partners. Data was shared from the Care Colace platform regarding total cases, total communications, key performance indicators, demographic data, mental health, and insurance. Under awareness, information was shared about mental health resources and services shared at events, 2025 VBCPS Wellness Event, and grant-funded initiatives.

The work of the stigma/identification team included staff mental health: staff mental health resource document and supporting staff experiencing suicidal ideation and student mental health: Youth Mental Health First Aid training and mental health versus mental illness. The next steps included continuing efforts mentioned, co-coordinate Celebrating Children Event with GrowSmart, expand brief counseling services to students, and report progress and outcomes to stakeholder groups.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding team progress; referral numbers; insurance and assistance if a family does not have or loses insurance; Bridge Program; Care Solace; referrals for Bridge Program; factors regarding mental health; referral form; and parental consent for programs.

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- C. **Compliance Update:** Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff, provided the School Board with an update on the progress of the School Board Resolution, passed on April 8, 2025, to comply with legal obligations in exchange for receiving federal financial assistance. The presentation covered the history of federal actions/drivers, School Board resolution, and administration actions as of April 22, 2025. The timeline was reviewed regarding Executive Order #14190, USDOE *Dear Colleague Letter*, USDOE Frequently Asked Questions, and VDOE Compliance Certification. The April 8 resolution was mentioned and displayed. The administration actions included renaming the Office for Diversity, Equity and Inclusion to the Office of Opportunity and Achievement; the Equity Plan, Equity Dashboard have been disabled and are under review; educational programs under the office continue to be reviewed; and Policy 5-4 has been disabled, pending review by the Policy Review Committee (PRC) in the April 23 meeting.

Other administration actions included the review of *Compass to 2025*, supporting documents, and *Compass to 2030*, on May 13, the administration will present the revisions to both plans; and review of employment, contracting, and purchasing practices. It was noted that the VDOE amended the due date for signature of compliance to April 24, 2025 and a second certification based on FERPA and PPRA is required by April 29.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding Department of Education; lawsuits, preliminary injunction; educational programs under review; Equity Council; Executive Order; resolution and no public input; Policy 5-4; School Board emails on topic; clarification on programs; recruitment and hiring; academic impact; equity dashboard; impact to programs, student organizations, 504 plans, IEP; museum at Renaissance Academy; impact on staff; federal funding (\$74 million), what is funding for; Title VI; number of speakers at meeting tonight; FOIA requests; input from community; review of timeline of related actions; workforce development, Recovery School; equity and equality; change of DEI office name; compliance; *Compass to 2025*; Goal 4 – Diversity in Workplace; and equity plan.

2. **Closed Session (as needed):**
None during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop Session. See Agenda Item #17.
3. **School Board Recess:**
Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:30 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 6:00 p.m. on the 22nd day of April 2025. In addition to Superintendent Robertson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building, School Board Chamber: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.
6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Rosemont Forest Elementary School Chorus sang the National Anthem.
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**
 - A. **Excellence in Emergency Response – Larkspur Middle School:** The School Board recognized the various staff members of Larkspur Middle School who assisted a student having an emergency during PE class outside the school.

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- B. VHSL Class 5 girls basketball state champions – Princess Anne High School: The School Board recognized the Lady Cavaliers of Princess Anne High School as the VHSL Class 5 girls basketball state champions. This is the school's 15th state title and third championship in a row.
- C. VHSL Class 5 boys basketball state champions – Green Run High School: The School Board recognized the Green Run High School boys basketball team for securing both the Class 5 Region A championship and the Virginia Class 5 state title. The team concluded the season with an impressive 24-2 overall record, including a 15-1 mark in regional play.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda**: Chair Brown mentioned the following modification to the agenda, the April 8, 2025 meeting minutes will be moved to the May 13, 2025 School Board meeting, and comments from the workshop will continue at the end of the meeting before the Closed Session. Chair Brown called for any other modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.
9. **Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings)**:
Superintendent's Report: Superintendent Robertson shared the following information: 1) During the Month of the Military Child, students and staff showed their support during Purple Up Day on April 2 and on the same day, was the opening of the Art of Being a Military Child exhibit at Lynnhaven Mall.; 2) Kellam High School is one of only 10 schools in the country who have hosted the Wings of Tomorrow Symposium. On April 11, the U.S. Air Force program included several motivational speakers and members of the Air Force also answered questions from the students about life choices and career paths.; 3) our 2025 Model Partnerships demonstrate documented results, mutually supportive relationships and a significant impact on students' academic achievement and personal growth. Dr. Robertson shared the names of the 13 Model Partners who have set the standard for excellence in community engagement.; 4) April 7th through 11th was National Assistant Principals Week. These dedicated professionals work tirelessly to uplift teachers, motivate students, support their principal and create a positive learning community.; and 5) save the date events: April 23 – gathering community feedback on the Tri-Campus at Newtown Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 24 from 8:30 a.m. to noon – GrowSmart and VBCPS are hosting the Celebrating Children event at Mount Trashmore; and May 5-9 is Teacher Appreciation Week, PTAs and community partners will be celebrating our valuable educators.
10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
A. April 8, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting: Note, item moved to the May 13, 2025 School Board Meeting. See Agenda Item #8.
11. **Public Comments (until 8:00 p.m.)**
There were eighty-four (84) in person speakers, including ten (10) student speakers and ten (10) online speakers. The topics included resolution; educational equity plan; Policy 5-4; diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI); executive order; federal funding; vote on April 8 regarding the resolution; fairness; parents rights; educational results; special educational programs; different needs of students; caring about every student; community input; academic achievement; school nurses – compensation for school nurses, students well-being, and medical needs of students; motion to defer resolution; equity and equality; importance of diversity; expanding programs in elementary; Title VI; military families; school choice; impacts from resolution; teacher pay; Title I programs; focus on education; school clubs; and global studies.

The Public Comments were suspended at 7:58 p.m., to continue with the business of the School Board.

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12. Information

- A. Harbor Hope Center Progress (Region 2 Recovery School) Update: Robert Jamison, executive director, Office of Student Support Services, presented the School Board information on the Harbor Hope Center progress and the work of the Region II Steering Committee. The following list of accomplishments were shared: secured consent/approval from each city, executed a partnership agreement with participating cities and submitted Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority (VOAA) Cooperative Partnership Grant, received Virginia Board of Education (VBOE) support to establish Harbor Hope Center Regional Recovery School, drafted regional recovery school legal documents and began formation of committees and boards, and continued the development of operational details and logistics. Progress also included the continued development of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for participating school boards and began development of MOU with Chesapeake Integrated Behavioral Health to formalize partnership.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding the MOU; timeline for recovery school; involvement from other school districts; costs; working on parameters for operation; and school boards commitment to the project.

- B. 2025 VSBA Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award: Sara Lockett, Ed.D., director, Office of Technical and Career Education, provided the School Board information regarding the nomination of Virginia Beach City Public Schools' partnership with the Regional Maritime Training System powered by the Hampton Roads Workforce Council for the 2025 Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Excellence in Workforce Readiness Award. Dr. Lockett reviewed the application process: nominating an Innovative Program, secure School Board approval, and submission of the application electronically by May 30, 2025.
- C. General Fees Schedule 2025-26: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board with information on the proposed FY 2025-26 General Fees Schedule including the rates for student fees for optional/ancillary services or activities. Ms. Pate reviewed some of the fee increases for paid lunch, paid breakfast, Behind the Wheel, Practical Nursing I and II, Cosmetology (tool kits), Electronics/Robotics (lab pack fee), and athletic tickets, to name a few.

- 13. Return to public comments if needed:** The Public Comments resumed at 8:19 p.m. and ended at 11:33 p.m. See Agenda Item#11 for topics discussed.

The School Board had a short recess at 11:33 p.m. and reconvened at 11:43 p.m.

- 14. Consent Agenda:** Chair Brown read the following items on the Consent Agenda:

- 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 March 19, 2025 meeting.
1. Policy 3-15/Local Funds: There are no recommended changes to this policy. This policy is being reviewed to comply with the 5-year review period.
 2. Policy 3-19/Certain Special Revenue Funds: The PRC recommends updating the Legal References.
 3. Policy 3-20/Fines and Fees/Generally: The PRC recommends adding detailed explanation of the notices provided to families regarding fees and fines that may be imposed.
 4. Policy 3-24/Gifts, Grants and Bequests of Property: The PRC recommends changes to explain in more detail how the School Board will handle gifts, grants, and bequests of property in the future.
 5. Policy 3-31/Purchasing: Cooperative Procurement: The PRC recommends adding language to include the interest of the School Division and updating the name of the department.
 6. Policy 3-33/Requisitions/Purchase Orders: The PRC recommends updating language to reflect current practices and updating the name of the department.

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7. Policy 3-35/Competitive Sealed Bidding/ Awards: The PRC recommends adding the word “publicly” to the section B.5., adding “responsive and” to section C.5., and changing “purchaser” to “requester” in order to clarify the intent of the policy. Additionally, the PRC recommends updating the name of the department.
8. Policy 3-36/Receiving/ Paying for Goods and Services: The PRC recommends amending the policy to clarify that goods and services will be paid for in accordance with the procurement manual.
9. Policy 3-37/Vendors/Contractors/Sales Representatives: The PRC recommends changes based on current School Division practices and updating the legal references.
10. Policy 3-38/Competitive Negotiation/ Awards/ Small Professional Services Contracts: The PRC recommends minor scrivener’s changes, changes to the name of the department, including language that receiving only one (1) bid does not disqualify the bid, and that the Chief Financial Officer may authorize exemptions and will inform the School Board of the exemptions.
11. Policy 3-39/Competitive Negotiation/Awards: Procurement of Professional Architectural and Engineering Services: The PRC recommends minor scrivener’s changes, adding language to verify that if less than three responses, all qualified responding firms will be interviewed, and increasing the contract amount required for this process to align with other policies.
12. Policy 3-82/Transportation of Disabled Students: The PRC recommends changing the title of the policy and to clarify the policy regarding the School Division’s responsibility required by law.
13. Policy 3-89/General Contract Execution Policy: The PRC recommends updating the name of the department, and other changes to align with changes made to other policies, and removing language that is already found in Policy 3-90.
14. Policy 5-49/Interscholastic Competition: The PRC recommends removing specific language that only referred to the 2019-2020 and the 2020-2021 school years.
- B. Energy Performance Contract: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute an energy performance contract with Noresco in the amount of \$2,136,290. This contract authorizes the construction phase of the process. Facilities included in this project are Salem High School and Woodstock Elementary School.
Recommended work considers curriculum enhancement and includes lighting replacement, utility bill audit & rate analysis at these schools.

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. Callan made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. There were two (2) abstentions: Ms. Felton and Ms. Melnyk since they were not present at the last meeting. The motion passed, 9-0-2.

15. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the April 22, 2025 personnel report and administrative appointments. 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 April 22, 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 eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the April 22, 2025 personnel report and administrative appointments. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations:

1. **Bylaw 1-38/Regular Meetings:** Chair Brown called for a motion to approve Bylaw 1-38/Regular Meetings. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings. Vice Chair Weems provided background information regarding the bylaw; July retreat with the abridged School Board meeting; one School Board meeting in the month of July and December; if a meeting is needed the bylaw allows for that; and the detailed explanation in the bylaw about meetings. The discussion continued with questions about the number of meetings in August and December; the word “generally” is written in the bylaw to allow for adjustments; and support for bylaw. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Bylaw 1-38/Regular Meetings. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- C. **JUUL Labs, Inc., and Altria Settlement Funds:** Chair Brown called for a motion to approve moving the JUUL Labs, Inc., and Altria Settlement Funds from the general fund to the categorical grant fund. Mr. Culpepper made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Weems. A discussion followed regarding the motion; the funds do not have a specific use; general fund and reversion funds; carry-over of funds to use in future year if needed; and any limitations on using the funds. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to move the JUUL Labs, Inc., and Altria Settlement Funds from the general fund to the categorical grant fund. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

16. ***Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Dr. Green shared the Legislative Committee meeting before Spring Break on April 11, discussed the VSBA positions, an email will be sent to the School Board Members with additional details, and the next meeting is scheduled for May 9. Mr. Cummings mentioned an event on May 3 by the non-profit Virginia Williams High School Career Association at Tallwood High School from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Vice Chair Weems mentioned the Policy Review Committee will be meeting tomorrow (April 23) at 2:00 p.m. in the Einstein Lab and tomorrow night at Newtown Elementary School from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. there will be an informational night about the Tri-Campus. Mr. Culpepper mentioned that a topic to be discussed during the Closed Session from the Internal Audit would be rescheduled to another meeting. Ms. Melnyk mentioned to the School Board about volunteering to packet Beach Bags in the Fall.
17. ***Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** Chair Brown stated the return to the Workshop discussion on the Compliance Update. The discussion continued regarding what other school divisions are doing; concerns about the safety of students; teachers having support; changing the name of the office to Office of Opportunity and Achievement; student ownership of learning; diverse population; Executive Order 14190; impact for students and community; Policy 5-4; educational programs; needs of students; Title IV; student clubs; discrimination laws; need for funding; Title I schools; and free and reduced lunch.

Closed Session: On Wednesday, April 23, 2025, at 12:26 a.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper, 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 1, 2, 7, and 8 as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:

1. Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining, or resignation of specific public officers, appointees, or employees of any public body; and evaluation of performance of departments or schools of public institutions of higher education where such evaluation will necessarily involve discussion of the performance of specific individuals. Any teacher shall be permitted to be present during a closed

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meeting in which there is a discussion or consideration of a disciplinary matter that involves the teacher and some student and the student involved in the matter is present, provided that the teacher makes a written request to be present to the presiding officer of the appropriate board. Nothing in this subdivision, however, shall be construed to authorize a closed meeting by a local governing body or an elected school board to discuss compensation matters that affect the membership of such body or board collectively.

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. Status of personnel misconduct investigations by Department of Internal Audit.
- B. Setting of hearing dates for employee discipline cases
- C. Status of student related cases.
- D. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- E. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.
- F. Demand for settlement request by M. McIver.

Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 12:30 a.m.

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

- B. Setting of hearing dates for employee discipline cases: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

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- C. Status of student related cases: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- F. Demand for settlement request by M. McIver: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- D. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases; and
- E. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 12:41 a.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.

Ms. Melnyk made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion for Certification of Closed Session. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, I move that the School Board not agree at this time to enter into a settlement agreement with Milton McIver regarding his demands for settlement sent to the School Board and that the School Board authorizes the School Board Attorney to communicate the School Board's decision to Milton McIver. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion that the School Board not agree at this time to enter into a settlement agreement with Milton McIver regarding his demands for settlement sent to the School Board and that the School Board authorizes the School Board Attorney to communicate the School Board's decision to Milton McIver. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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18. Adjournment: Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 12:43 a.m., Wednesday, April 23, 2025.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair