



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CHARTING THE COURSE

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 Regular Meeting MINUTES
Monday, June 9, 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 9th day of June 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: Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for the months of May and June.
 - B. Legislative Update: Joel Andrus, Kemper Consulting, provided the School Board with a review of the 2025 General Assembly Session. Session Summary: 46-day short session impacted by Richmond water crisis, no changes in leadership, divided government remains. Budget Overview: Strong revenues with a focus on one-time spending and tax breaks, priorities of both parties. Education Funding: Significant proposals include bonuses for school personnel, increased support positions, and special education additions. Legislation Stats: Nearly 2,000 bills were introduced, over 900 passed and sent to the Governor's desk. Education: Standards of Learning Test Reform – no changes to the tests, but updates to the testing process; Cell Phone Usage – school divisions must develop a policy; delay New Accountability System; CTE Teacher Licensure – new pathway for provisional licensure; Three “E” Readiness Framework – focus on post-secondary readiness (employment, enlistment, enrollment). Upcoming Elections: All 100 House members and three statewide candidates up for election in 2025.

The presentation continued with questions and comments regarding cell phones, guidance and clarity needed by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE); lottery revenues; and thanks to Mr. Andrus for the presentation.
 - C. Summer Programming: Thomas Quinn, executive director, Office of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board information regarding updates to the 2025 implementation of summer learning experiences in elementary and secondary to support students with strong instructional support for an effective school opening. The elementary summer learning opportunities include: Summer

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Learning Boost Site (July 1 – August 15), Summer Learning Camp at select sites (July 7 – 30), and tutoring provided for schools who do not have Summer Learning Camp – site-based (July 1 – August 15). Title I elementary summer learning opportunities include: STEM Camp for fourth and fifth graders in Title I schools (July 7 – 30), United Way Enrichment Summer Camp for K-3 students at select Title I schools (July 7-30), and “Ready, Set, Kindergarten!” Camp for rising kindergarten students at select Title I schools (August 11-14). The secondary summer learning opportunities include: July 7 – 30: repeat course(s) at Larkspur and Lynnhaven middle schools, Kellam and Kempsville high schools, and SOL fast track tutoring English, Mathematics, Science, History/Social Science/Financial Literacy) at high school host sites; June 17 – August 5: first time courses at Virginia Beach Digital Campus only; “Step Up” Offerings: Middle School English and Mathematics, runs from July 7 to July 30; “Boost” Opportunities: Mathematics and Science, runs from June 18 to August 5; and Secondary ESY Cluster Sites: Princess Anne HS (middle and high school), and Renaissance Academy (SECEP), runs from July 7 to July 31. Also, many students with disabilities will have the opportunity to participate in the summer programs in the general education setting. Resources and support are available for all families through the summer school website.

The presentation continue with questions and comments regarding Title I sites for “Ready, Set, Kindergarten!” program; timeline for repeat courses; and transportation for PreK program.

- 2. Closed Session:** At 4:51 p.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 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.

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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. School Board Internal Auditor evaluation.
- B. Decision on student discrimination appeal.
- C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.

Without discussion, 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 4:56 p.m.

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

- A. School Board Internal Auditor evaluation: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, 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.

Ms. Melnyk left the Closed Session at 5:05 p.m.

1. Decision on student discrimination appeal: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

Ms. Rogers left the Closed Session at 5:22 p.m. Ms. Lannetti left the Closed Session at 5:23 p.m.

The School Board reconvened at 5:32 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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Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) 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. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Dr. Green.

3. School Board Recess:

Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:33 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 9th day of June 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.

6. Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance: After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Woodstock Elementary School Chorus sang the National Anthem.

7. Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition

- A. Virginia School Boards Association Art Award: The School Board recognized Nova Thompson, a first grader from Woodstock Elementary, who was a winner in the Virginia School Board Association 2025 Spring Regional Art Contest. Her winning piece was inspired by the work of an impressionist painter.
- B. VBCPS Digital Citizenship Winners: The School Board recognized nine students from four schools (Ocean Lakes Elementary, Tallwood Elementary, Princess Anne Middle, and Kempsville High) for their original works promoting responsible digital behavior in the “Level Up: Thrive in the Digital World” contest.
- C. VBCPS podcast Winners: The School Board recognized fourteen students from six schools (Red Mill Elementary, Ocean Lakes Elementary, Lynnhaven Middle, Bayside Sixth Grade Campus, Cox High, and Tallwood High) for their creativity and storytelling in the podcast contest themed “Elevate your voice to inspire, educate, and entertain!”
- D. Future Business Leaders of America Awards: The School Board recognized fifteen students from three schools (Advanced Technology Center, Cox High, and Landstown High) who received awards for their excellence in various business-related competitions, showcasing their skills in real-world scenarios.
- E. Area 5 Drill, Athletic and Academic Championship – Green Run High School NJROTC: The School Board recognized the Green Run High School NJROTC team, consisting of 34 students and 2 staff, who achieved first place overall in the championship, excelling in various categories. It was noted that Cadet Lean Mae Dandin became the first female to place first in sit-ups and pushups at the Area 5 Championship Invitational.
- F. Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted, Region II: The School Board recognized Dr. Kristin Pender of Holland Elementary School, and Ms. Melissa Ross of Salem Elementary School, were recognized for their exceptional contributions to gifted education, demonstrating leadership and advocacy in their roles.

8. Adoption of the Agenda: Chair Brown mentioned the modification to the agenda regarding a vote to appoint somebody for the Regional Recovery School Governing Board; adding the item to Action as Item #15C. A discussion followed regarding the addition; chance to discuss the item; timeframe to appoint a person; and recommendations for committees created by Chair and Vice Chair as noted in Bylaws.

Chair Brown called for a motion to add the appointment to the Region 2 Recovery School Harbor Hope Center Governing Board to the agenda. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote to add the item to the agenda.

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The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to add the item to the agenda: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. There was one (1) nay opposed to the motion to add the item to the agenda: Mr. Cummings. The motion passed, 10-1-0.

Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and amended. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. 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 amended. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- 9. *Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings)***
Administrative Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments, which were approved at the May 27, 2025, School Board Meeting: James E. Daub, assistant principal, Princess Anne Elementary School, as principal of Luxford Elementary School; Sara L. Mendez, assistant principal, College Park Elementary School, as principal of Shelton Park Elementary School; Leslie L. Ittner, Ph.D., principal, Plaza Middle School, as principal of Ocean Lakes High School; Leah M. G. Nelson, assistant principal, Frank W. Cox High School, as principal of Kellam High School; Tamika D. Singletary-Johnson, Ed.D., principal, Larkspur Middle School, as principal of Kempsville High School; Anthony Smith, assistant principal, Oscar Smith High School, Chesapeake Public Schools, as director, alternative education, Renaissance Academy; Tasha L. Wearren, coordinator, business and information technology, Department of Teaching and Learning, as director of Advanced Technology Center; and Alyson D. Szykuc, special education program specialist, Norfolk Public Schools, as coordinator, special education, Office of Programs for Exceptional Children.

10. *Approval of Meeting Minutes*

- A. May 27, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Brown called for any modifications to the May 27, 2025 regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the May 27, 2025, minutes as presented. Ms. Dwyer 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 to approve the May 27, 2025, minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

11. *Public Comments (until 8:00 p.m.)*

There were eleven (11) in person speakers and one (1) online speaker. The topics included DEI; Pride Month; Policy Review Committee (PRC); Policy 6-10; fundraising and guest speakers; PTA funding; traumatic brain injuries, concussions; meteors and equality; National Chaplain Program; Title I schools; fundraising for teacher supplies, scholarships, extra activities, etc.; Regulation 5-52.1, cell phones; security officers, SROs, bullying; SEL (social emotional learning); ODS; and ODS admissions.

The Public Comments concluded at 7:13 p.m.

12. *Information*

- A. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board review Policy Review Committee (PRC) recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies as recommended by the PRC at its May 21, 2025 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, reviewed the following:
1. Policy 2-57/Staff Members as Consultants Outside the School Division: The PRC recommends specifying the type of leave that must be used when an employee takes time off to consult for another organization. There was a discussion regarding the type of leave allowed; FMLA, sick leave; other types of leave other than annual leave; developing a regulation; legal department to work with human resources to develop regulation; and the need for clarification within the regulation about type of leave.

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2. Policy 3-67/Environmentally Sustainable Practices: The PRC recommends removing language that requires the School Division to design new construction to LEED standards and other minor formatting changes. There was a discussion regarding the cost of LEED versus non-LEED; cost analysis of LEED; impact on construction; nominal fee for contractor; administrative directive; curriculum upgrades; and energy performance contracts.
3. Policy 4-3/Grievances and Grievance Procedures: Teachers: The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes.
4. Policy 4-4/Equal Opportunity, Non-discrimination and anti-harassment and Compliance Officers: The PRC recommends including updating the language to align with the language in the Virginia Human Rights Act, updating address information throughout the policy.
5. Policy 4-15/Personnel Records: The PRC recommends updating the list of documents that are to be maintained in the official personnel file, rewording language for clarity, and minor scrivener's changes.
6. Regulation 5-52.1/ Cellular Phones and Personal Electronic Communication Devices – Limitation on Use: Ms. Lannetti reviewed the regulation and provided a brief historical background on the development of the regulation; and the recommendation to remove the opportunity for students in high school to use their cell phones during lunch period. A discussion followed regarding the regulation; using cell phone at lunch; teacher writing referrals; guidance from VDOE; concerns about cell phone usage; cell phone violations; teaching proper use of cell phone, career-ready; request for an in depth presentation on cell phones; clarification on policy; administration and security to deal with in schools; what other school divisions are doing regarding cell phone use; no cell phone use bell to bell; and waiting for additional guidance.

Note: Mr. Culpepper left the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

- B. School Board Committee Assignment Modifications for term ending June 30, 2026: Chair Brown mentioned the committee assignments for the term ending June 30, 2026 and provided the School Board Members with a few moments to review the draft listing of assignments.
- C. Updated General Fees Schedule 2025-26: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided information on the Revised FY 2025/26 General Fees Schedule, which includes revisions to the Adult Learning Center Adult Nursing Program rates. The proposed 2025-26 rates include: \$2,631.00 for PN I – II Adult Student Licensed Practical Nursing Program; \$4,855.00 for PN3 New Adult Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program; and \$7,085.00 for PN3 Adult Student Licensed Practical Nursing (LPN) Program.
- D. Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Renewal: Chair Brown mentioned the upcoming annual renewal dues for the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA). For FY25-26, the annual dues for The School Board of the City of Virginia Beach are \$13,779.78, which include: \$13,279.78 for dues and \$500.00 for legal assistance fee. There was a brief discussion regarding the renewal and if there were any reasons not to renew the membership.

13. Return to public comments if needed: As noted under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 7:13 p.m.

14. Consent Agenda: There were no items on the Consent Agenda.

15. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the June 9, 2025, personnel report and administrative appointments. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on June 9, 2025, personnel report along with the administrative appointment as recommended by the Superintendent. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote.

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The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the June 9, 2025, personnel report and administrative appointments: 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.

- B. Citizens' Advisory Committee Appointment Recommendations: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the Citizens' Advisory Committee appointment recommendations as presented. Mr. Callan 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 the Citizens' Advisory Committee appointment recommendations 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.
- C. Appointment to the Region 2 Recovery School Harbor Hope Center Governing Board: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8. Chair Brown asked for some clarification from Ms. Lannetti on how to proceed with a motion on the topic. Ms. Rogers made a motion to discuss the nomination of a School Board Member to serve on the Regional 2 Recovery School Governing Board. Ms. Melnyk seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding the motion; serving on committees; Chair and Vice Chair recommendations; request to serve on committee; schedule of School Board Member(s); timeline for appointment to the governing board; recommendation to the governing board; and documents regarding the recovery school.

Ms. Melnyk made a motion that Carolyn Weems be appointed to the Regional Recovery School Board through June 30, 2026. Ms. Dwyer seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding the motion; support for Ms. Weems in the position; clarification on adding topic to the agenda; Bylaw 1-28; upcoming meeting for the Recovery School Governing Board, the need to appoint a member; need for clarity on process; information about the recovery school; nominee for recovery school; and respect for the motion and nomination of Ms. Weems by Ms. Melnyk.

Before the vote, Chair Brown asked Ms. Melnyk to repeat the motion. Ms. Melnyk stated the motion to appoint Carolyn Weems to the Regional 2 Recovery School Board through June 30, 2026. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to appoint Carolyn Weems to the Regional 2 Recovery School Board through June 30, 2026: 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. ***Committee, Organization or Board Reports***: Mr. Bohensiel mentioned completing his goal of visiting all the schools in the division and thanked Dr. Robertson and School Board Members for their support. Mr. Callan mentioned attending the GED Ceremony and the work of the Adult Education Program. Ms. Melnyk congratulated the 2025 graduates and Mr. Bohensiel for visiting all the schools. Ms. Rogers thanked the educators and all staff members for their work. Chair Brown thanked the School Board Members for their work this year. She also congratulated the 2025 graduates and students moving to their next grades; and was grateful for the staff and the educational opportunities available to our students.
17. ***Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters***: At 8:36 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, 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:

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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 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. School Board Internal Auditor evaluation.
 - B. Decision on student discrimination appeal.
 - C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
 - D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters.

Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Dr. Green. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Note: Ms. Melnyk left the meeting at 8:38 p.m. and Ms. Rogers left the meeting at 8:40 p.m. They were not present for the vote to recess into Closed Session.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 8:41 p.m.

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

- B. Decision on student discrimination appeal: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Dr. Green; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 8:48 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. Bohensiel made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) 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, and Dr. Green. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Chair Brown read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION STUDENT DISCRIMINATION APPEAL 4/7/25

WHEREAS, on 12/16/24 the parent of a Princess Anne Middle School student filed a religious discrimination complaint regarding student discipline matters in November and December 2024; and

WHEREAS, on 1/27/25 the School Administration issued an Investigation Report regarding the parent's complaint that concluded that the allegations of discrimination by the school were unfounded, however the report found procedural inconsistencies and made recommendations for corrective actions regarding the discipline actions for the complainant's children, grading and evaluation, procedures for students to express discomfort with certain assignments, and professional development for school staff; and

WHEREAS, on 4/7/25 a hearing officer conducted an appeal hearing regarding the Investigation Report and the complainant's objections to the Investigation Report; and

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WHEREAS, on 5/14/25 the hearing officer issued Findings of Fact and Conclusions and Recommendations; and

WHEREAS, on 6/9/25 the School Board deliberated on the 5/14/25 hearing officer's Findings of Fact and Conclusions and Recommendations, the transcript and exhibits from the 4/7/25 hearing.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DETERMINED

1. That the 5/14/25 hearing officer's report of Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Recommendations is upheld.
2. That the School Administration is ordered to notify the parent of this decision and to place a copy of this decision, the supporting documentation, and any recording of the hearing in the student's official files.

Chair Brown made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Weems. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for the vote. The School Board Clerk announced that there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion for the resolution: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Dr. Green. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

- 18. Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair