



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 SPECIAL Meeting MINUTES **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

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

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

1. ***Call to Order and 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 18th day of November 2025, and announced pursuant to Virginia Code § 2.2-3707, and Bylaw 1-46, a Special Meeting has been called and the purpose of this special meeting is:
 1. To convene in closed session pursuant to the exemptions from open meetings allowed by Section 2.2-3711, Part A, paragraph 2 of the Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, for:
 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.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Student discipline Case# 10.07.25.056

The following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Brown, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.

2. ***Adoption of the Agenda:*** Chair Brown called for a motion to adopt the agenda as presented. Ms. Dwyer 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 adopt the agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.
3. ***Closed Session:*** At 4:04 p.m., Chair Brown 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, Paragraph 2, as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:

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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.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Student discipline Case# 10.07.25.056

Without discussion, 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, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, 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 4:07 p.m.

The School Board reconvened at approximately 5:37 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Chair Brown 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. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The Chair announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion for Certification of Closed Session: Chair Brown, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

4. ***Vote on any items from Closed Session (as needed):*** Ms. Melnyk read the following resolution:

RESOLUTION

STUDENT DISCIPLINE CASE NO: 10.07.25.056

WHEREAS, on October 21, 2025, School Board Discipline Committee II held a hearing on Student Discipline Case No: 10.07.25.056 at which is received evidence and testimony regarding the School Administration's and the School Division's hearing officer's recommendation for disciplinary action against the student, as well as testimony from the student and the student's family; and

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WHEREAS, after concluding the hearing, School Board Discipline Committee II deliberated in Closed Session and returned to Open Session to announce its decision to uphold the decision of the hearing officer to suspend the student long-term, defer the suspension and permit the student to enroll at the Renaissance Academy High School program on strict probation through April 2, 2026. With the recommendation of the director of the Renaissance Academy and evidence of good grades, good attendance, and good behavior, the Office of Student Leadership will consider a return to the comprehensive school setting after January 23, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the decision of School Board Discipline Committee II was not unanimous, and in accordance with School Board Policy 5-21(D)(4) and Code of Virginia §22.1-277.05, the parent of the student requested an appeal to the School Board; and

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2025, the School Board held an appeal hearing at which it considered the evidence and recordings of the October 21, 2025 Student Discipline Hearing, as well as accepted further evidence, testimony and argument from the School Administration and the family.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS DETERMINED

1. That the October 21, 2025 decision of School Board Discipline Committee II is hereby altered in that violations of Falsification and Interfering with School Operations will be removed and the other violations will remain in place. The student's placement remains at Renaissance Academy through January 23, 2026, remaining on strict probation through April 2, 2026. With a recommendation from the director of the Renaissance Academy and evidence of academic progress, regular attendance, and good behavior, the Office of Student Leadership will consider a return to a comprehensive setting after January 23, 2026.
2. That the School Administration is ordered to notify the student and parents 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.

Adopted by the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia this 18th day of November 2025.

Chair Brown called for a motion on the resolution. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote on the resolution read by Ms. Melnyk. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the resolution: Chair Brown, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

- 5. Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the special meeting at 5:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair