



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
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District 3

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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, December 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 December 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, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Mr. Cummings (illness). The following School Board Member was not present: Mr. Culpepper.
 - A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Ms. Melnyk mentioned class rank; a discussion following regarding Bylaw 1-31; request for School Board Members to receive the Policy Review Committee (PRC) agenda packet; PRC Committee; Bylaw 1-28; and information to the School Board. Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for the month of December.
 1. **Leadership Interest:** There was no discussion regarding leadership interest.
 2. **Schedule of Meetings: Remaining FY26 Affirmed; FY27 Proposed:** The School Board reviewed the list of meeting dates. A brief discussion followed regarding starting times for upcoming budget meetings and the notation on certain special meeting dates. The notation reference was for budget workshop meetings.
 - B. **Streaming Update:** David Din, chief information officer, provided the School Board information regarding video services transition from VBTv and streaming capabilities for committee meetings. The transition was structured in three phases: Phase 1, which ran from July 2024 to June 2025, involved the hiring and training of new VBCPS staff and the updating of broadcast equipment. During Phase 2, beginning July 2025, VBCPS assumed responsibility for video services, equipment, and programming, with the City offering support as needed. Phase 3, starting July 2026, established a revenue-sharing arrangement, granting VBCPS 50% of public broadcast fees.

The presentation also described enhancements to YouTube streaming, including the implementation of agenda-based chapters and the integration of AI features to improve accessibility and organization. Committee meetings—including the Policy Review, Building Utilization, Audit, and Legislative Committees—were streamed to YouTube.

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After the presentation, a brief discussion followed regarding the use of chapters in the video archive; streaming of committee meetings; and transparency.

- C. Budget Workshop #1: Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., superintendent, provided the School Board information regarding the development process for the FY2026/27 School Operating Budget and FY 2026/27 through FY2031/32 Capital Improvement Program. The superintendent presented an assessment of the FY27 budget, noting significant uncertainties in state and federal funding. The discussion focused on major budget drivers such as staff compensation, inflation, and new mandates, alongside anticipated changes in revenue sources. Budget priorities included Compass to 2030 implementation, maintaining competitive staff compensation, planning for unfunded mandates, and potential loss of state funding. It was noted that projected expenditures would surpass revenues by nearly \$20 million. To address the gap, options such as program reductions, new fees, and seeking additional funding were considered. Finally, the presentation outlined next steps, including awaiting the Governor's budget release, monitoring legislative developments, and scheduling a series of budget workshops and presentations leading up to the Superintendent's Estimate of Needs in February.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding scheduled budget meetings; concerns about losing funding; department budget presentations in January; fees; salaries and cost for raises; health insurance costs; communication; budget impact on programs; budget priorities; and health care fund.

- D. Forecast of Regular School Board Meeting Agenda Topics FY26 Third Quarter – January, February, March: Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., superintendent reviewed the Administration's forecast of agenda topics to be presented at School Board meetings during the third quarter (January, February, March) of the 2025-2026 school year. There was a request for a workshop update on THRIVE; upcoming workshop presentation on the middle school schedule.

2. **Closed Session**: At 5:02 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 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.

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Namely to discuss:

- A. Student matters.
- B. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- C. 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 nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

The School Board recessed into Closed Session at 5:04 p.m.

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

- B. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases; and
- C. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Simone S. Boothe, associate school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

At 5:12 p.m., Dannielle Hall-Mclvor, senior school board attorney, joined the Closed Session.

- A. Student matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers; Kamala H. Lannetti, school board attorney; Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., superintendent; Dannielle Hall-Mclvor, senior school board attorney; Simone S. Boothe, associate school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

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.

Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. 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. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

- 3. School Board Recess:** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:32 p.m.

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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 9th day of December 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, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Mr. Cummings (illness).
The following School Board Member was not present: Mr. Culpepper.
6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance:** After the Pledge of Allegiance, the Cooke Elementary School, 5th Grade Chorus sang the National Anthem.
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**
- A. **VHSL Field Hockey State Champions – Cox High School:** The School Board recognized the Cox High School field hockey team, which had won the VHSL state championship on November 15 with a 2-0 victory over First Colonial. The team completed the season with a 19-4 record, outscoring opponents 120–17. This victory marked the program’s 25th state title, continuing a tradition of excellence established by Mrs. Emilie Tilley in 1977.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown made the following modification – to move Information Item #13C – An Achievable Dream Academy: Comprehensive Evaluation to Information Item #13A; the Information items will be listed be as follows: #13A – An Achievable Dream Academy: Comprehensive Evaluation; #13B – Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations; and #13C – *Compass to 2030* Key Navigational Markers. Chair Brown called for any other modifications to the agenda as presented. Vice Chair Weems made the following modification – to pull Policy 5-29/Awards for Achievement/Class Rank/Honor Designations, and Policy 5-40/Student-led Assemblies. There were no objections to removing the policies from the agenda. Without further modifications, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. 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 the agenda as presented and 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.
Chair Brown briefly discussed Policy 5-29 regarding class rank.
9. **Superintendent’s Report** (second monthly meeting) **and recognitions** (first and second monthly meetings): There was no superintendent’s report or administrative recognitions this evening.
10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**
- A. **November 18, 2025 Special School Board Meeting:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the November 18, 2025, special School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the November 18, 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 ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the November 18, 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.
- B. **November 25, 2025 Regular School Board Meeting:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the November 25, 2025, regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the November 25, 2025 regular School Board Meeting 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 ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the November 25, 2025, minutes as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel,

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

- 11. Public Hearing on FY2026/27 School Operating Budget and FY2026/27 through FY2031/32 Capital Improvement Program:** There was one (1) in-person speaker for the Public Hearing. The topics included operating budget; compensation, retention, and recruitment; and insurance premiums.

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

There were six (6) in-person speakers. The topics included Policy 5-40; Freedom of Speech; constitutional rights; ODS and foreign languages; funding to ODS; 5-Year Gifted Plan; activity sponsors; competition for scholarships and awarding scholarships; Chaplain Program; supports for students; Policy 5-29; weighted credit; Dual Enrollment; student assemblies; and student voice.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:34 p.m.

- 13. Information:** Note, the order of the presentations was changed during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8.

- A. An Achievable Dream Academy: Comprehensive Evaluation: Allison M. Bock, Ph.D., program evaluation specialist, provided the School Board with the An Achievable Dream (AAD) Academy: Comprehensive Evaluation Report and the administration's recommendations. The presentation reviewed the partnership's evolution since 2013, highlighting its expansion from elementary through high school grades at Seatack Elementary and Lynnhaven Middle School. The evaluation assessed operational components, student characteristics, enrollment patterns, progress toward outcome goals, stakeholder perceptions, and program costs.

Eligibility for AAD was determined by school zoning, with transportation provided to most students. Application numbers increased following transportation zone expansion, though acceptance rates declined slightly. Family engagement and the SAME social-emotional curriculum were emphasized, and students participated in extended learning opportunities. High school students had access to specialized courses, though some concerns were raised about limited offerings compared to peers. All seniors graduated, most with advanced diplomas, and a large proportion enrolled in college.

Survey results for instructional staff indicated generally clear communication and collaboration, though secondary staff reported lower satisfaction in some areas. Enrollment patterns showed most students remained in the program year-over-year, though withdrawal rates were higher among special education and new students. Outcome goals were measured against a matched comparison group. AAD students demonstrated statistically significant advantages in some SOL and literacy measures, especially among special education students, but attendance and discipline outcomes were mixed, with no significant differences in attendance and higher referral rates for AAD students.

Recommendations included continuing the program with modifications, increasing enrollment and retention, supporting curriculum and academic growth, strengthening behavior supports, expanding high school course access, and formalizing staff records. Both the administration and AAD leadership concurred with these recommendations.

After the presentation a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding graduation rates and college attendance; SAME curriculum; teacher retention; enrollment rate; increasing student enrollment; retaining students; survey results for staff agreement; application acceptance rate; behavior and discipline; student capacity by level; marketing the AAD program; student demographics; increasing high

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school student enrollment (Academy Night, student ambassadors, competing with other academies); post-graduation support; program costs; and sunset provision.

- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board review recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies as recommended by the Policy Review Committee at its November 25, 2025 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, reviewed the following:
1. Policy 3-40/Design-Build and Construction Management Delivery Methods: The PRC recommends adopting a new policy allowing for an alternative procedure regarding the design/construction of school facilities. A brief discussion followed regarding certain verbiage in the policy; and thanks to staff for working on the policy.
 2. Policy 5-29/Awards for Achievement/Class Rank/Honor Designations: Note, the topic was removed from the agenda during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8.
 3. Policy 5-40/Student-led Assemblies: Note, the topic was removed from the agenda during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8.
 4. Policy 5-54/Physical Restraint and Seclusion: The PRC recommends adopting a new policy that states the School Board's intent to restrict the use of physical restraint and seclusion on students. The Superintendent will adopt a new Regulation 5-54.1 which will include required guidelines from the Virginia Department of Education. The new policy and regulation will replace current Regulation 5-59.3 Disruptive Student Behavior - Use of Physical Restraint and Seclusion.
A discussion followed with questions and comments regarding clarification; importance of safe environment in schools; use under certain circumstances; seclusion room; restraint and seclusion; mental health practices; other school division policies on topic; training staff; the need for policy; and state code.
 5. Policy 7-51/Use of School Board Equipment: There are no proposed changes to this policy. It is being reviewed to comply with the 5-year requirement.
- C. Compass to 2030 Key Navigational Markers: Lisa Banicky, Ph.D., executive director, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board information on the Key Navigational Markers included in the *Compass to 2030* strategic framework including baseline data. The presentation reviewed the purpose, development, and baseline data for these high-priority measures, which were designed to provide a clear snapshot of division-level progress and communicate outcomes to external audiences such as families and community partners.

Senior leadership had developed the markers during the strategic planning process, shared them for public feedback, and adopted them as part of the final framework. The presentation reviewed baseline data from the 2024-2025 school year across five strategic goals: student achievement and readiness, student well-being, staff investment, family and community partnership, and organizational excellence. Key findings included strong performance in areas such as student safety, staff satisfaction, and school accreditation, while also highlighting opportunities for growth in advanced course completion, work-based learning experiences, and graduation rates for students with disabilities. The presentation concluded with considerations for setting future targets, noting both the benefits and challenges of establishing benchmarks, and emphasized that annual public reporting of these measures would continue regardless of target-setting decisions.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding attendance; number of responses; after graduation plans; benchmarks; work-based learning, learning experiences, CTE course offerings; baseline data; staff vacancy rate; and academics.

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- 14. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted, under Agenda Item #12, the Public Comments concluded at 6:34 p.m.
- 15. Consent Agenda:** Chair Brown read the following items on the Consent Agenda:
- A. Textbook Adoption: Nursing – Anatomy and Physiology: Recommended that the School Board approve the recommended textbook for the Practical Nursing program at the Virginia Beach Technical and Career Education Center. This textbook is recommended by the Practical Nursing Program Textbook Adoption Committee for implementation in the fall of 2026.
 - B. Thalia ES Roof Systems Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Patuxent Roofing & Contracting LLC for the Thalia ES Roof Systems Replacement in the amount of \$2,471,536.00.
 - C. Renaissance Academy Welding Lab Renovation: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Spacemakers Inc. for the Renaissance Academy Welding Lab Renovations in the amount of \$616,299.00.
 - D. Landstown HS Synthetic Turf Stadium Field: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with FieldTurf USA, Inc. for the Landstown HS Synthetic Turf Stadium Field in the amount of \$1,744,668.00.
 - E. 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 \$2,564,542. This contract authorizes the construction phase of the process. Facilities included in this project are Ocean Lakes High School and White Oaks Elementary School. Recommended work considers LED lighting upgrade, utility bill audit & rate analysis.
 - F. Renaissance Academy Alternative Education Program: Year 3 Outcome Evaluation Recommendations: Recommended that the School Board approve the administration's recommendations that were proposed in response to the Renaissance Academy Alternative Education Program: Year-Three Outcome Evaluation.

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. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan. 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 December 9, 2025 personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements and other employment actions as listed on the December 9, 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 December 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.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointments: **Tova L. Hayes**, administrative assistant, Glenwood and Lynnhaven Elementary Schools, as assistant principal of Newtown Elementary School; **George "Steve" Loder, Jr.**, administrative assistant, College Park and Holland Elementary Schools, as assistant principal of Lynnhaven Elementary School; **Megan K. Smith**, administrative assistant, John B.

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Dey and Thoroughgood Elementary Schools, as assistant principal of Malibu Elementary School; and **Cheritta F. Pridgen**, assistant principal, Corporate Landing Middle School, as assistant principal of Landstown High School.

17. **Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Vice Chair Weems mentioned the Policy Review Committee (PRC) meeting on December 18 at 3:30 p.m. and she attended the Gifted Advisory Committee meeting last week. Ms. Melnyk mentioned the Building Utilization Committee (BUC) meeting on December 19. Mr. Callan visited Alanton Elementary School and watched the dress rehearsal of their upcoming play. Chair Brown mentioned the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on January 12.
18. **Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** None.
19. **Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair