



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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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, January 27, 2026**

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

Chair Brown convened the meeting at 4:00 p.m. on the 27th day of January 2026 and announced the meeting would begin with a Closed Session. In addition to Superintendent Robertson, 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. Note, Vice Chair Weems was not in attendance due to a medical issue.

Closed Session: At 4:01 p.m., School Board Member, Ms. Melnyk made the following motion, seconded by Dr. Green, that the School Board recess in Closed Session in accordance with the exceptions to open meetings law set forth in Code of Virginia §2.2-3711, Part A, Paragraphs 1, 7, 8, 12, and 29 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.
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.
12. Information relating to the negotiation and award of a specific contract where competition or bargaining is involved and where the release of such information would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Such information shall not be withheld after the public body has made a decision to award or not to award the contract.
29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Review of draft RFQ for CIP PAHS Replacement Project.
- B. Superintendent's mid-year goals and related matters.
- 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 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 4:05 p.m.

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

- B. Superintendent's mid-year goals and related matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, 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.
- C. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases; and
- D. Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, 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 4:33 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: School Board Member, Ms. Melnyk 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

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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 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.

1. *Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:*

A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: Chair Brown mentioned the February sign-up sheets for one-to-one meetings with Superintendent Robertson and school visits with Superintendent Robertson. Chair Brown also mentioned the February 2 due date for their Statement of Economic Interest forms. Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for the month of January.

B. Striving for a Competitive Future: Prioritizing Staff Compensation While Balancing Budget Priorities: Darnita L. Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer, and Judith R. Wood, coordinator, classification and compensation, provided the School Board information regarding the review of the current salary structure and recommendations for both the Instructional and Unified Experience-based Step Pay Scales for the 2026-2027 school year. Members from Segal, Paula Singer, Ph.D., vice president, and Andrew Koncinsky, associate consultant, attended the presentation via Zoom. Grounded in the Compass to 2030 Strategic Framework, the session emphasized the importance of competitive compensation in recruiting, retaining, and supporting a high-quality workforce across Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The approach emphasized transparency, predictable salary progression, and budget-aligned decision-making.

Segal, the division's compensation consultant, summarized several years of collaborative work that included market analyses, unified and teacher pay scale assessments, and costing scenarios. Historical data showed that employees had received substantial salary increases between 2022 and 2026, with teachers receiving a cumulative 26.6% increase and Unified Pay Scale employees receiving 23%. Market comparisons revealed that VBCPS's ranking had shifted over time as surrounding school divisions adjusted their own entry-level teacher salaries. Although Virginia Beach had once ranked first in the region, by 2025-2026 it ranked seventh for bachelor's level entry pay. However, mid-career and veteran teacher salaries remain competitive at various experience levels. To address these trends, Segal presented two scenarios for adjusting the teacher pay scale and two parallel scenarios for the Unified Pay Scale. The workshop concluded with a comparison of the scenarios, highlighting the tradeoffs between increased competitiveness and long-term financial sustainability.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding VRS (Virginia Retirement System); funding for budget; total compensation package; market assessment; historical pay scales; comparison salaries; competitive pay; cost implications of salary increases; pay scales; percentage of budget for staffing; financial resources, and compression of pay scales.

C. Budget Workshop #3: Due to time constraints, the budget presentation was presented after the Committee, Organization, and Board Reports. See Agenda Item #17.

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2. **Closed Session:** There was no Closed Session at this time. There was a Closed Session prior to the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.
3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:34 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 6:01 p.m., on the 27th day of January 2026. In addition to Superintendent Robertson, 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. Note, Vice Chair Weems was not in attendance due to a medical issue.
6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition:** The School Board recognized the following:
 - A. Virginia Society for Technology in Education (VSTE) Outstanding Coach of 2025 – Corporate Landing Elementary School: Chad Huff of Corporate Landing Elementary had been honored as the VSTE Outstanding Coach of 2025 for his collaborative leadership and innovative instructional technology work.
 - B. Virginia Association of School Librarians School Librarian of the Year – Kempsville Middle School: Mary Sutterluety of Kempsville Middle School had been celebrated as both the division and statewide School Librarian of the Year for transforming her library and fostering inclusive, creative learning experiences.
 - C. Citywide 2027 Teacher of the Year – Indian Lakes Elementary: Mary Nazareno of Indian Lakes Elementary had been named the 2027 Citywide Teacher of the Year for her hands-on instructional initiatives, including the creation of a science lab and real-world learning activities.
 - D. Outstanding Community Support – Malibu Elementary, Birdneck Elementary, An Achievable Dream Academy-Seatack Elementary, An Achievable Dream-Lynnhaven, Lynnhaven Middle, Office of Family and Community Engagement: The School Board recognized Malibu Elementary, Birdneck Elementary, Seatack An Achievable Dream Academy, An Achievable Dream at Lynnhaven, and the Office of Family and Community Engagement for their exceptional community support after several residential fires. These schools and partners had mobilized quickly to collect donations, provide essential items, and connect families with community organizations to ensure immediate assistance.
8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown mentioned the budget workshop presentations will be presented under Agenda Item #17. Chair Brown called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Melnyk. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve 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.
9. **Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings)**
Superintendent's Report: The Superintendent reported that schools across the division celebrated Principals Appreciation Week with creative student and staff tributes, along with gift bags provided by community partners. The annual Coats for Kids event on January 10 successfully distributed coats and books to children and adults, supported by volunteers, donors, and school liaisons. Families had also been invited to a digital safety webinar with #WIN AT SOCIAL, with a follow-up session planned for March. The report concluded with a video featuring Renaissance Academy students delivering themed treats to New Castle Elementary third graders, highlighting meaningful collaboration between the two schools.

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Administrative Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments, which were approved at the January 13, 2026, School Board Meeting: **Tara B. Yurik**, administrative assistant, Virginia Beach Middle School, as assistant principal of Corporate Landing Middle School; and **Brian J. Loehn**, coordinator, security and emergency management, Office of Security and Emergency Management, as Director of Transportation, Office of Transportation and Fleet Management Services.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

January 13, 2026 Organizational/Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Brown called for any modifications to the January 13, 2026 organizational/regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the January 13, 2026 minutes as presented. Mr. Cummings made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. 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 January 13, 2026, minutes 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.

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

There were five (5) in-person speakers. The topics included Antisemitism; immigration policy, ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement); student protests; staff safety; compensation; value staff; retention and recruitment; competitive pay; entry-level teacher salaries; health care premiums; and student safety.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:37 p.m.

12. Information

A. Interim Financial Statements – November and December 2025: Daniel Hopkins, director, Office of Business Services, provided the School Board with information on the interim financial statements. As of December 2025, the division's revenues and expenditures continued to track within acceptable ranges. The Governor's proposed FY26 budget included several state funding reductions—most notably decreases to Basic Aid, At-Risk funds, English Learner payments, and Sales Tax. These reductions were offset by a proposed \$5.3 million SOQ Bonus, resulting in a net budget decrease of \$360,000. Enrollment declined by 705 students.

Federal revenues remained steady, with \$9.8 million in Impact Aid received. Local revenues were on track, with 53.5% of City transfers collected. Other revenues were slightly below last year due to one-time prior year sources, although Stop Arm Enforcement revenue increased. Sales tax receipts were approximately \$2 million higher than the previous year through December. Overall, expenditures and encumbrances remained within acceptable fiscal trends.

After the presentation, there was a brief discussion regarding the sales tax decrease and student membership.

B. Annual Comprehensive Finance Report (ACFR): The School Board received highlights of the Annual Comprehensive Finance Report Audit (ACFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. Laura Harden, CPA, audit director, Cherry Bekaert provided the following information. Auditors issued an unmodified opinion, confirming no noncompliance or material weaknesses in internal controls were identified. The Schools adopted GASB Statement 101, resulting in a \$72.5 million reduction to beginning net position. Other accounting policies remained consistent, and auditors found no inappropriate practices. Auditors reported no difficulties, disagreements, fraud, or going concern issues. Management provided all required representations, and no unusual matters arose.

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After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding the report; audit results; audit process; auditing standards; and the report to be available on website.

Note: due to technical issues with the microphone system, the School Board recessed at 6:53 p.m., and reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

- C. College Coursework and Readiness Assessments: Robert Veigel, research specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board information regarding the College Coursework and Readiness Assessments. In 2024–2025, participation in both AP and Dual Enrollment coursework increased across student groups. Thirty-five percent of high school students took at least one AP course, and 73% of those students completed at least one AP exam. Seventy-four percent of AP exam scores were 3 or higher, slightly below the state average. Dual Enrollment participation also rose, with at least 93% of students earning a C or better, and 88% of DE-participating graduates earning an Advanced or IB Diploma.

College readiness measures reflected similar gains. PSAT participation and performance improved, with 63% meeting the Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (ERW) benchmark and 35% meeting the math benchmark, though both remained below state levels. SAT participation continued to decline, but performance increased: 88% met the ERW benchmark and 60% met math, surpassing statewide results. Notably, Black students showed higher benchmark attainment than their peers statewide.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding the advantages between AP coursed and Dual Enrollment (DE) courses; course selection, career pathways; number of high school students; number of students taking AP or DE courses; Future-Ready Profile; math course sequence; number of students taking PSAT/SAT; colleges accepting AP scores, credit for DE courses; student course offerings; academic planning; weighted courses; and Policy 6-71.

- 13. *Return to public comments if needed:*** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:37 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 approve recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies as recommended by the Policy Review Committee at its December 8, 2025 meeting.
1. Policy 3-95/Public Charter Schools: The PRC recommends formatting changes, inclusion of statutory amendments and scrivener's changes.
 2. Policy 5-49/Interscholastic Competition: The PRC recommends amending Section B to clarify that the Superintendent or designee will make decisions on appeals regarding transfers or eligibility when the VHSL rules allow either the School Board or the Superintendent to be the appeal decider.
 3. Policy 6-26/Evaluation of New and Existing Programs: The PRC recommends formatting changes, removal of reference to the PPMC, and removal of the final sentence in Section E.
 4. Policy 6-44/School Counseling: The PRC recommends no changes.
 5. Policy 6-77/Literacy and Response to Intervention Screening and Services: The PRC recommends no changes.

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, 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.

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15. Action

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment. 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 January 27, 2026 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 January 27, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment: 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.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Kristen L. Shuman**, assistant principal, Indian Lakes Elementary School, as principal of Christopher Farms Elementary School.

- 16. Committee, Organization or Board Reports**: Dr. Green mentioned the Access Foundation quarterly meeting, Access Coordinator at each school to help with FAFSA forms, fee waivers, etc. Ms. Rogers mentioned the African American Male Summit, and the Mental Health Task Force meeting. Mr. Cummings also mentioned the African American Male Summit and the host site Green Run High School, attending a student group meeting with Dr. Robertson, and the Teacher of the Year event. Chair Brown mentioned the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, upcoming meeting March 9 at 9:30 a.m. at the Plaza Annex, and noted there are three vacancies in the committee.

17. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:

Budget Workshop #3: The School Board received and reviewed detailed information regarding the FY 2026–2027 School Operating Budget, including departmental budget requests and allocations developed in accordance with each department’s identified needs for the upcoming school year. The department presentations included Human Resources, Department of School Leadership, and School Division Services.

Department of Budget and Finance: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board updates on key fiscal topics, ongoing analyses, and anticipated considerations for the FY26–27 budget cycle. The presentation began with a review of School Board questions, followed by updates related to the General Assembly, budget status, and items requiring future Board decisions.

An update was provided on the Let’s Talk (now Onflo) contract. The division had successfully negotiated reduced pricing, lowering the FY26 platform cost to \$160,749 and further reducing the FY27 cost to \$156,731, yielding a savings of \$4,018. Following the platform relaunch in September 2025 and increased community awareness efforts, Onflo’s ticket volume more than doubled. Whereas the 2024–25 school year generated 2,447 total tickets, the current year’s volume had already reached 2,803 tickets.

The General Assembly update outlined actions taken by Governor Spanberger, the General Assembly, and relevant federal developments. The budget update showed revenue adjustments across several sources. Overall, total revenue for FY27—reflecting the Governor’s proposed budget—rose to just under \$1.04 billion. The division identified known savings totaling over \$23 million, including \$5.2 million in proposed reductions, and \$18.1 million in VRS fringe benefit savings. Remaining areas requiring decisions included compensation, the health fund plan, the Lexia “All In Grant,” and new budget requests. After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding City Council; funding for schools; VRS; compensation; sustainability; and the health fund balance.

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Department of Human Resources: Darnita L. Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer, presented the department's FY 2026/27 budget proposal, noting that its plan had aligned with *Compass to 2030* priorities while sustaining essential student-focused, legal, and compliance functions. The department operated with 43 FTEs across two offices and managed a wide range of responsibilities, including recruitment, licensure, compensation, employee relations, training, and compliance reporting.

The presentation highlighted its extensive state and federal compliance obligations, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pregnancy Workers Fairness Act, state-mandated employment verification timelines, statutory teacher contract requirements, and the IPAL licensure data reporting required by the Virginia Department of Education.

For FY 2026/27, the department proposed an operating budget of \$6,426,301, reflecting a \$115,997 reduction (-1.77%) from the prior year, with no change in staffing. The presentation concluded with anticipated future needs, including continued investment in recruitment and retention incentives, marketing, and adjustments for contractual and inflationary cost increases.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding budget management; workforce; audits by VDOE, properly credential/licensed teachers; responsibilities of department; critical staff; and budget reductions.

Department of School Leadership: Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, presented the department's FY 2026/27 budget proposal, outlining the department's organizational structure, guiding principles, budget position, and future considerations for financial planning. The budget was developed, in alignment with *Compass to 2030*, using guiding principles that prioritized student-focused services, compliance and safety requirements, essential school operations, and opportunities for restructuring.

The department oversaw 4,851.10 FTEs, with the vast majority allocated directly to schools. Its structure included five offices supporting elementary, middle, and high schools, professional growth, and student leadership. The proposed FY 2026/27 budget totaled \$487.1 million, a slight decrease of \$1.1 million (0.22%) from the prior year, along with a reduction of one FTE. These adjustments reflected targeted line items and staffing efficiencies while maintaining core departmental functions.

Finally, the department noted several future considerations that were expected to influence upcoming budget cycles. These included evolving federal and state regulations, legislative requirements, changes in student enrollment, short- and long-term budget trends, and potential program modifications.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding departmental organizational charts; mentoring of new principals and assistant principals; school allocations; and functions of various offices under the Department of School Leadership.

Department of School Division Services: Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, presented the department's FY 2026/27 proposed budget, outlining its commitment to the School Division's guiding principles of financial stewardship, which emphasized alignment with *Compass to 2030*, preservation of student focused functions, protection of legal and safety requirements, and the maintenance of essential services while pursuing restructuring where feasible.

The Department reported managing 1,807 FTEs across seven offices with a total FY 2025/26 budget of approximately \$171.9 million, along with a major Internal Services Fund supporting Food Services. It

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highlighted key cost-saving accomplishments, including more than \$26.5 million in facilities-related grants, ongoing energy efficiency savings of \$10 million annually, and the disposal of 319 portable units since 1998. The presentation summarized major operational functions—facilities maintenance, custodial and distribution services, security and emergency management, transportation of over 40,000 students, and federally regulated child nutrition programs.

The proposed FY 2026/27 operating budget totaled approximately \$169.2 million, a 1.58% decrease, and included a reduction of 20 vacant positions. Budget adjustments included unfunded specialized bus replacements, reduced maintenance funding, and added transportation needs tied to AADA expansion. Looking ahead, the Department identified several future considerations, these included \$1.3 million in deferred maintenance, evaluation of shifting McKinney Vento program responsibilities to Transportation, and the continued need for operating funds supporting the Capital Improvement Program.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding flat revenues; custodial vacancies; McKinney Vento transportation; ways to be more efficient; utility savings; workload of custodians; HVAC setback; custodians assigned to schools; solar power; federal programs; and overtime compensation for custodial staff.

Closed Session: At 9:09 p.m., School Board Member, Ms. Melnyk 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 7, 8, 12, and 29 as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:

7. Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body. For the purposes of this subdivision, "probable litigation" means litigation that has been specifically threatened or on which the public body or its legal counsel has a reasonable basis to believe will be commenced by or against a known party. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.
8. Consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by a public body regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel. Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to permit the closure of a meeting merely because an attorney representing the public body is in attendance or is consulted on a matter.
12. Information relating to the negotiation and award of a specific contract where competition or bargaining is involved and where the release of such information would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body. Such information shall not be withheld after the public body has made a decision to award or not to award the contract.
29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Review of draft RFQ for CIP PAHS Replacement Project.
- B. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.

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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 eight (8) 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, and Ms. Melnyk. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Note: Dr. Green and Ms. Rogers were not present in the School Board Chamber at the time of the vote.

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, 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; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; Crystal Pate, chief financial officer; Jack Freeman, chief operations officer; Melisa A. Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services; staff from the Office of Procurement Services: Alicia D. Smith, CPPB, director; Haley Maciejewski, procurement coordinator; Sharon Mellenkamp, CPPB, procurement specialist II; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- A. Review of draft RFQ for CIP PAHS Replacement Project: School Board Members: Chair Brown, 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; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; Crystal Pate, chief financial officer; Jack Freeman, chief operations officer; Melisa A. Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services; staff from the Office of Procurement Services: Alicia D. Smith, CPPB, director; Haley Maciejewski, procurement coordinator; Sharon Mellenkamp, CPPB, procurement specialist II; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

School Board Member, Mr. Bohenstiel left the Closed Session at 9:47 p.m. School Board Member, Ms. Melnyk left the Closed Session at 9:52 p.m. Superintendent, Donald E. Robertson, Ph.D., left the Closed Session at 10:07 p.m., and returned at 10:15 p.m. Senior School Board Attorney, Dannielle Hall-McIvor left the Closed Session at 10:08 p.m. School Board Member, Dr. Green left the Closed Session at 10:23 p.m., and returned at 10:25 p.m.

The School Board reconvened at 10:35 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



School Board of the City of Virginia Beach
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center
2512 George Mason Drive
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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 eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion for Certification of Closed Session: Chair Brown, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

18. Adjournment: Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 10:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair