School Board Services

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Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

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District 3

Michael Callan
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District 8

Matt W. Cummings
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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
Tuesday, February 10, 2026

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

***Administrative, Informal, and Workshop*:** Chair Brown convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 4:01 p.m. on the 10th day of February 2026. 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 (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. Note: Ms. Melnyk was not present for the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.

A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports: Chair Brown mentioned the sign-up sheet for the VSBA Spring Networking Event on April 23 at 5:00 p.m. Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for the month of February. Ms. Felton mentioned Black History Month. Mr. Bohenstiel shared information regarding the GRC Governing Board meeting, March 14 GRC Gala, and GRC data.

B. Mercer Update: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, Linda Matkins, director, Office of Consolidated Benefits, and David Keough, Mercer Representative, provided the School Board with updated information from Mercer. The presentation provided an overview of the financial outlook for Virginia Beach City Public Schools' self-funded health plans based on claims experience through November 30, 2025. It summarized projected medical, pharmacy, and related benefit costs for the 2025 through 2027 plan and fiscal years. It showed that rising medical and pharmacy costs were expected to continue placing pressure on the Health Fund, with projected balances remaining below the two-month reserve target.

   Alternative scenarios were also presented to illustrate the financial impact of employee contribution increases ranging from 10 to 25 percent for both plan year and fiscal year 2027. These scenarios demonstrated that higher employee contributions reduced employer funding requirements but did not materially improve the projected Health Fund reserve position, which remained significantly below the targeted two-month reserve level in all cases.

   After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding health fund projections; various scenarios; alternative employee contribution; health fund balance and bottom line; and health fund below reserve amount.

Note: due to technical issues with the microphone system, the School Board recessed at 4:39 p.m. and reconvened at 4:47 p.m.

The discussion continued with questions and comments regarding year-end balance of health fund; two-month reserve for health fund; employer and employee contributions; cost of health care; and alignment with the City regarding health plan.

C. Budget Workshop #4: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, and Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, provided an overview of key budgetary, operational, and compensation matters for Virginia Beach City Public Schools. The presentation outlined the workshop agenda, reviewed organizational and operational data, and summarized major financial drivers influencing the FY 2026–2027 budget development process.

The presentation explained Virginia Retirement System (VRS) plans and employer contribution rates across professional, non-professional, and hybrid employee categories, emphasizing the significant fiscal impact of fringe benefit obligations. A General Assembly and federal update followed, noting that revenue projections reflected the Governor's proposed budget as of December 2025. Preliminary budget balancing illustrated how new revenues, cost adjustments, and compensation scenarios affected available funding, with multiple teacher and unified pay scale options presented for consideration.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding VRS Plans (professional plan and non-professional plan), contribution rates, hybrid plan; entry level teacher pay scale; contribution increases to the health fund, offset costs, pay claims; funded and unfunded mandates; preliminary budget balancing spreadsheet; and various categories of proposed spending items.

Due to time constraints, Chair Brown suggested adding the remaining budget workshop presentation to the Information section. See Agenda Item #8.

1. ***Closed Session:*** There was no Closed Session during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.

2. ***School Board Recess:*** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:29 p.m.

3. ***Formal Meeting*** *(School Administration Building #6 – School Board Room)* ***..... 6:00 p.m.***

4. ***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 10th day of February 2026. 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, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Melnyk (out of town/personal reasons).

5. ***Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance***

6. ***Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition***

A. Virginia AHPERD 2025 Health Educator of the Year – Bayside High School: The School Board recognized Kathleen Foster of Bayside High School as the Virginia AHPERD 2025 Health Educator of the Year, highlighting the significance of the award, her professional background, and her positive impact on student wellness and the school community.

B. School Board Clerk Appreciation – Special Presentation from Board and Superintendent: The School Board recognized Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk and Nina Wadowski, school board deputy clerk as part of the VSBA School Board Clerk Appreciation Week, February 16-20, 2026.

7. ***Adoption of the Agenda:*** Chair Brown made the following modification to the agenda, to add Information Item G – Budget Workshop. Without any other modifications to the agenda, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bohenstiel. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified.
The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

8. ***Superintendent's Report*** *(second monthly meeting)* ***and recognitions*** *(first and second monthly meetings)*

Administrative Recognition: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointment, which was approved at the January 27, 2026, School Board Meeting: **Kristen L. Shuman**, assistant principal, Indian Lakes Elementary School, as principal of Christopher Farms Elementary School.

9. ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

A. January 27, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Brown called for any modifications to the January 27, 2026 regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the January 27, 2026 minutes 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 eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the January 27, 2026 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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

There were nine (9) in-person speakers (including two (2) student speakers) and one (1) online speaker. The topics included Club America; school lunches; bullying; cameras in blind spots at schools; ESL; immigrant students; ICE; school chaplains, helping to meet the needs of students, compassion and support; student demonstrations; Policy 5-40; healthcare costs; teaching conditions; healthcare benefits; staff raises; pay scale - step disparity; VDOE ratings; and school performance.

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

11. ***Information***

A. 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 January 28, 2026 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, reviewed the following:
   1. 3-22/Tuition Fees: The PRC recommends removing references to SECEP employees, as it provides a benefit to SECEP that is not extended to other School Board contractors. The PRC also recommends additional language regarding the process for the students of full-time employees who are no longer employed by or who are no longer full-time employees of VBCPS.
   2. 3-97/Naloxone Administration in Response to a Suspected Opioid Overdose in a School Setting: The PRC recommends removing reference to middle and high schools to align with the Virginia Code §22.1-272.1:1, which includes language regarding students enrolled in elementary and secondary schools.
   3. 5-14/School Attendance Zones: The PRC recommends removing the reference to SECEP to align with Policy 3-22.
   4. 5-40/Student-led Assemblies: The PRC recommends amending Policy 5-40 to address the procedures for student-led demonstrations. A discussion followed regarding the policy; definitions (section B.5) third party; spontaneous demonstrations; dates policy was previously reviewed; student safety; Code of Virginia 22.1-79; sections E.1.d. and F.5. of Policy 5-40; First Amendment Rights; instructional time, disruption to learning; student participation and non-participation; PRC meeting; and Bylaw 1-26.
   5. 5-54/Physical Restraint and Seclusion – students: The PRC recommends adopting a new Policy 5-54 to replace Regulation 5-59.3. After review at the PRC's January 28, 2026 meeting, a new sentence was

added which prohibits the use of dedicated seclusion rooms in VBCPS buildings and programs run by contractors using VBCPS buildings. A discussion followed regarding the policy; SECEP; training staff; definition of restraint, regulation regarding restraint; number of seclusion rooms currently; student behaviors; number of incidents; protecting students and staff; and the work of the PRC on the policy.

B. Textbook Adoption: Secondary Mathematics Textbooks – High School: Recommended that the School Board approve the secondary mathematics textbooks (digital and physical class sets) for Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra Functions and Data Analysis, Algebra 2 and Advanced Placement® Calculus AB and BC as recommended by the Secondary Mathematics Textbook Adoption Committee for implementation in the Fall of 2026. Thomas Quinn, executive director, Secondary Teaching and Learning presented the School Board information on the following textbook adoptions:

1. Algebra 1

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Algebra 1	Mathspace – Algebra 1, Algebra 1 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc 2024 Edition	Mathspace, Inc	2024

2. Algebra 2

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Algebra 2	Mathspace – Algebra 2, 2024 Algebra 2 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc Edition	Mathspace, Inc	2024

3. Geometry

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Geometry	Mathspace – Geometry, Geometry 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc 2024 Edition	Mathspace, Inc	2024

4. Algebra – Functions and Data Analysis

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis	Mathspace – Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis 2023 Virginia SOL Edition	Mathspace, Inc	2025

5. Advanced Placement Calculus AB and BC

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Advanced Placement Calculus AB and BC	Calculus for the AP® Course (4th Edition)	Bedford, Freeman, and Worth	2024

Breakdown of estimated initial implementation costs:

Course	First-Choice Recommendation	Student Enrollment	Total Estimated Implementation Cost
Algebra 1, Geometry, AFDA (Algebra, Functions, and Data Analysis), and Algebra 2	**First Choice:** Mathspace, 2023 Virginia SOL Edition Mathspace, Inc.	12,900	**$1,691,666.18**
AP® Calculus AB and AP® Calculus BC	***First Choice:*** *Calculus for the AP® Course* (4th Edition), 2024 Bedford, Freeman, and Worth Publishers	850	**$176,923.21**

C. Textbook Adoption: Secondary Mathematics Textbooks – Middle School: Recommended that the School Board approve the secondary mathematics textbook (digital and physical class sets) for grades six through eight as recommended by the Secondary Mathematics Textbook Adoption Committee for implementation

in the Fall of 2026. Thomas Quinn, executive director, Secondary Teaching and Learning presented the School Board information on the following textbook adoptions:

1. Math 6

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Math 6	Mathspace – Grade 6 – 2023 Math 6 Mathspace, Inc 2024 Virginia SOL	Mathspace, Inc	2024

2. Advanced Math 6

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Advanced Math 6	Mathspace – Advanced Math 6 Advanced Math 6 - 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc 2026 (customized for VBCPS)	Mathspace, Inc	2026

3. Pre-Algebra

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Pre-Algebra	Mathspace – Pre-Algebra 6 – Pre-Algebra 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc 2026 (customized for VBCPS)	Mathspace, Inc	2026

4. Math 7

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Math 7	Mathspace – Grade 7 – 2023 Math 7 Mathspace, Inc 2024 Virginia SOL	Mathspace, Inc	2024

5. Advanced Math 7

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Advanced Math 7	Mathspace – Advanced Math 7 Advanced Math 7 – 2023 Virginia SOL Mathspace, Inc 2026 (customized for VBCPS)	Mathspace, Inc	2026

6. Math 8

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
Math 8	Mathspace – Grade 8 – 2023 Mathspace, Inc Math 8 2024 Virginia SOL	Mathspace, Inc	2024

Breakdown of estimated initial implementation costs:

Course	First-Choice Recommendation	Student Enrollment	Total Estimated Implementation Cost
Middle School Mathematics – Grades 6-8	**First Choice:** Mathspace 2023 Virginia SOL Edition Mathspace, Inc.	10,541	**$1,814,649.52**

D. Textbook Adoption: Advanced Placement Human Geography: Recommended that the School Board receive information regarding textbook adoption for AP Human Geography. The recommendation is for the School Board to review and approve the following high school AP Human Geography textbook and materials sent by publishers for implementation in the Fall of 2026. Thomas Quinn, executive director, Secondary Teaching and Learning presented the School Board information on the following textbook adoption:

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
AP Human Geography	Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective, 2nd Edition	Cengage Learning	2027

Breakdown of estimated implementation costs:

Course Title	Recommendation	Student Enrollment	Total Estimated Implementation Cost
AP Human Geography	**First Choice**: Human Geography: A Spatial Perspective, 2nd Edition	1800	**$359,379.80**

E. Textbook Adoption: Advanced Placement U.S. History: Recommended that the School Board receive information regarding textbook adoption for AP US History. The recommendation is for the School Board to review and approve the following high school AP US History textbook and materials sent by publishers for implementation in the Fall of 2026. Thomas Quinn, executive director, Secondary Teaching and Learning presented the School Board information on the following textbook adoption:

Course Title	Textbook	Publisher	Copyright
AP US History	Fabric of a Nation, 2nd Edition	Bedford, Freeman, Worth	2024

Breakdown of estimated implementation costs:

Course Title	Recommendation	Student Enrollment	Total Estimated Implementation Cost
AP US History	**First Choice**: Fabric of a Nation, 2nd Edition	1050	**$214,784.36**

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding cost estimates; textbook fund; reviewing AP U.S. History textbook and observations; textbook committee; textbooks aligning with curriculum; textbooks as a resource; timeline for textbook review; student enrollment numbers; community feedback; course framework; and government classes.

F. Budget Transfers: Recommended that the School Board receive information on budget transfers within the FY2025/26 Operating Budget. Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board the purpose of the budget transfer requests. The transfer requests are to cover an increase in McKinney-Vento transportation costs and to cover an increase in electrical services costs. There was a brief discussion regarding budget transfers and funding for McKinney-Vento.

G. Budget Workshop #5: Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Item #8.
Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, and Melisa Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services, provided the School Board an update on the Capital Improvement Program, including approved FY 2025–2026 funding sources, debt service planning, and projected increases beginning in FY 2027. It outlined major modernization, replacement, and maintenance initiatives, including school additions, HVAC and facility upgrades, ADA compliance projects, and long-term planning to remain within debt service limits. After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding CIP funding; debt services and funding; Tri-Campus project/additions; and preserving the name of B.F. Williams.

Department of Teaching and Learning: Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, presented the Department of Teaching and Learning's proposed FY 2026/27 Operating Budget to the School Board. The presentation outlined the department's approach to financial stewardship, which emphasized alignment with the Compass to 2030 implementation, preservation of services closest to students, protection of legal and

safety requirements, and maintenance of essential school-based supports while pursuing restructuring where feasible. The department described its organizational structure, which encompassed six offices and a total of 2,483.25 full-time equivalent positions in FY 2025/26, the majority of which were allocated directly to schools.

The proposed budget reflected a slight reduction in funding and staffing compared to the prior year while maintaining essential instructional supports. The presentation also identified future fiscal pressures related to regulatory requirements, grant funding changes, instructional costs, and specialty programs. After the presentation, a brief discussion followed with questions and comments regarding staff allocations and various responsibilities of department.

12. ***Return to public comments if needed:*** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:37 p.m.

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

A. White Oaks Elementary School Window & Door Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with E.T. Gresham, Inc for the White Oaks Elementary School Window & Door Replacement in the amount of $1,110,800.
B. Religious Exemption(s): Recommended that the School Board approve RE-26-11, RE-26-12, RE-26-13 and RE-26-14.
C. Budget Transfers: Recommended that the School Board approve the budget transfers within the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget.

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. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

14. ***Action***

A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the February 10, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment. Mr. Cummings made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the February 10, 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 eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the February 10, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Leah C. Donohue**, instructional specialist, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs, as Coordinator of World Languages, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs.

15. ***Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Ms. Rogers mentioned attending the Young Republicans Club event on February 6 at Cox High School, in which Congresswoman Jen Kiggans spoke to students in the club.

16. ***Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** School Board Member, Ms. Melnyk logged off Zoom at 9:13 p.m.

Closed Session: At 9:13 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings, 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, and 8 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.

   Namely to discuss:

   A. Settlement offers in court 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 ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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

A. Settlement offers in court matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, 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.

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. Bohenstiel, 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.

The School Board reconvened at 9:20 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.

Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Culpepper. 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, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

17. ***Adjournment:*** Chair Brown mentioned the upcoming Special School Board meeting on Tuesday, February 17 beginning at 4:00 p.m. Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

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Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

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Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair