



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, February 17, 2026

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 Verbal 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 17th day of February 2026 and announced In accordance with the Schedule of School Board Meetings approved by the School Board at their January 13, 2026, Organizational/Regular Meeting, and pursuant to Bylaw 1-46, and *Virginia Code* § 2.2-3707, the School Board will hold a special meeting on Tuesday, February 17, 2026.

The purpose of this special meeting is for:

1. Presentations on:
 - A. Budget Workshop #5
2. FY 2026-27 School Board Proposed Operating Budget and FY 2026-27 through FY 2031-32 Capital Improvement Program – discussion by School Board and School Administration

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. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.

The following School Board Member attended the meeting via Zoom: Ms. Dwyer (medical reasons).

2. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** 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 Mr. Callan. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Budget Workshop #5: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board an overview of the budget status legislative context, and forthcoming actions. The presentation began with a budget summary and an agenda that included School Board Member questions, a budget update, priority discussions, and next steps. Board members were provided an explanation of budget requests that had been granted during the budget-balancing process, with particular attention given to Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses. These courses had previously been presented to the School Board for information and consent.

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The presentation also reviewed the status of the General Assembly's budget process, highlighting key legislative deadlines related to budget proposals, crossover actions, and committee work. In addition, staff shared financial updates, including an increase in Revenue Sharing Funds from the city, additional funding for the Health Fund, and allocations to support staffing and related expenses for the General District Court.

Priority discussions during the presentation focused on employee compensation, instructional priorities, and pay-as-you-go considerations. The presentation concluded with an outline of next steps, including the finalization of SEON (Superintendent's Estimate of Needs), scheduled presentations related to SEON and the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan), a forthcoming health benefits update, and advance notice of March budget workshops leading up to final budget approval.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding pay raises (instructional and unified); waiting for final budget numbers from state; update from Mercer (March 3); health care costs; increase compensation and funds to the health fund balance; health fund; City compensation increases; grant funding; technology, cost of Chromebooks 1-to-1 versus classroom set; student meal debt; free and reduced lunch, CEP schools; technology use in lower grades (K-2); reserve amounts for health fund (two months); reversion funds; buses, bus runs, coverage for bus drivers when absent/on leave; deferred maintenance projects; connecting families to resources; fees for damaged items; staff compensation, academic outcomes, safety and well-being of students and staff; proposed salary increases; McKinney-Vento Program; PAYGO; concerns with health fund, maintenance costs, CIP, debt services; school lunches; interactive whiteboards; use of hands-on materials, manipulatives and print resources; and focus on students.

4. **Discussion: School Board Budget Workshop for FY 2026-27 Proposed Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2026-27 through FY 2031-32:** Superintendent Robertson reviewed key points from discussions, including cost savings from Chromebook replacement in K-2, use of classroom carts; upcoming meetings should have more details on State budget and funding; health care premium cost; March 3 Mercer update; student meal debt; presentation of SEON and CIP on February 24; and voting on SEON and CIP on March 24.
5. **Adjournment:** Chair Brown mentioned the next School Board meeting is scheduled for February 24 at 4:00 p.m. Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 5:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair