



# VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

## School Board Services

**Kathleen J. Brown, Chair**  
District 10

**Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair**  
District 9

**Mark Bohenstiel**  
District 3

**Michael Callan**  
District 6

**David Culpepper**  
District 8

**Matt W. Cummings**  
District 7

**Rose M. Dwyer**  
District 1

**Sharon R. Felton**  
At-Large

**Dr. Alveta J. Green**  
District 4

**Kimberly A. Melnyk**  
District 2

**Melinda J. Rogers**  
District 5

**Donald E. Robertson Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent**

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## **School Board Regular Meeting MINUTES** **Tuesday, February 24, 2026**

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

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1. **Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:** Chair Brown convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 4:00 p.m. on the 24th 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. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer (arrived at 4:03 p.m.), Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Mr. Culpepper (out of state/business).
  - A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Chair Brown mentioned the March sign-up sheets for one-to-one meetings with Superintendent Robertson and school visits with Superintendent Robertson. Superintendent Robertson mentioned the upcoming two special elections and bringing recommendations to the School Board. Jack Freeman, chief operations officer, shared the topic will be on information at the March 10 School Board meeting. Mr. Cummings mentioned attending a school support meeting at an elementary school. Ms. Felton shared information related to Black History Month. Mr. Bohenstiel visited Kempsville High School/Entrepreneurship & Business Academy and attended the STEM Trifecta event at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Mr. Callan visited and attended an event at the Brock Center/Environmental Studies Program.
  - B. **Middle School Schedule Update:** James Smith, Ed.D., senior executive director of middle schools, provided the School Board an update on the implementation of the new middle school master schedule. The presentation highlighted the multi-year collaborative process that led to a uniform schedule and the addition of Thrive Time to better support diverse learner needs. Two major changes were emphasized: the establishment of a uniform middle school master schedule and the addition of Thrive Time. Thrive Time was presented as a structure designed to enhance instructional support and student opportunities across all middle schools.

Overall, the schedule update was presented as having a positive impact by maximizing elective access, strengthening academic support and teacher–student relationships, improving structural alignment across middle schools, and increasing planning opportunities. The presentation concluded with a commitment to continuous improvement, including further evaluation of Thrive Time usage, expanded teacher collaboration, and consideration of modest adjustments to Grade 6 elective time.

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After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding increased enrollment in elective courses (Band, Chorus, and Orchestra); staffing based on enrollment; instructional support and opportunities; summer school enrollment, possible decrease due to supports; sharing of ideas among teachers; continuous improvement; consideration of increasing Grade 6 elective time from 48 minutes to 50 minutes; importance of electives; engaging students; SOL lab, academic support; and number of students in middle school.

- C. **Building Utilization Committee Report to the School Board:** Ronald Berkebile, demographer/GIS manager, provided the School Board information from the 2025-26 Building Utilization Committee (BUC); summarizing their annual assessment of school attendance zones, student membership, student membership projections, and building utilization, as prescribed by School Board Policy 5-14. The presentation outlined enrollment trends, facility capacity, and long-range planning considerations across the division. In alignment with Policy 5 14, the committee confirmed that all requirements had been met and that updated enrollment projections had been analyzed to assess their impact on optimal building utilization. The analysis showed minimal overall changes in membership density. Division-wide enrollment reflected a modest decline, driven primarily by elementary and high school decreases, while middle school and early childhood programs experienced slight growth.

Long-term trends indicated that enrollment declines had slowed significantly compared to historical averages. Capacity reviews for SY 2025 26 found that most elementary, middle, and high schools were operating within acceptable ranges, though high schools showed greater overall under capacity. Using a weighted, data-driven scorecard that considered enrollment, facilities, and modernization factors, the committee identified Holland Elementary School as the highest research priority for potential closure consideration. The presentation concluded with next steps, including future BUC meetings, possible rezoning actions, and a target timeline for closure or rezoning decisions in SY 2027 28.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding Holland Road Elementary School; elementary school capacity; rezoning; schools at capacity/over capacity; decreases in student enrollment, factors in decline; closure scorecard data; enrollment increases at the middle school level; public input on possible school closure; and possible school closure and impact on staff.

2. **Closed Session:** There was no Closed Session during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.
3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:27 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 6:00 p.m., on the 24th 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. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Mr. Culpepper (out of state/business).
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. **National Board Certified Teachers:** The National Board Certification is an advanced, peer-reviewed credential requiring demonstrated mastery of content knowledge, reflective analysis of student work, evaluation of teaching practice through video evidence, and documentation of professional impact. The following teachers were honored: **Courtney Bennis**, Cox High School, certified in Social Studies-History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood; **Traci Doyle**, Providence Elementary School, certified in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts-Early and Middle Childhood; **Sean Duffy**, Cox High School, certified in

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Mathematics/Adolescence and Young Adulthood; **Michelle Fisher**, Tallwood High School, certified in English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood; **Kimberly Jones**, Plaza Middle School, certified in Science/Early Adolescence; **Samantha Kirk**, Bayside Elementary School, certified in Art/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood; **Jessi Munford**, Virginia Beach Middle School, certified in English Language Arts/Early Adolescence; **Ashley Rankin**, Providence Elementary School, certified as a Generalist/Middle Childhood; **Rebecca Robbins**, Parkway Elementary School, certified as a Generalist/Middle Childhood; **Laura Rodriguez**, Green Run High School, certified in Science/Adolescence and Young Adulthood; and **Lydia Wooten**, Kingston Elementary School, certified in Literacy: Reading-Language Arts-Early and Middle Childhood.

8. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Ms. Melnyk 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.

9. **Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings)**  
Superintendent's Report: The report highlighted recent recognitions and community-focused efforts across Virginia Beach City Public Schools, including appreciation for school crossing guards, transportation staff fundraising for the Special Olympics, and school counselors during National School Counseling Week. The report also noted the successful citywide PTA Reflections awards ceremony hosted at Kellam High School, the upcoming FACE Family Resource Fair for families, and recognized School Board Appreciation Month with a student and staff tribute video.

Administrative Recognition: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointment, which was approved at the February 10, 2026, School Board Meeting: **Leah C. Donohue**, instructional specialist, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs, as Coordinator of World Languages, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs.

10. **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

- A. February 10, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Brown called for any modifications to the February 10, 2026 regular School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the February 10, 2026 minutes as presented. Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. 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 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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

There were sixteen (16) in-person speakers (including two(2) student speakers) and one (1) online speaker. The topics included ICE; Policy 5-40; protests/walkouts; student-led assemblies; DEI; First Amendment Rights; Chromebooks in K-2; skill development; seclusion and seclusion rooms; Policy 5-54; best practices for young learners; hands-on activities; class sets of Chromebooks; student screen time; guest speakers; student safety; teacher and staff pay; inflation and cost of living; attract and retain teachers; compensation; health care costs; student protests; student voice; and technology.

The Public Comments concluded at 7:05 p.m.

12. **Information**

- A. Interim Financial Statements – January 2026: Daniel Hopkins, director, Office of Business Services, provided the School Board with information on the interim financial statements. As of January 31, 2026, revenues and expenditures were tracked at acceptable levels. Federal revenues remained stable, supported by approximately \$9.8 million in Impact Aid received year to date, and local revenues were proceeding as planned with 58 percent of city transfers received. Other revenue sources were slightly

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lower than the prior year, due to one-time items received previously, though Stop Arm Enforcement revenues exceeded last year's levels. Sales tax receipts outperformed the prior year by approximately \$2.5 million through January.

- B. Superintendent's Estimate of Needs for FY 2026/27 and Capital Improvement Program FY 2026/27 – FY 2031/32: Donald Robertson, Jr., Ph.D., superintendent, Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, and Melisa Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services, provided the School Board information on the School Operating Budget for FY 2026/27 and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 2026/27 - FY 2031/32. The Superintendent's Estimate of Needs (SEON) for the 2026–27 school year reflected collaborative planning aligned with Compass to 2030 and prioritized student success, staff investment, and long-term sustainability. It proposed an operating budget of just over \$1.04 billion, a \$33.9 million increase driven by growth in federal, state, revenue-sharing, and local revenues, with a strong emphasis on improving employee compensation while managing inflationary pressures. The SEON also outlined a multi-year Capital Improvement Program focused on maintenance, safety, and modernization of aging facilities, while acknowledging ongoing funding challenges. The presentation highlighted strong academic and organizational outcomes and conveyed confidence that strategic investment and community support positioned the division for continued success.

The presentation reviewed the operating budget, including major revenue sources, expenditure categories, and budget balancing strategies, emphasizing fiscal alignment with division priorities. The presentation also outlined the proposed CIP, highlighting new construction projects, maintenance needs, funding sources, and projected debt service increases. The presentation concluded with a summary of key budget milestones and decision points, highlighting legislative deadlines, scheduled School Board workshops and public hearings, and the anticipated adoption dates for the SEON and CIP.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding school construction; K-2 Chromebook use; funding for devices; meal debt; grant funding; CIP funding and debt services; PAYGO; percentage of free and reduced lunch population; and revenue sharing formula.

- C. Multi-Year School Support Plans (MSSPs) for Federally Identified Schools: Melanie Hamblin, Ed.D., senior executive director of elementary schools, provided the School Board information regarding Multi-Year School Support Plans and Federally Identified Schools. The presentation summarized the development and purpose of Multi-Year School Support Plans for schools identified for Targeted Support and Improvement under the state accountability framework. It explained that the plans built on existing continuous improvement efforts by extending timelines, formalizing progress monitoring, and aligning with federal and state expectations. The presentation highlighted districtwide improvement actions, strategic instructional priorities, and ongoing professional learning. It concluded by requesting School Board approval of the MSSPs to affirm alignment, responsiveness to identified needs, and the establishment of measurable goals and monitoring processes.

After the presentation, there was a brief discussion the timeline for receiving information regarding MSSPs. Chair Brown mentioned the item was on the Consent Agenda for approval.

- 13. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 7:05 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 January 28, 2026 meeting.

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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.
- B. Religious Exemption(s): Recommended that the School Board approve RE-26-15, RE-26-16, RE-26-17.
- C. 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.
  1. Algebra 1: Mathspace – Algebra 1, 2023 Virginia SOL Edition; Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
  2. Algebra 2: Mathspace – Algebra 2, 2023 Virginia SOL Edition; Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
  3. Geometry: Mathspace – Geometry, 2023 Virginia SOL Edition; Mathspace, Inc., 2024
  4. 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: Calculus for the AP® Course (4th Edition); Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
- D. 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.
  1. Math 6: Mathspace – Grade 6 – 2023 Virginia SOL; Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
  2. Advanced Math 6: Mathspace – Advanced Math 6 – 2023 Virginia SOL (customized for VBCPS); Mathspace Inc.; 2026
  3. Pre-Algebra: Mathspace – Pre-Algebra 6 – 2023 Virginia SOL (customized for VBCPS); Mathspace Inc.; 2026
  4. Math 7: Mathspace – Grade 7 – 2023 Virginia SOL; Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
  5. Advanced Math 7: Mathspace – Advanced Math 7 – 2023 Virginia SOL (customized for VBCPS); Mathspace, Inc.; 2026
  6. Math 8: Mathspace – Grade 8 – 2023 Virginia SOL; Mathspace, Inc.; 2024
- E. Textbook Adoption: Advanced Placement Human Geography: Recommended that the School approve the 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.

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

- F. Salem High School Bleacher Replacement: Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Master Contractors of VA, Inc. for the Salem High School Bleacher Replacement in the amount of \$435,750.00.

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- G. Multi-Year School Support Plans (MSSPs) for Federally Identified Schools: Recommended that the School Board approve Multi-Year School Support Plans and Federally Identified Schools.

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. Mr. Cummings made the motion, seconded by Dr. Green. 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.

## **15. Action**

- A. Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the February 24, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Cummings, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions as listed on the February 24, 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 24, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointment. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Michele H. Clark**, administrative assistant, Ocean Lakes High School, as coordinator, adult academic programs, Adult Learning Center.

- B. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation: Policy 5-54/Physical Restraint and Seclusion – students: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve Policy 5-54/Physical Restraint and Seclusion. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. A discussion followed regarding the policy; seclusion rooms; support for the policy; Vice Chair Weems read the first sentence of the policy; development of the policy; steps in the right direction; collaboration with School Board Members; Special Education Advisory Committee; and appreciation for the work of the Policy Review Committee on the policy.

Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve Policy 5-54/Physical Restraint and Seclusion. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

- C. Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendation: Policy 5-40/Student-led Assemblies: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve Policy 5-40/Student-led Assemblies. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Vice Chair Weems made the following substitute motion, which was seconded by Ms. Dwyer:

### **Student-led Demonstrations**

#### **A. Policy Statement**

The School Board is committed to constructive exercise of student rights related to speech and assembly permitted by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution and applicable law. This Policy establishes consistent expectations and procedures for student demonstrations in a manner that is fair, and supportive of civil discourse, while maintaining safe and orderly school operations.

#### **B. Definitions**

1. **Student-led**: Planned, organized and carried out only by students.
2. **Civil Discourse**: Respectful exchange of ideas intended to promote understanding and constructive dialogue.

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3. **Demonstration:** An organized assembly of students peacefully expressing a viewpoint or raising awareness of an issue. ~~such as vigils, rallies, marches, sit-ins, walk-ins, observances or similar collective action.~~
4. **Disruptive Conduct:** Conduct that materially interferes with school operations ~~or instructional time~~, endangers health or safety, infringes on the rights of others, or violates the Student Code of Conduct. Examples include interference with instruction, blocking access, threats or intimidation, and property damage.
5. **Third Party:** Any individual or organization not affiliated with Virginia Beach City Public Schools, ~~elected officials~~, parents or family members, ~~or employees~~, ~~elected officials~~ who are not assigned to the host school or who have not been assigned to assist with events at the host school. ~~or site of a demonstration.~~ School Board members may observe student-led demonstrations provided there is no appearance of endorsement on behalf of the Board. Any School Board member observing shall not take any action that would appear to support or oppose the subject of the demonstration.

#### **C. Student Rights**

Students have the right to:

1. Express opinions and beliefs respectfully.
2. Organize peaceful demonstrations with prior approval.
3. Engage in civil discourse and peaceful activism, as permitted under this Policy, the Code of Student Conduct, and applicable law, without retaliation.

#### **D. Permitted Student Expression:**

The following activities are allowed and are not governed by this policy:

1. Wearing buttons, badges, wristbands, or clothing that follows the Student Code of Conduct
2. Individual religious expression, including prayer during non-instructional time and wearing religious clothing or symbols.
3. Peacefully sharing personal viewpoints during non-instructional time
4. Distributing non-school-sponsored materials before or after school in approved areas
5. Participating in approved student clubs or organizations
6. Non-disruptive symbolic expression

#### **E. Student Responsibilities**

Students organizing or participating in demonstrations must:

1. Student demonstrations must be initiated and led by students.
2. Submit a request in advance.
3. Conduct themselves respectfully and peacefully.
4. Follow school rules and directions of staff.
5. Ensure participation is voluntary and non-coercive.
6. Avoid disrupting instruction or school operations.
7. Clean up any materials or items brought for the demonstration.

#### **F. Request and Approval Process**

1. Students must meet with the principal or designee to present:

- a. Purpose and topic of demonstration
- b. Date ~~and time~~, ~~and location~~
- c. Anticipated number of participants

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- ~~d. Staff sponsor, if applicable~~
- ~~e.~~ D. Materials to be distributed (if any)

2. Meetings should be scheduled in advance, and demonstrations may not take place until administrative review is completed. This policy does not allow spontaneous demonstrations during instructional time.
3. Upon approval of a demonstration, the principal/designee will work collaboratively with student organizers to support student expression while ensuring:
  - a. Safety and supervision
  - b. ~~Minimal~~ No disruption to instruction
  - c. Appropriate time and location
  - d. Communication with staff and students as needed
  - e. The principal/designee reserves the right not to approve demonstrations that ~~if it determines~~ are not consistent with School Division Policies and Regulations and/or which may be disruptive
4. The principal/designee will provide an explanation why the demonstration is denied.

#### G. School Responsibilities

School administrators will:

1. Provide reasonable guidance regarding time, place, and manners.
2. Apply this policy consistently.
3. Communicate expectations to staff and students in advance.
- ~~4. Support opportunities for constructive civic learning connected to the event when applicable.~~
5. ~~No~~ Ensure school resources or employees/agents ~~will not be~~ used to promote student-led demonstrations.
6. Each building principal shall have a written plan and dispersal statement for dealing with non-peaceful assemblies of students.

#### H. Third-Party Involvement

Third parties may not be involved in or attend student-led demonstrations.

#### I. Prohibited Conduct

Demonstrations may not:

1. Disrupt instruction or school operations.
2. Block access to school facilities or transportation.
3. Threaten, harass, or intimidate others.
4. Damage property.
5. Compel participation by others.
6. Interfere with the safety, privacy, or rights of individuals.

#### J. Consequences

Students who violate this policy or engage in disruptive conduct ~~may~~ will be subject to discipline consistent with the Student Code of Conduct. ~~Participation in student-led demonstrations will not excuse students from any portion of class/instructional time.~~ Students shall not be disciplined solely for expressing political or social viewpoints in a lawful, non-disruptive manner.

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### **K. Non-Endorsement**

Approval of a demonstration does not constitute endorsement by the School Board, school administration, or staff of the content or viewpoints expressed.

Amended by the School Board: February 24, 2026

A discussion followed regarding the substitute motion; work of the Policy Review Committee and their input; collaboration with School Board Members; appreciation for the updates to the policy; student expression; First Amendment Rights; and support for the policy. It was noted that numbering sequence needs to be updated in Section G due to the elimination of Item #4. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote on the substitute motion. The School Board Clerk announced there were eleven (11) ayes in favor of the substitute motion by Vice Chair Weems. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

D. Textbook Adoption: Advanced Placement U.S. History: Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the textbook adoption: Advanced Placement U.S. History. Ms. Melnyk made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. A discussion followed regarding the textbook; review of textbook; textbook committee; review of textbook glossary; and preparing students for the AP exam. Without further 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 textbook adoption: Advanced Placement U.S. History: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohlenstiel, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. There was one (1) nay opposed to the motion to approve the textbook adoption: Advanced Placement U.S. History: Mr. Callan. The motion passed, 10-1-0.

**16. Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Ms. Melnyk mentioned attending the Community Roundtable meeting on February 23, collaboration of group, discussion of regional CTE program. Vice Chair Weems mentioned the Harbor Hope Regional Recovery School Board of Directors meeting on February 25 at 2:00 p.m. in Chesapeake; Gifted Advisory Meeting on March 2 at 6:00 p.m. at the Plaza Annex; and the Policy Review Committee meeting on March 4 at 1:30 p.m. in the School Board Room.

**17. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** At 8:29 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Mr. Callan, 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 1, 2, 7, and 8 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.
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,

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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.

Namely to discuss:

- A. Employee Grievance- notification regarding availability of 3/10/26 grievance package.
- B. Student matters- discussion of new student complaints and disciplinary 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 eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 8-0-0.

Note: Mr. Culpepper logged off Zoom at 8:29 p.m. School Board Members Dr. Green and Ms. Melnyk 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:

- A. Employee Grievance- notification regarding availability of 3/10/26 grievance package: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, 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.
- B. Student matters- discussion of new student complaints and disciplinary matters: School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, 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, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, 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 8:47 p.m.

School Board of the City of Virginia Beach  
School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center  
2512 George Mason Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

Tuesday, February 24, 2026  
Regular School Board Meeting  
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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. Bohenstiel. 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. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

**18. Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:48 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