



School Board Services

Kathleen J. Brown, Chair
District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

Mark Bohensiel
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, March 3, 2026

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

- 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 3rd day of March 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, March 3, 2026, at 4:00 p.m.

The purpose of this special meeting is for:

1. Presentations and discussions on:
 - a. Mercer Update
 - b. Budget Workshop #6
 - c. Technology in K-2
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. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers. School Board Member, Mr. Culpepper, was not in attendance.

- 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. Mr. Callan made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, Ms. Melnyk, and Ms. Rogers.
- 4. *Mercer Update:*** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, Linda Matkins, director, Office of Consolidated Benefits, and David Keough, Mercer Representative, provided the School Board updated information from Mercer. The presentation provided a financial update on Virginia Beach City Public Schools' self-funded health plans based on claims experience through December 31, 2025. It summarized projected health plan costs for 2026 and 2027 under alternative employee contribution scenarios, showing rising costs largely absorbed by the employer and limited use of health fund reserves. The presentation also noted that projected health fund balances remained below the recommended two-month reserve level.

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After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding cost of plan; health trends; rising costs; fiscal year projections; and amount of reserves in the health fund.

5. **Budget Workshop #6:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, presented the School Board an overview of the budget, health fund trends, proposed adjustments, and the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The presentation reviewed House and Senate budget recommendations, including proposed bonuses, salary increases, add-ons for at-risk and special education students, infrastructure funding, and school construction support. It also examined the Health Fund's historical revenues, expenditures, and declining cumulative balance. The potential adjustments to the SEON framework, outlined proposed CIP funding sources and debt service impacts, and summarized new construction and modernization needs were also reviewed. Finally, the presentation outlined key legislative and local budget dates and described next steps leading to SEON and CIP adoption and final budget approval.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding House and Senate recommended salary increases; student meal debt; having a balanced budget; revenues and variances; increase to CTE; Bridge Program, telehealth, CHKD, grant funding; Princess Anne High School replacement; additional CIP funding; and debt services.

Note: School Board Member, Mr. Bohenstiel left the meeting at 4:46 p.m.

6. **Technology in K-2:** Ryan Goldberg, Ph.D., executive director of elementary teaching and learning, provided the School Board an update on technology in kindergarten through second grade. The presentation summarized how technology had been integrated into K–2 instruction and examined the potential impact of changing the 1:1 Chromebook model. It showed that devices were used for a limited portion of the instructional day to support targeted literacy, math, research, and digital skill development, while core instruction remained hands-on and teacher-led.

Stakeholder feedback from teachers and parents was reviewed, showing broad awareness of Chromebook use and significant concern about negative instructional impacts if 1:1 access was eliminated or reduced. Survey results indicated that Chromebooks were most often used to support reading and math practice, differentiation, intervention, and assessment, with usage increasing by grade level. The presentation provided funding context, explaining that student Chromebooks were supported through a Technology Initiative Grant rather than the operating budget, and that a shift away from 1:1 deployment could allow for a reallocation of grant funds over time within existing parameters.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding bringing devices home; synchronous and asynchronous learning days; integrate technology into instruction (TSIP); budget implications, worksheets, consumables; evidence based instruction; impact of not using Chromebooks; limits to screen time; hands-on learning; small group and large group instruction; digital textbooks and resources; reduction in the use of applications; ESL students; cost of computer carts; adaptive learning; educational tools; survey feedback from teachers; future-ready students; 1:1 devices and historical background.

7. **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 provided a brief recap of topic of considerations for the budget: CIP funding, PAYGO, Health Fund balance; All in Virginia Plan funding ending in June; looking for guidance and input from the School Board.



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8. **Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair