



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
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Mark Bohenstiel
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Matt W. Cummings
District 7

Rose M. Dwyer
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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, April 14, 2026

School Administration Building #6, Municipal Center

2512 George Mason Drive

P.O. Box 6038

Virginia Beach, VA 23456

(757) 263-1000

- 1. Administrative, Informal, and Workshop:** Chair Brown convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop Session at 4:30 p.m. on the 14th day of April 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. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer (arrived at 4:33 p.m.), Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Members were not in attendance: Mr. Bohenstiel, and Ms. Melnyk.
 - A. School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for the month of April.
 - B. Budget Presentation: State Budget:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board an update regarding the State Budget. The Virginia General Assembly's session concluded with April 13 as the last day for the Governor's action on legislation. While several education policy bills passed during the session, the state budget remained unresolved. The administration recommended allocating additional funds across four areas: PAYGO (30%), grant replacement (30%), HR priorities (30%), and Health Fund Balance (10%).

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Human Resources recommended the following priorities, which totaled an estimated \$5.68M and addressed four areas: doubling professional development reimbursement to \$2,000 per employee, a 10% increase to part-time pay rates frozen since 2021–22, competitive adjustments to advanced degree allowances (where 90.5% of recipients were teachers), and a 10% boost to duty supplements for department chairs and non-athletic roles. Key next steps included the April 23 reconvened General Assembly Special Session, a May 12 City Council vote on the municipal budget (SEON), and potential dates to bring forward recommendations for new revenue.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding entry-level pay for teachers, increases to entire scale; professional development reimbursement; tutoring, upcoming tests, before and after school tutoring; and upcoming presentation All in VA.

- 2. Closed Session:** At 4:43 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, that the School Board recess into Closed Session 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 3, 7, and 8, as amended, to deliberate on the following matters:
3. Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property, where discussion in an open meeting would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.
 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.

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Namely to discuss:

- A. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- B. Jericho Road Property- Term Sheet discussion.
- 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, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, and Dr. Green. The motion passed, 8-0-0. Note: Ms. Rogers was 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. **Jericho Road Property – Term Sheet discussion:** School Board Members: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, 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; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; Simone S. Boothe, associate school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.
- A. **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. 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; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; Simone S. Boothe, associate school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 5:30 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

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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.

Mr. Cummings made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion for Certification of Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

3. **School Board Recess:** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:31 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 14th day of April 2026. In addition to Superintendent Robinson, the following School Board Members were present in the School Administration Building #6, School Board Chamber: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel (arrived at 6:27 p.m.), Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers.
6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**
 - A. VBCPS Digital Citizenship Contest winners – Landstown Elementary School, White Oaks Elementary School, Great Neck Middle School, Salem High School
 - B. VHSL Class 5 Girls Basketball Champions – Princess Anne High School
 - C. VHSL Boys Indoor Track: Relay Team State Champion – Bayside High School

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- D. VHSL Girls Indoor Track: Pole Vault and Relay Team State Champions – Kellam High School
- E. VHSL Boys and Girls Indoor Track: Individual and Relay State Champions - Landstown High School
- F. Virginia Association of School Librarians York Region Librarian of the Year – Windsor Woods Elementary School

The School Board recognized students and staff for outstanding achievements across the division. The recognitions highlighted first-place winners of the VBCPS Digital Citizenship Contest for their “Go For The Gold: Mastering Screen Time Balance” submissions, which demonstrated leadership, creativity, and practical guidance for responsible technology use. The School Board also recognized multiple VHSL state champions, including the Princess Anne High School girls basketball team’s undefeated championship season, as well as indoor track and field champions from Bayside, Kellam, and Landstown High Schools for record-setting and award-winning performances. The recognitions concluded by honoring Windsor Woods Elementary School librarian, Nate Allison as the Virginia Association of School Librarians York Region Librarian of the Year, recognizing his sustained contributions to instruction, innovation, and community engagement.

- 8. Adoption of the Agenda:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Ms. Rogers made the following motion, to add a motion related to instruction time to Action. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cummings. Chair Brown mentioned it would be Action Item #15B. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to add a motion related to instructional time to Action (Item #15B): Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. There was one (1) abstention: Ms. Dwyer. The motion passed, 8-0-1.

Chair Brown called for any additional modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

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9. Superintendent's Report (second monthly meeting) and recognitions (first and second monthly meetings):

There were no Superintendent's Report or recognitions.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. **March 24, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting:** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the March 24, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the March 24, 2026 minutes as presented. Mr. Cummings made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the March 24, 2026 minutes as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

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

There were eight (8) in-person speakers (including one (1) student speaker) and two (2) online speakers. The topics included modified schedule; Policy 6-13; Delta Sigma Theta Chapter; 4x4 schedule, core and special education classes regarding the additional 10 minutes; additional 10 minutes to the instructional day; hours versus days; extended childcare, after-school activities; April 21 Special Election; student safety; guardianship; and reconsider the additional 10 minutes to the day.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:53 p.m.

12. 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 March 25, 2026 meeting.

1. **Policy 3-1/Criteria:** This policy is being reviewed in accordance with the 5-year review requirement; there are no proposed changes.
2. **Policy 3-55/Buildings, Facilities, Grounds, Vehicles and Equipment – Generally:** The PRC recommends clarifying the language and intent in Section A.

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3. **Policy 3-56/Safety Program:** The PRC recommends adding language to include school events to the policy and updating the legal reference.
 4. **Policy 3-64/Security of Buildings and Grounds:** The PRC recommends changing the reference to the lighting source.
 5. **Policy 3-72/Safety: Water Management Program to Prevent Legionella Growth:** The PRC recommends changing the language in the policy to match the Code of Virginia.
- B. **Budget Transfers:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information on budget transfers. The transfers were to vehicle operations (replace buses) for \$2,080,000 and Facilities and Maintenance Services (repair and maintenance services – equipment & facility) for \$300,000. After the presentation, Chair Brown mentioned the budget transfers were being voted on during the Consent Agenda. After the presentation, a brief discussion followed with questions and comments regarding bus replacements and replacement cycle.
- C. **General Fees Schedule 2026-2027:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information on the FY 2026-27 General Fees Schedule. The following categories had pricing increases: paid lunch – elementary/secondary, paid breakfast – elementary/secondary, Technical & Career Education Center courses: Practical Nursing I and II (LPN HS) and Cosmetology (tool kits), and Nonresident Student Tuition: other – elementary level and secondary level, and F-1 student tuition.
- After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding revenues (paid lunches, athletic tickets); and family passes to events.
- D. **Carl D. Perkins Grant:** Sara Lockett, Ed.D., director, Office of Technical and Career Education, provided the School Board information regarding the Local Plan and Budget for the 2026-27 Carl D. Perkins V grant for Career and Technical Education. The presentation detailed the proposed \$1,075,057.86 Perkins V grant budget for Career and Technical Education in the upcoming school year. The division's CTE programs supported over 36,000 student seats across 28 school sites and 2 CTE centers, offering 131 industry credentials and 1,697 course sections. Performance against federal benchmarks was strong — the division met five of seven measures, including graduation rate, academic proficiency, post-program placement, credential attainment, and technical skills.

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Budget priorities reflected a focus on hands-on instruction, with \$508,000 (47%) allocated to equipment, materials, software, and work-based learning activities. Other line items included \$124,000 for new hire incentives, \$120,000 for industry certification vouchers, \$107,000 for professional development, and \$105,000 for student leadership activities.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding industry credentials; number of students receiving credentials last year; CTE incentives; benchmarks; workforce development; fees; promoting CTE program/courses; and welding lab.

- E. **Achievement Data and Finishing Strong:** Matthew Delaney, chief schools officer, Lorena Kelly, Ph.D., executive director, Office of Elementary Teaching and Learning, and Thomas Quinn, executive director, Office of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board information on mid-year student achievement data and the steps central support and teachers are taking to ensure students are prepared to demonstrate their learning on end of year assessments. The 2025–2026 achievement data to the School Board, showing broad-based growth across all levels. Elementary VALLS literacy results demonstrated gains at every grade from PreK through 5th, with kindergarten low-risk students rising from 51% to 74% and SWD and ELL subgroups improving consistently; over half of grades 3–5 students reached the 61st national percentile on NWEA MAP math.

At the high school level, SOL pass rates held steady or improved under the more rigorous 2023 standards — Algebra I at 85%, EOC Reading at 87% — and the LAVC2 verified credit program achieved a 91% success rate across 1,089 students with strong equity outcomes for SWD (89%) and ELL (93%). In the inaugural year of the Virginia Literacy Act at middle school, 608 of 3,213 screened students moved out of "well below" in word reading, while NWEA MAP math showed 4–5 point gains from fall to mid-year. The presentation concluded with a "Finish Strong" plan anchored in cross-departmental partnerships, data-driven instructional planning, tutoring, and AP bootcamps to carry momentum through end-of-year assessments.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding supports for students and teachers; site-specific support, data-driven; professional development; testing; reading plans; day-to-day implementation; AP exams, bootcamps; comparison data on academic growth; sample of benchmark data; screeners; and targeted supports.

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- F. **2026 VSBA Success and Innovation Awards:** Sara Lockett, Ed.D., director, Office of Technical and Career Education, provided the School Board information regarding the nomination of Virginia Beach City Public Schools' XPEDITION: Port of Call career immersion event for the 2026 Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Showcases for Success Award. The presentation outlined the four-step application process: nominating successful programs for Showcases of Success recognition, selecting one for the Innovation Award, securing School Board approval, and submitting electronically by April 17, 2026.
- G. **2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll:** Nicole Livas, chief communications and community engagement officer, provided the School Board information regarding a resolution naming BayPort Credit Union to the 2026 Virginia School Boards Association Business Honor Roll. BayPort Credit Union has been a consistent and meaningful partner to Virginia Beach City Public Schools, supporting both students and staff through financial education and community investment. They have helped bring real-world financial literacy into classrooms, equipping students with practical skills for budgeting, saving, and long-term planning. BayPort also contributes through sponsorships, donations, and volunteer efforts that enhance school programs and student experiences.
- 13. Return to public comments if needed:** As noted under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:53 p.m.
- 14. Consent Agenda:** Chair Brown read the following items on the Consent Agenda:
- A. **Budget Transfers:** Recommended that the School Board approve the budget transfers within the FY 2025-26 Operating Budget.
- B. **2026 VSBA Success and Innovation Awards:** Recommended that the School Board approve the nomination of Virginia Beach City Public Schools' XPEDITION: Port of Call career immersion event sponsored by the Regional Maritime Training System, for the 2026 Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Showcases for Success Award and optional Showcasing Innovation Award.
- C. **2026 VSBA Business Honor Roll:** Recommended that the School Board approve a resolution in observance of the Virginia Beach School Boards Association's Business Honor Roll.

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

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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 ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented: 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.

15. Action

- A. **Personnel Report / Administrative Appointments:** Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the April 14, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments. Mr. Callan 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 April 14, 2026 personnel report along with the administrative appointments 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 April 14, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments: 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.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Matthew M. Fischi**, principal, Seatack Elementary School, An Achievable Dream Academy, as director, student services, Office of Student Support Services.

- B. **Motion related to instruction time:** Note, item was added during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Agenda Item #8.

Ms. Rogers made the following motion, I move that the School Board of the City of Virginia Beach temporarily suspend the provisions of Policy 6-13 that require the school calendar to be constructed and measured by days, and that, for the duration of this suspension, the division shall instead calculate and apply instructional time in hours, thus implementing a hybrid approach for meeting instructional time. This temporary suspension shall remain in effect until June 30, 2026, and will eliminate the need for staff and students to stay an extra 10 minutes each day from April 15, 2026, through June 7, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cummings.

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A discussion followed regarding the motion; reason for the motion; days versus hours; educational excellence; emails to School Board on topic; effect on families; quality of education; April 21 election and student safety; added minutes in the past; maximizing instructional opportunities; and request to VDOE. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were four (4) ayes in favor of the motion by Ms. Rogers: Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. There were six (6) nays opposed to the motion by Ms. Rogers: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, and Ms. Dwyer. The motion failed, 4-6-0.

- 16. Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Ms. Dwyer mentioned school visits with Superintendent Robertson, and attending a play at Woodstock Elementary, *Matilda, Jr.* Mr. Callan also mentioned attending the play. Dr. Green mentioned the Art of the Military Child event and Purple Up day on April 15. She also attended the opening of the Museum of Modern Art (MOCA) at the campus of Virginia Wesleyan University. Ms. Rogers also attended the opening of the MOCA.
- 17. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:** None.
- 18. Adjournment:** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 9:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair