



VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

School Board Services

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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 28, 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:** Vice Chair Weems convened the Administrative, Informal, and Workshops session at 4:00 p.m. on the 28th 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: Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Members attended via Zoom: Chair Brown (personal/Virginia Beach), and Ms. Melnyk (illness). Ms. Melnyk joined the meeting via Zoom at 4:07 p.m.
 - A. **School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:** Ms. Felton mentioned the Indian Lakes Elementary School Community Day. Ms. Rogers shared information about the meeting of Mental Health Task Force and highlighted some of the work done by the teams. Mr. Callan attended the Weather Education Day at Harbor Park. Vice Chair Weems mentioned the May sign-up sheets for one-to-one meetings with Superintendent Robertson and school visits with Superintendent Robertson.
 - B. **Program Collaborations Supporting Students, Staff, and Families: Childcare and Expanded Student Opportunities:** Amy Church, director, Office of Employment Services, Harry Young and Tiffany Cowell, Virginia Beach Parks and Recreation, and Jamie Childress, Seth Foster, and Amelia Scott, YMCA of South Hampton Roads, provided the School Board information highlighting the Division's partnerships with the YMCA of South Hampton Roads and the Virginia Beach Department of Parks & Recreation. The presentation provided an overview of the collaborative partnership among Virginia Beach City Public Schools, Virginia Beach Parks & Recreation, and the YMCA of South Hampton Roads to support students, staff, and families.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 2 of 11

The presentation detailed a wide range of programs operated within VBCPS facilities, including before- and after-school care, summer camps, academic enrichment, therapeutic recreation, leadership development, and employment and entrepreneurship opportunities for secondary students. The presentation also highlighted targeted benefits for VBCPS staff, including discounted and expanded childcare options, particularly for Title I employees, and noted financial accessibility through reduced fees, scholarships, and assistance programs. Overall, the collaboration demonstrated a shared commitment to extending learning opportunities, supporting working families, and strengthening community engagement.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding the childcare program and communicating the information; entrepreneurship program; various programs offered by Parks & Recreation; elementary programs, early childhood sites; childcare for VBCPS staff; secondary programs; partnerships with VBCPS, YMCA and Parks & Recreation; Title I; summer employment opportunities; and community events.

- C. **AI Update:** Ryan Goldberg, Ph.D., director, Office of Instructional Technology, provided the School Board an update on artificial intelligence (AI). The division adopted a selective, intentional approach to AI integration, guided by Virginia state legislation and the White House Executive Order on AI for American Youth. AI was deployed only where it clearly enhanced learning and supported content standards. Professional learning rolled out in phases throughout 2025–2026. Required staff training and ethical usage frameworks launched in the fall, school-level turnkey trainings, and a division-wide Teacher Assembly in March 2026.

Staff AI adoption roughly doubled year over year, with Gemini emerging as the most-used tool at 6,407 users, surpassing ChatGPT. Among high school students, 69% (13,461 of 19,375) used Gemini within the first 39 school days of access. Teacher feedback highlighted the value of collaborative support but flagged resource overload and time constraints. Parents, engaged in 15 PTA meetings, expressed appreciation for the feedback opportunity and requested a clear roadmap, continued multi-channel communication, and greater digital literacy awareness. For 2026-2027, the division planned a tiered model approach for elementary, middle and high school students.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding use of AI in the classroom; guardrails for each level; review of different levels of AI use; concerns regarding power users; AI prompting and re-prompting; securely and generating reports; ethics of AI; discussion of AI



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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 3 of 11

topic at retreat; list of AI applications; AI output, vetting resource; NotebookLM; impact of AI; limit to high school level; and state/federal guidelines.

Note, due to time constraints, the AI discussion continued at the end of meeting. See Agenda Item #17.

2. **Closed Session:** None during Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session. See Agenda Item #17.
3. **School Board Recess:** Vice Chair Weems adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:30 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 28th 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. Bohensiel, 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 (illness).
6. **Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance**
7. **Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition**

- A. VHSL Class 5 Speech: first place, Original Oratory – Salem High School
- B. VHSL Class 5 Speech: first place, Impromptu – Bayside High School
- C. Special Achievement – Green Run High School

The Board recognized Salem High School senior, Bethany Wilmoth for earning first place in Original Oratory at the VHSL Class 5 state speech competition after progressing through preseason, regional, and super-regional tournaments. Bayside High School senior, Taylor Beacham was honored for winning first place in Impromptu at the VHSL Class 5 competition and for sustaining a season of consecutive first-place finishes. The Board also recognized Green Run High School's Navy Junior ROTC as the Area 5 Drill, Athletic, and Academic Champions after a meet in which cadets earned multiple first-place team awards, individual honors, and overall championships in major categories.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 4 of 11

8. 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 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: Superintendent Robertson recognized five leaders named Virginia "Principals of Distinction" by the Virginia Department of Education: **Mrs. Micah DeLoatch** of Thoroughgood Elementary; **Mrs. Stephanie Haus** of Rosemont Forest Elementary; **Dr. Mark Makovec** of Landstown Middle; **Dr. Daniel Miani** of First Colonial High; and **Dr. Ryan Schubart** of Princess Anne High. The report highlighted a visit by the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority to the Harbor Hope Center and its recovery-focused supports for students. The Virginia Beach Education Foundation's Pearls of Wisdom oyster roast drew approximately 400 guests and raised more than \$19,000 to support students and teachers, while the Celebrating Children event at Mount Trashmore welcomed more than 4,000 attendees and connected families to pre-kindergarten opportunities and resources through district offices and community partners.

Administrative Recognition: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointment, which was approved at the April 14, 2026 School Board Meeting: **Matthew M. Fischl**, principal, Seatack Elementary School, An Achievable Dream Academy, as director, student services, Office of Student Support Services.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. April 14, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting: Chair Brown called for any modifications to the April 14, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the April 14, 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 ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the April 14, 2025 minutes as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. There was one (1) abstention: Ms. Melnyk. The motion passed, 10-0-1.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 5 of 11

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

There were four (4) in-person speakers. The topics included National Chaplain Program; safety of students; 504 plan; Teacher Appreciation Week; work teachers do beyond the classroom; pay increases; and IEP accommodations.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:34 p.m.

12. Information

A. **Interim Financial Statements – February and March 2026:** Daniel Hopkins, director, Office of Business Services, provided the School Board with information on the interim financial statements. As of March, the overall revenue and expenditure/encumbrance trends remained acceptable at that point in the fiscal year. The approved Direct Aid Budget had differed only slightly from the original budget: State Basic Aid, Sales Tax, and English Learner Teacher Payments had been reduced, while an SOQ Bonus had been added, producing a net increase of \$388K. Federal and local revenues had tracked acceptably, including approximately \$10.2m received in Impact Aid and 66.7% of City transfers received. Other revenue sources were modestly lower than the prior year due primarily to one-time items received last year, while Stop Arm Enforcement revenue had increased, and sales tax receipts are approximately \$2.9M higher than the same period last year.

B. **Legislative Update:** Joel Andrus, legislative liaison, Kemper Consulting, provided the School Board information regarding 2026 legislative updates from the General Assembly Session. The presentation provided an overview of the 2026 Virginia General Assembly session, which convened for a 60-day regular session from January 14 through March 14, followed by a veto session on April 22 and a special session on April 23. The legislative agenda was primarily driven by affordability and cost-of-living concerns, energy and data center growth, labor and workforce policy issues, and ongoing budget and revenue pressures.

Key K–12 legislation included SOL reforms that increased flexibility and delayed grading impacts, new requirements for division-wide diabetes management plans, and expanded mental health awareness training for educators. The General Assembly repealed the prohibition on collective bargaining for public employees and approved paid sick leave and paid family and medical leave programs, all with delayed implementation dates. Additional legislation addressed teacher contract timelines, use of artificial intelligence in classrooms, and restrictions on cell phone use during the school day. The presentation

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 6 of 11

concluded with a budget update noting that negotiations were ongoing, proposed budgets included increases for K–12 education, and further details were expected.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding collective bargaining; cost to implement collective bargaining; cell phone usage; artificial intelligence (AI) in the classroom; unfunded mandates; K-12 funding formulas; and paid sick leave and paid family & medical leave.

- C. ***Use of Facilities Proposed Fee Structure Changes:*** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, and Steve LePock II, risk manager, Office of Risk Management, provided the School Board information regarding the use of facilities proposed structure changes. The presentation provided an overview of proposed changes to the use of facilities fee structure following the implementation of a new online rental system launched on January 16, 2026. Staff reviewed the benefits of the Facilitron platform, including a paperless process, improved user experience, greater staff efficiency, and enhanced risk management through insurance and compliance tracking.

The proposed changes effective July 1, 2026 included standardized pricing tiers, restructuring of select user groups, a shift from per-use to hourly rates for many community and commercial users, and a 10 percent increase in custodial and café overtime costs. Examples comparing existing and proposed rates illustrated the impact of the changes while maintaining no-cost access for internal VBCPS activities.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding the various group structures and pricing; use of technology; hourly rates; impact on groups using schools; 10 percent increase; generating revenue; and revenue/losses for each group.

- 13. *Return to public comments if needed:*** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:34 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 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.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 7 of 11

2. **Policy 3-55/Buildings, Facilities, Grounds, Vehicles and Equipment – Generally:** The PRC recommends clarifying the language and intent in Section A.
 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. **Carl D. Perkins Grant:** Recommended that the School Board approve the Local Plan and Budget for the 2026-27 Carl D. Perkins V grant for Career and Technical Education.
- C. **Diamond Springs Elementary School and Newtown Road Elementary School Classroom Addition and Renovation:** Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Sussex Development Corporation for the Diamond Springs Elementary School and Newtown Elementary School Classroom Addition and Renovation in the amount of \$13,752,151.
- D. **Bayside Middle School Foundation Repair Phase III:** Recommended that the School Board approve a motion authorizing the Superintendent to execute a contract with Master Contractors of VA for the Bayside Middle School Foundation Repair Phase III in the amount of \$456,200.
- E. **General Fees Schedule 2026-27:** Recommended that the School Board approve the FY 2026-27 General Fees.

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 Mr. Cummings. 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 April 28, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations,

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 8 of 11

retirements, and other employment actions, as listed on the April 28, 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 eleven (11) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the April 28, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

There were no administrative appointments this evening.

- 16. Committee, Organization or Board Reports:** Dr. Green mentioned community volunteers and partnerships including the Men of Faith group at Bayside Middle School and Mr. Ron Taylor; they help with mentoring, field trips, etc. Ms. Felton mentioned the VSBA Tidewater Regional Networking Forum and the VBCPS Scholarship winner, Daksh Master, a senior, at Princess Anne High School. Ms. Rogers attended the Celebrating Children event, Arbor Day Celebration at Parkway Elementary School, and a pep rally at Strawbridge Elementary School.

17. Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:

AI Update: Continuation of Workshop Discussion. See Agenda Item #1C.

The discussion continued with questions and comments regarding approval process for vetting AI programs; concerns moving too fast with AI; monitoring student use of AI; AI use in middle school; basis of knowledge, using AI and getting incorrect data; teacher and parent feedback; overload for teachers; asking better prompt questions in AI; utilizing the tools of AI; ethics in using AI; gathering data on using AI; guardrails; more information on topic; and discussion at School Board retreat.

Closed Session: At 8:00 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer, 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, 8, and 29 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



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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 9 of 11

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, 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.
29. Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds, including interviews of bidders or offerors, and discussion of the terms or scope of such contract, where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the bargaining position or negotiating strategy of the public body.

Namely to discuss:

- A. New and pending personnel matters.

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 10 of 11

- B. New and pending student matters.
- C. Princess Anne High School CIP project- discussion on RFQ and design-build status.
- D. Status of pending litigation or administrative cases.
- E. 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 nine (9) ayes in favor of the motion to recess into Closed Session: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Ms. Dwyer, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0. Note, Ms. Felton was not present in the School Board Chamber at the time of the vote. At 8:08 p.m., Ms. Melnyk logged off Zoom.

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

C. Princess Anne High School CIP project- discussion on RFQ and design build status: 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; Jack Freeman, chief operations officer; Melisa Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services; Alicia Smith, director, Office of Procurement Services; Haley Maciejewski, coordinator, Office of Procurement Services; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; Simone S. Boothe, associate schoolboard attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

At 8:30 p.m., the following staff members left the Closed Session: Jack Freeman, chief operations officer; Melisa Ingram, executive director, Office of Facilities Services; Alicia Smith, director, Office of Procurement Services; Haley Maciejewski, coordinator, Office of Procurement Services; and Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney.

At 8:31 p.m., Stephanie Enzmann, director, Office of Employee Relations, joined the Closed Session.

At 8:33 p.m., Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney returned to the Closed Session and Vice Chair Weems, left the Closed Session/meeting.

- A. **New and pending personnel matters;**
- B. **New and pending student matters;**
- D. **Status of pending litigation or administrative cases;** and
- E. **Consultation with legal counsel regarding probable litigation and pending litigation matters:** School Board Members: Chair Brown, 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; Stephanie Enzmann, director, Office of Employee Relations; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior

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

Tuesday, April 28, 2026
Regular School Board Meeting
Page 11 of 11

school board attorney; Simone S. Boothe, associate schoolboard attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 8:52 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Chair Brown 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.

Dr. Green made the motion, seconded by Mr. Bohenstiel. 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, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 9-0-0.

18. Adjournment: Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair