



School Board Services

Kathleen J. Brown, Chair
District 10

Carolyn D. Weems, Vice Chair
District 9

Mark Bohenstiel
District 3

Michael Callan
District 6

David Culpepper
District 8

Matt W. Cummings
District 7

Rose M. Dwyer
District 1

Sharon R. Felton
At-Large

Dr. Alveta J. Green
District 4

Kimberly A. Melnyk
District 2

Melinda J. Rogers
District 5

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

School Board Regular Meeting MINUTES

Tuesday, September 22, 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 4:00 p.m. on the 22 nd day of September 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 (arrived at 4:01 p.m.), Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer (arrived at 4:07 p.m.), Ms. Felton, Dr. Green (arrived at 4:06 p.m.), and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Members were not in attendance: Mr. Culpepper and Ms. Melnyk.

- A. ***School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:*** Chair Brown mentioned the following sign-up sheets for the VSBA Annual Convention, October one-to-one meetings with Superintendent Robertson, October school visits with Superintendent Robertson, and Gifted Community Advisory Committee's fall 2026 site visits. Ms. Rogers mentioned fundraising for VBCPS bands, information on her social media page.

- B. ***Employee Input Survey Results for 2025-2026:*** Robert Veigel, research specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, and Stephanie Enzmann, director, employee relations, Department of Human Resources, provided the School Board results from the

2026 Employee Input Survey and information from the Department of Human Resources. The 2025–2026 Employee Input Survey drew responses from 5,069 employees, representing 48% of staff. The survey reflected strong workplace resources, teamwork, and pride, but revealed declining benefits satisfaction and continued concerns about compensation. The presentation identified benefit costs, compensation, and financial support for professional growth as priorities. The division reported salary increases, retention bonuses, and higher employer health contributions, alongside expanded benefits outreach. The School Board also raised professional development reimbursement from \$1,000 to \$2,000, while the administration committed to continued outreach and employee engagement.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding survey response disparities, employee support, benefits participation, professional development reimbursements and approvals.

- C. ***AI Technologies for Staff:*** David Din, chief information officer, provided the School Board information regarding the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in education, including the timeline for staff training and support, and the measures in place to ensure internet safety through secure environments for the use of AI technology programs. The presentation outlined efforts to expand responsible AI use while strengthening division oversight. Staff already had access to managed Microsoft and Google AI tools, with Google Gemini also available to high school students. More than 7,700 employee accounts on ChatGPT and Claude, representing over half of employees, remained outside division management, creating gaps in account control and visibility into submitted information. The Department of Technology entered into agreements with OpenAI and Anthropic to establish managed environments, but the division had not yet provided either tool to staff. The division planned continued staff training, quarterly Board updates, continued stakeholder feedback, and a formally designated School Board Advisory Group by the end of 2026.

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After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding advisory group, AI license, data security, ownership and migration of staff-created content, potential costs after the complimentary period, and the possible impact on existing contracted services.

D. *School Board Meetings Second Quarter Forecast (October, November, December) 2026:*

Superintendent Robertson reviewed the quarterly forecast, including upcoming data presentations, the school calendar, accreditation and accountability updates, and tri-campus naming opportunities honoring Betty F. Williams. It was noted that the forecast is subject to input and revisions.

2. ***Closed Session:*** None during the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session.
3. ***School Board Recess:*** Chair Brown adjourned the Administrative, Informal, and Workshop session at 5:19 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 22nd day of September 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, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Member attended via Zoom: Mr. Culpepper (medical/family).
6. ***Moment of Silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance***
7. ***Student, Employee and Public Awards and Recognition:*** There were no awards this evening.
8. ***Adoption of the Agenda:*** Chair Brown mentioned the request from Mr. Cummings to move Policy 7-57/Vehicles, Motorized Devices and Animals on School Grounds from the Consent Agenda, Item #14A.10 to Action Item # 15B. Chair Brown called for any other modifications to

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the agenda. Without additional modifications, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified. Mr. Cummings made the motion, seconded by Dr. Green. Without discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced ten (10) ayes in favor of the motion to approve the agenda as presented and modified: 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.

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

Superintendent's Report: The Superintendent reported on division and community efforts that supported students and families, including Jump Start, which served more than 600 students, and the Back-to-School Care Fair, which welcomed more than 7,500 attendees and provided school supplies, health services, and haircuts. Students and staff also commemorated Patriot Day and Constitution Day through educational and service activities, while more than 8,000 fifth graders participated in Oceana STEM Day. The report concluded with reminders about Academy and Special Programs Night on October 21 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. and College Night on October 27 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Both events will be held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center.

Administrative Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointments: **Angelia T. Ragland**, instructional specialist, Department of Teaching and Learning, as assistant principal, Arrowhead Elementary School; and **Jennifer B. McGregor**, instructional specialist, Department of Teaching and Learning, as coordinator, Technology Academy, Landstown High School.

10. ***Approval of Meeting Minutes***

A. ***September 8, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting:*** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the September 8, 2026 School Board Meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Mr. Callan made the motion,



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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 September 8, 2026 minutes as presented: Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohensiel, Mr. Callan, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The motion passed, 10-0-0.

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

There were four (4) in-person speakers. The topics included B.F. Williams; teacher meal breaks; One Lunch; planning time; staff raises; Chromebooks in first grade; hands-on activities; AI presentation; limited device use; advisory group; and learning outcomes with 1-to-1 devices.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:26 p.m.

12. Information

- A. **Interim Financial Statements – June (unaudited), July and August 2026:** Daniel Hopkins, director, Office of Business Services, provided the School Board with information on the end-of-year financial statements. The FY 2026 financial report showed favorable overall results, with revenues exceeding budget by approximately \$9.9 million and expenditures ending \$31.2 million under budget, including \$8 million in debt service. After adjustments, approximately \$40.3 million was reverted to the City, and the School Board's preliminary share of the revenue-sharing surplus was estimated at approximately \$5 million. Staff indicated that potential uses of the reversion funds would be presented for Board discussion, and all reported figures remained unaudited and subject to change. There was a brief discussion after the presentation regarding the increase in revenues.
- B. **Policy Review Committee (PRC) Recommendations:** Recommended the School Board review recommendations regarding the amendment of certain policies and regulations as recommended by the Policy Review Committee at its September 9, 2026 meeting. Kamala Lannetti, school board attorney, reviewed the following:

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1. **Policy 5-37/Reporting Data About School Violence and Crime:** The PRC recommends adding language directly from the related Virginia Code sections.
 2. **Policy 5-57/Medications:** The PRC recommends updating the policy to align with the Code of Virginia and current School Division practices regarding epinephrine, insulin, and rescue inhalers. Additionally, the PRC recommends adding language allowing students to self-carry rescue seizure medications in response to recently passed legislation. A brief discussion followed regarding the policy, student medications, emergency treatments, seizure rescue medication, and diabetes management.
 3. **Policy 6-3/Accreditation:** The PRC recommends minor scrivener's changes.
 4. **Policy 6-6/Kindergarten Program:** The PRC recommends removing the Editor's Note to an outdated document and updating the related links.
 5. **Policy 6-7/Access to Programs:** The PRC recommends adding the language to align with the Code of Virginia and updating the legal reference and related links sections.
 6. **Policy 6-9/Religion in the Curriculum:** The PRC recommends updating the legal references.
 7. **Policy 6-31/Gifted Programs:** The PRC recommends updating Section B to align with the order of the local plan and confirm that the VDOE evaluates the local plan once every five (5) years.
- C. **Harbor Hope Center Recovery School: Year-One Implementation Evaluation:** Allison Bocl, Ph.D., program evaluation specialist, Office of Planning, Innovation, and Accountability, provided the School Board information on the Harbor Hope Center Recovery School: Year-One Implementation Evaluation Report and the administration's recommendations. During 2025–2026, the program enrolled 16 students against a target of 25, and half reached their recovery goals and transitioned out of the program. All four participating seniors earned a high school diploma or GED, and student attendance averaged 79 percent. Overall

satisfaction reached 88 percent among student respondents and 67 percent among parent respondents. Student engagement in online coursework remained a challenge, and the evaluation identified opportunities to strengthen the academic and recovery models.

Program costs totaled \$495,030, below the projected \$708,406, with an additional \$55,144 in local VBCPS transportation expenses. The evaluation recommended continuing Harbor Hope Center with targeted improvements, and the administration agreed, outlining plans to expand project-based learning and community partnerships, supplement the recovery curriculum, and increase daily group counseling from 45 to 90 minutes.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding program costs and long-term funding, enrollment and outreach, student withdrawals and eligibility, parent feedback, counseling and recovery supports, community partnerships, and indicators of the program's progress and success.

- D. **403(b) Oversight Committee Membership:** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information on 402(b) Oversight Committee Membership. The administration recommended appointing Darnita Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer, as a standing voting member of the 403(b) Oversight Committee to ensure division leadership representation and continuity of oversight. Chief of Staff, Cheryl Woodhouse, would remain on the committee as a nonvoting member.

E. **Budget Resolution Regarding FY 2025-26 Reversion and Revenue Sharing Formula**

Reconciliation: Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information regarding the FY 2025-26 Reversion and Revenue Sharing Formula Reconciliation. The FY 2025/26 reconciliation identified \$45.27 million available for reappropriation from reversion funds (\$40.26M) and a revenue-sharing adjustment (\$5.01M). The proposed plan allocated \$27.27 million to the Princess Anne High School replacement, \$2 million to the payroll system replacement, and \$16 million to future capital reserves, leaving no unallocated balance.

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After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding previously identified needs, deferred maintenance, operational improvements, needs aligned with current priorities, what restrictions applied to reversion funds, and how much flexibility existed to move funding among capital and maintenance projects.

- F. ***Resolution to Transfer Funds from the School Reserve Special Revenue Fund:*** Crystal Pate, chief financial officer, provided the School Board information regarding the Resolution to Move Reserve Special Revenue Fund funds. The presentation proposed reallocating \$5.8 million from the School Reserve Special Revenue Fund after the School Health Insurance Fund's financial position improved to a \$15.1 million balance as of June 30, 2026. City Council designated the reserve funds for health insurance fund, excluding employee premiums and required reporting within 30 days of any use. The proposed spending plan allocated \$2.8 million to payroll system replacement and \$3 million to the city's ITA Athletic Village and Preservation Area Plan, including a cross-country trail.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding restrictions on using reversion funds, options regarding the proposal, project's location, public access, student benefits, potential revenue and return on investment. There was a request for a presentation from the City or Parks and Recreation staff on the topic.

13. ***Return to public comments if needed:*** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:26 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 policies as recommended by the Policy Review Committee at its August 11, 2026 meeting.
1. ***Policy 3-74/New Construction/Additions/Alterations: Naming of School or Parts Thereof, Commemorative Displays:*** Recommended amendments that allow flexibility in



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naming facilities, grounds and/or buildings and reserving the School Board's right to make exceptions to the policy.

2. Policy 4-48/Leave of Absence for Employee and Professional Organization Officers:

Recommended updating the policy to reflect new legislation.

3. Policy 4-88/Holidays: Recommended adding Columbus Day to the list of potential staff holidays to be consistent in listing all Commonwealth of Virginia holidays.

4. Policy 5-30/Graduation Requirements/Diplomas/Certificates: Recommended amendments to reflect applicable legislation regarding who is eligible for diplomas and GEDs. The strikeouts were corrected as discussed at the September 8, 2026, School Board Meeting.

5. Policy 5-38/Freedom of Speech and Expression – Students: Recommended minor scrivener changes.

6. Policy 5-41/Student Dress and Grooming Codes: Recommended minor scrivener changes.

7. Policy 5-46/Student Government/City-Wide Student Cooperative Association: There are no recommended changes to this policy. It is being reviewed to conform with the 5-year review requirement.

8. Policy 5-52/Cell Phone-Free Education – Cellular Phones and Personal Electronic Communication Devices: Recommended adding the term "Smart Devices" to the policy to reflect statutory language regarding such devices.

9. Policy 5-66/Student Directory Information: Recommended adding language to align with legislation regarding immigration/citizenship status and the release of addresses of foster families.

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- B. **Budget Calendar** Recommended that the School Board approve information on the Budget Calendar for the FY 2027-28 Operating Budget and the 2027-28 – 2023-32 Capital Improvement Program.

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 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 September 22, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Callan, that the School Board approve the appointments, and the acceptance of the resignations, retirements, and other employment actions, as listed on the September 22, 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 September 22, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Katherine “Ryan” Goldberg, Ph.D.**, director, instructional technology, Department of Teaching and Learning, as executive director, elementary teaching and learning, Department of Teaching and Learning.

- B. **Policy 7-57/Vehicles, Motorized Devices and Animals on School Grounds:** Note, item was moved from the Consent Agenda to Action during the Adoption of the Agenda. See Item #8.

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Recommended clarifying the use of motorized vehicles on School Division property, considering the rise in popularity of e-bikes.

Chair Brown called for a motion to approve Policy 7-57/Vehicles, Motorized Devices and Animals on School Grounds. Vice Chair Weems made the motion, seconded by Ms. Dwyer. A discussion followed regarding the policy, considered students' transportation needs and autonomy alongside concerns about accidents, speed, weight, battery fires, enforcement, and conflicting language in the existing policy.

Mr. Cummings moved to return Policy 7-57 to the Policy Review Committee (PRC), and Ms. Rogers seconded the motion. A discussion followed regarding student use of e-bikes and electric scooters on school property, policy language, enforcement, and safety. Without further discussion, Chair Brown called for a vote. The School Board Clerk announced there were eight (8) ayes in favor of the motion to return Policy 7-57 to the Policy Review Committee (PRC): Chair Brown, Vice Chair Weems, Mr. Bohenstiel, Mr. Culpepper, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. There were two (2) nays opposed to the motion to return Policy 7-57 to the Policy Review Committee: Mr. Callan, and Ms. Dwyer. The motion passed, 8-2-0.

16. ***Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Ms. Felton mentioned the Betty F. Williams Ad Hoc Committee meeting, the history associated with the facility, community participation, and the next meeting scheduled for September 29, 2026. Ms. Felton also discussed STEM Day at Oceana and recognized participating students and staff. Chair Brown mentioned the Legislative Committee meeting scheduled for October 2 at 9:30 a.m., and on behalf of Ms. Melnyk, the Building Utilization Committee meeting would follow the Legislative Committee meeting. Ms. Rogers mentioned the Mental Health Task Force and a Landstown High School student serving as a student ambassador. Vice Chair Weems mentioned the Harbor Hope Center Governing Board directed the superintendent and staff to examine adding vaping-related criteria. Lastly, it was shared that the Internal Audit Committee meeting is scheduled for September 28 at 3:30 p.m. in the School Board Chamber.



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17. ***Return to Administrative, Informal, Workshop or Closed Session matters:*** None.

18. ***Adjournment:*** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair