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, October 13, 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 13th day of October 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, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Members attended the meeting via Zoom: Mr. Bohenstiel (medical reasons), and Ms. Melnyk (personal reasons/out of town).

   A. ***School Board Administrative Matters and Reports:*** Ms. Felton attended Bayside Middle School's college and career night on October 8. Ms. Rogers mentioned commemorative celebrations for October. Mr. Cummings visited Tallwood High School and observed a class. On Friday, he did school visits with Dr. Robertson. Vice Chair Weems attended the Teacher Forum and recognized Willie Keels, security assistant, Independence Middle School, who assisted a student who was choking.

   B. ***Student Meal Debt Quarterly Update:*** Rachel Amato, director, Office of Food Services, provided the School Board information regarding the challenges with unpaid student meal debt and efforts to address unpaid balances. Active meal debt totaled $383,509.71 as of September 30, 2026, compared with the reported 2026 balance of $448,605.18. More than

half of students received no-cost meals through 38 Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) schools and free and reduced-price meal benefits at other schools. The Student Meal Debt Committee coordinated outreach across departments and schools through multilingual resources, targeted family notifications, and weekly balance monitoring. Planned next steps emphasized clearer communications, expanded eligibility outreach, improved data support, community partnerships, and donations through All for Lunch.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding debt-reduction goals, long-term accountability, use of funds, debt account, eligibility and application completion.

C. ***Instructional Time Quarter 1 Update:*** Ryan Goldburg, Ph.D., executive director, Office of Elementary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board information on instructional time at the elementary level. The presentation reviewed first-quarter implementation of revised classroom technology guidelines following the June adoption of Policy 6-18. New instructional supports included kindergarten listening centers and audiobooks, K–1 literacy materials, and mathematics kits and teaching resources.

Teacher advisory feedback highlighted more hands-on and social learning and useful, age-appropriate materials, while identifying increased workload, fewer tools for individualized instruction, and disruptions to assessment and family connections. The next steps included continued teacher feedback, curriculum and independent-task adjustments, specialist support, and ongoing advisory meetings.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding instructional resources, device use, emergency learning plans, stakeholder feedback, and student progress.

2. Closed Session: At 4:53 p.m., Vice Chair Weems made the following motion, seconded by Dr. Green, 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, 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. Personnel Matter – individual personnel cases.
B. Student Matter – individual student complaints or cases.
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. Callan, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Dwyer, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers.

Note, Mr. Culpepper was not present during the vote. Mr. Bohenstiel and Ms. Melnyk did not participate in the Closed Session since they were attending the meeting via Zoom.

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

A. ***Personnel Matter – individual personnel cases:*** 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; Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

At 5:04 p.m., the following staff members joined the Closed Session: Darnita Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer, and Stephanie Enzmann, director, Office of Employee Relations.

B. ***Student Matter – individual student complaints or cases:*** 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; Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff; Darnita Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer; Stephanie Enzmann, director, Office of Employee Relations; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; 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. 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; Cheryl R. Woodhouse, chief of staff; Darnita Trotman, Ed.D., chief human resources officer; Stephanie Enzmann, director, Office of Employee Relations; Dannielle Hall-McIvor, senior school board attorney; and Regina M. Toneatto, school board clerk.

The School Board reconvened at 5:31 p.m.

Certification of Closed Session: Vice Chair Weems read the following:

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 Dr. Green. 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 5:32 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 13th day of October 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, Ms. Felton, Dr. Green, and Ms. Rogers. The following School Board Members attended the meeting via Zoom: Mr. Bohenstiel (medical reasons), and Ms. Melnyk (personal reasons/out of town).

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 called for any modifications to the agenda as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Mr. Cummings 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)*

Administrative Recognitions: Superintendent Robertson introduced the following appointment: **Katherine "Ryan" Goldburg, Ph.D.**, director, instructional technology, Department of Teaching and Learning, as executive director, elementary teaching and learning, Department of Teaching and Learning.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. ***September 22, 2026 Regular School Board Meeting:*** Chair Brown called for any modifications to the September 22, 2026 regular meeting minutes as presented. Hearing none, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the September 22, 2026, minutes as presented. Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Dr. Green. 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 September 22, 2026 minutes as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

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

There were two (2) in-person speakers. The topics included science; electrons; World's Fair; screen time; hands-on learning; technology to support learners; Policy 6-18; individualized instruction; professional learning; and assessments.

The Public Comments concluded at 6:10 p.m.

12. Information

A. Course Proposals:

1. Anatomy and Physiology: Thomas Quinn, executive director, Office of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board information regarding a course proposal for Anatomy and Physiology. The administration proposed a one-credit anatomy and physiology elective beginning in 2027–28 to expand student access and support health science pathways. The course would use existing staff and require

approximately $15,000 for initial supplies. After the presentation, there was a question regarding funding for the course.

2. ***IB MYP German I, II, & III:*** Crystal Lewis-Wilkerson, Ed.D., director, Office of K-12 and Gifted Programs, provided the School Board information on the addition of Middle Years Programme (MYP) German I & II, MYP German III, Diploma Programme (DP) German IV, and DP German V classes as a language pathway for the International Baccalaureate (IB) program at Princess Anne High School beginning the 2027-2028 school year. The presentation proposed an International Baccalaureate (IB) German pathway at Princess Anne High School to provide a third modern-language option for meeting the IB second-language requirement and expand access to advanced coursework. The proposal was built on the school's existing language and IB infrastructure following the discontinuation of IB Latin in 2022. It emphasized using trained teachers and existing resources while avoiding textbook costs and supporting language proficiency, international-mindedness, and intercultural understanding. The proposed rollout began with MYP German 1/2 and German 3 in 2027–2028, followed by DP German 4 in 2028–2029 and DP German 5 in 2029–2030.

   After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding enrollment, staffing, curriculum, and costs associated with adding German to the IB program, and the discontinuation of Latin.

3. ***Principles of Management & Philosophy 111: Logic:*** Thomas Quinn, executive director, Office of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board a proposal to add two courses to the Entrepreneur and Business Academy (EBA) at Kempsville High School, in partnership with Tidewater Community College (TCC), supporting the business administration associate degree pathway.

   Business 200: Principles of Management would replace Business 280: Introduction to International Business. Offered in the spring with existing staff, it would earn students one-half division credit and three college credits. The textbook cost of about $3,240 per 30-student section is already in the EBA budget, with no tuition charge from TCC.

Philosophy 111: Logic would be added as an option alongside Philosophy 220: Ethics to ease staffing and scheduling challenges with TCC-taught summer courses. Students would earn one-half division credit and three TCC credits. They would pay for their own textbook ($79.99) and a tuition cost of about $75 each. For an estimated 25 students, the projected cost was about $1,875, which is already covered in the EBA budget.

After the presentation, a discussion followed with questions and comments regarding course access division-wide, and if course qualified for weighted credit.

4. ***AP Business with Personal Finance;*** and
5. ***AP Cybersecurity:*** Thomas Quinn, executive director, Office of Secondary Teaching and Learning, provided the School Board information on two new courses to be offered in the Fall of 2027.

   AP Business with Personal Finance: Year-long, one credit. The Virginia Board of Education has approved it as a substitute for Economics and Personal Finance, so it satisfies that graduation requirement. It would be taught by existing staff with no budget impact.

   AP Cybersecurity: Year-long, one credit, offered at the Governor's STEM Academy at Landstown High School and the Advanced Technology Center for students who have completed the relevant CTE course sequence. It would use existing space, equipment, and staff. The College Board will provide free teacher training in summer 2027, and textbooks would be funded from the existing textbook budget, so there is no new budget impact. After the presentation, there was a question regarding weighted credit for either course.

13. ***Return to public comments if needed:*** As noted, under Agenda Item #11, the Public Comments concluded at 6:10 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 September 9, 2026 meeting.

1. ***Policy 5-37/Reporting Data About School Violence and Crime:*** Recommended adding language directly from the related Virginia Code sections.
2. ***Policy 5-57/Medications:*** Recommended 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.
3. ***Policy 6-3/Accreditation:*** Recommended minor scrivener's changes.
4. ***Policy 6-6/Kindergarten Program:*** Recommended removing the Editor's Note to an outdated document and updating the related links.
5. ***Policy 6-7/Access to Programs:*** Recommended 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:*** Recommended updating the legal references.
7. ***Policy 6-31/Gifted Programs:*** Recommended updating Section B to align with the order with the local plan and confirm that the VDOE evaluates the local plan once every five (5) years.

B. ***Harbor Hope Center Recovery School: Year-One Implementation Evaluation Recommendations:*** Recommended that the School Board approve the administration's recommendations that were proposed in response to the Harbor Hope Center Recovery School: Year-One Implementation Evaluation.

C. ***403(b) Oversight Committee Membership:*** Recommended that the School Board approve the recommendation to add the Chief Human Resources Officer to the 403(b) Oversight Committee as a voting member.

D. ***2025-2026 Annual Field Trip Report:*** Recommended that the School Board accept the 2025-2026 annual field trip report.

E. ***HRT Bus Shelter Easement – N. Witchduck Road – Renaissance Academy:*** Recommended that the School Board approve the Chair to execute a Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) bus

shelter easement along the sidewalk fronting N. Witchduck Rd, on School Board property used for Renaissance Academy.

After reading the items on the Consent Agenda, Chair Brown asked if there were any objections to voting on the Consent Agenda as presented. Ms. Rogers requested to move Consent Agenda Items #14D (2025-2026 Annual Field Trip Report) and #14E (HRT Bus Shelter Easement – N. Witchduck Road – Renaissance Academy) to Action. Without further modifications, Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and modified (without items #14D and #14E). Ms. Dwyer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers. 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 and modified: 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) nay opposed to the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as presented and modified: Ms. Melnyk. The motion passed, 10-1-0.

15. Action

A. ***Personnel Report/Administrative Appointments:*** Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the October 13, 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 October 13, 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 October 13, 2026 personnel report and administrative appointments. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

Superintendent Robertson mentioned the following appointment: **Steven B. Tyler,** transportation area supervisor, Office of Transportation and Fleet Management Services, as coordinator, transportation routing and analytics, Office of Transportation and Fleet Management Services.

B. ***2025-2026 Annual Field Trip Report:*** Note, item moved from Consent Agenda. See Agenda Item #14 (page 11). Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Annual Field Trip Report. Ms. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Vice Chair Weems. A discussion followed regarding Policy 6-56 and Regulation 6-56.1, which requires an annual field trip report and that, consistent with longstanding practice, the detailed report had been included in the consent agenda packet. 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 the 2025-2026 Annual Field Trip Report. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

C. ***HRT Bus Shelter Easement – N. Witchduck Road – Renaissance Academy:*** Note, item moved from Consent Agenda. See Agenda Item #14 (page 11). Chair Brown called for a motion to approve the HRT Bus Shelter Easement – N. Witchduck Road – Renaissance Academy. Ms. Rogers made the motion, seconded by Dr. Green. A discussion followed regarding the shelter. Staff explained that Hampton Roads Transit (HRT) requested a permanent easement at Renaissance Academy to install and maintain a shelter at an existing bus stop on North Witchduck Road. The easement preserved School Board ownership of the property while assigning HRT responsibility for shelter maintenance and repairs. The discussion continued with questions and comments regarding reason for shelter, responsibility for maintenance and repair, deed and property ownership. 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 the HRT Bus Shelter Easement – N. Witchduck Road – Renaissance Academy. The motion passed unanimously, 11-0-0.

16. ***Committee, Organization or Board Reports:*** Dr. Green mentioned the Legislative Breakfast on December 4 at 8:30 a.m. at the Renaissance Academy. Betty F. Williams Ad Hoc Committee public information session on October 20 at 6:00 p.m. at Bayside Middle School. Vice Chair Weems attended the Superintendent's Student Roundtable with Dr. Green. Students discussed topics regarding school calendar and vaping. The Policy Review Committee meeting is scheduled for tomorrow (October 14) at 1:30 p.m. Ms. Rogers attended the Teacher Forum meeting and

the calendar committee meeting. Ms. Felton mentioned the Sister Cities committee meeting on October 14, to discuss preparations for the international gala.

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

18. ***Adjournment:*** Chair Brown adjourned the meeting at 6:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Regina M. Toneatto, Clerk of the School Board

Approved:

Kathleen J. Brown, School Board Chair