

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA  
August 14, 2017**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, August 14, 2017, at 5 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Mr. C. Jeff Bunn, Chairman, presided.

**The Call to Order**

Mr. Bunn called the meeting to order. He welcomed visitors to the meeting and informed them that a printed agenda for the meeting was available.

**Roll Call**

Dr. Jean Infantino called the roll and recorded attendance as follows:

Present:           Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr.  
                      Mrs. Colleen C. Leary  
                      Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.  
                      Mr. Harry A. Murphy  
                      Mrs. Christie New Craig  
                      Mr. Louis J. Tayon, Jr.  
                      Mr. Michael J. Woods  
                      Mrs. Victoria L. Proffitt, Vice Chairman  
                      Mr. C. Jeff Bunn, Chairman

Also present were Dr. James T. Roberts, Superintendent; Dr. Jacqueline C. Miller, Assistant Superintendent for Student Services; Dr. Anita B. James, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance; Ms. J. Paige Stutz, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and School Services; Dr. Jean A. Infantino, Executive Director of Administrative Services/Clerk of the Board; Mr. Robert J. Barry, Attorney; and Mrs. Darlene N. Gorman, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

**Adoption of the Agenda**

Dr. Roberts had no amendments to the agenda, but said he would need a closed session for two real estate matters, two personnel matters, and two matters requiring consultation with the attorney. Mrs. Proffitt moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

**Closed Session**

Mr. Bunn asked Mr. Barry to prepare the language for the Board to go into closed session. Mr. Barry stated that the motion should read as follows:

“The Board convened in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for consideration of two personnel matters, two real estate matters, and two matters requiring consultation with legal counsel.”

Mr. Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session as provided in the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Proffitt and approved with all Board members present voting yes.

### **Reconvene in Open Meeting**

The meeting reconvened in open session. Mrs. Proffitt moved the record show that the only items discussed in the closed meeting were those specifically cited in the motion to convene into closed session. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

### **Items Resulting from Closed Session**

The Superintendent recommended the following appointments effective July 1, 2017.

1. Dr. Gwendolyn J. Moss, from assistant principal, Deep Creek Middle School, to supervisor of school nutrition services
2. Mrs. Lychellia L. Cheeks, from supervisor of social studies and world languages, Instructional Services Center, to assistant principal, Deep Creek Middle School

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the recommended appointments. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

The Board observed a moment of silence. Mr. Tayon led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

### **Clerk's Items**

#### **Memorial Resolution for Mrs. Janice Lee Edwards Featherston:**

Dr. Infantino advised that a Memorial Resolution honoring the life and service of Mrs. Janice Lee Edwards Featherston had been prepared. Mrs. Featherston was employed with Chesapeake Public Schools for forty-two years, most recently as assistant principal at Deep Creek Central Elementary School. Mrs. Barbara Fortner, principal of Deep Creek Central Elementary School, gave opening comments. Mrs. Fortner recognized Mrs. Featherston's family and the faculty and staff of Deep Creek Central Elementary School who were attending.

**RESOLUTION  
HONORING THE LIFE AND MEMORY OF  
MRS. JANICE LEE EDWARDS FEATHERSTON**

BE IT KNOWN TO ALL PERSONS that we, the members of the Chesapeake School Board, here assembled on this fourteenth day of August 2017, do hereby pay tribute to the life and memory of Mrs. Janice Lee Edwards Featherston.

WHEREAS, Mrs. Featherston after graduating as an honor graduate from Greensville County High School, went on to graduate from Norfolk State College where she received a bachelor's degree in early childhood education in 1975, and then went on to receive her master's degree in administration and leadership in 1985 from Old Dominion University; and

WHEREAS, for the past forty-two years, Mrs. Featherston served this city, its citizens, and its children with distinction and honor in various positions of educational leadership; and

WHEREAS, these positions included a classroom teacher at Great Bridge Elementary School and Deep Creek Intermediate School, summer school building principal and assistant principal at Butts Road Elementary/Primary School, Greenbrier Primary School, G. W. Carver Intermediate School, and B. M. Williams Primary School; a Title I reading supervisor; and most recently as the assistant principal at Deep Creek Central Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, she loved her students, had faith in each of them and their talents, and will always be remembered for her quiet strength, gentleness, smile, special gift of making everyone feel important, and for her love of learning and the joy it brought to everyone; and

WHEREAS, she was always willing to assist those who needed help, as evidenced by her devotion to her students' success and her love of learning; her great desire was to educate and make a difference in students' lives; and

WHEREAS, she was highly esteemed by her colleagues, students, and friends and was recognized by them as an invaluable asset to the school system and to the community; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the members of the School Board of the city of Chesapeake, do gratefully acknowledge her service to the school system and extend to her family our heartfelt sympathy at her passing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the minutes of this date and the original presented to her family as evidence of our esteem and reverence for the memory of Mrs. Janice Lee Edwards Featherston.

Attest:

C. Jeff Bunn, Chairman  
Victoria L. Proffitt, Vice Chairman  
Samuel L. Boone, Jr.  
Colleen C. Leary  
Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.  
Harry A. Murphy  
Christie New Craig  
Louis J. Tayon, Jr.  
Michael J. Woods

James T. Roberts, Superintendent  
Jean A. Infantino, Clerk

At the conclusion of the reading of the resolution, Mrs. Leary moved for adoption. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Proffitt with all Board members present voting in favor of adoption.

### **Hearing of Citizens**

Erin O'Liphart, 812 Yorkshire Trail, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke to the Board regarding the deteriorating conditions of the equipment and facilities at Great Bridge High School along with their declining enrollment.

### **Unfinished Business**

**Continuation of Board Reorganization:** Annually, the chairman appoints School Board members to various bodies where the Board member represents the School Board and votes on behalf of the School Board. The chairman made the following appointments to regional governing boards and committees.

Chesapeake Public Schools Educational Foundation Board of Directors:  
Mr. Bunn and Mr. Tayon, representatives; Mrs. Proffitt, alternate

Governor's School for the Arts: Mr. Bunn, representative; Mrs. New Craig, alternate

Southeastern Cooperative Educational Programs: Mr. Mercer, representative; Mr. Boone, alternate

WHRO Education Advisory Council: Mrs. Proffitt, representative

VSBA Delegates to the Annual VSBA Convention: Mr. Mercer, delegate; Mr. Woods, alternate delegate

Mrs. Proffitt moved to approve the appointments. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tayon and passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion. The Chair noted that Board Members also serve on other committees and groups and reported the following:

ACCESS College Foundation: Mrs. Leary, representative; Mr. Murphy, alternate

Chesapeake Public Schools Special Education Committee: Mr. Boone and Mrs. Leary, representatives

Chesapeake Youth Committee: Mr. Tayon, representative

City's School Health Advisory Board: Mrs. Leary, representative

Student Wellness Advisory Board: Mr. Boone, representative

**Revised 2017-2018 School Board Meeting Calendar:** The Superintendent advised the Board that the first scheduled planning meeting on September 21 will conflict with the First Citizen's dinner scheduled that evening. Mrs. Proffitt moved to schedule the planning meeting prior to the regular Board meeting on September 25 beginning at 2:30 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Tayon and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

### **New Business**

None

### **Consent Agenda**

The chairman requested approval of the consent agenda. Items included the following:

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting
- B. Bids
- C. Department of Human Resources – Personnel Report

Mr. Mercer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

### **Superintendent's Report**

**Announcements:** The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. The new teacher reception will be held on August 24, 2017, at Greenbrier Middle School. There will be a brief program in the auditorium at 8 a.m. with a reception following in the cafeteria from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
2. The Summer School Graduation Program will be held on August 15, 2017, at 7 p.m. at Indian River High School.
3. The first day of school visitation schedule was provided for Board members in BoardDocs. This schedule contained the names of staff members who will accompany Board members and the schools they will visit.
4. A list of topics for discussion will be provided at the August 28, 2017, School Board meeting for the School Board planning meeting on September 25, 2017, at 2:30 p.m. Dr. Roberts noted that if there are any particular topics that Board members would like to discuss to contact the Clerk of the Board so they can be included on the list.
5. The results of the graduation survey were included in BoardDocs for review by Board members.
6. Chesapeake Public schools hosted the Excellence Through Equity Conference for Region II at Western Branch High School on Tuesday, August 1, 2017. Dr. Roberts thanked all Board members who took time out of their busy schedules to attend this conference. He also thanked staff members for all of their hard work at this very successful conference and noted that over 800 people attended from Region II.

7. Dr. Roberts attended and presented comments to the State School Board at a public hearing held on Wednesday, August 9, 2017, regarding their new accreditation standards, some of which will be implemented this year.
8. The Superintendent extended a warm welcome to Mrs. Darlene Gorman, the new Deputy Clerk of the School Board.

**School Improvement Update:** As required by a Memorandum of Understanding between Chesapeake Public Schools and the Virginia Department of Education, Dr. James introduced Ms. Diane Watkins, Director of Assessment and Accountability, who provided an update on our projected accreditation status based on preliminary data released by the VDOE on July 24, 2017. Ms. Watkins stated that the information she reported during the June 26, 2017, Board meeting will remain the same. The state will release more detailed information in their press release on August 16, 2017, which Ms. Watkins highlighted during her presentation.

**Proposed Revisions to School Board Regulations R 6-38 – Home Instruction:** The proposed regulations were presented to the Board for information and do not require Board action. Dr. James noted the revision requiring our division to notify parents of home-schooled students of future National Merit Scholarship qualifying examinations and any other tests that may be added in the future. Dr. Roberts noted that this revision will be included in the school policy manual.

**Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy P 9-20 – Student Behavior - First Reading:** The proposed revision to this policy became effective July 1, 2017, which requires all school principals to notify parents of the status of any bullying investigation within five school days, as clarified by Mr. Mercer. A motion was made by Mrs. Proffitt to approve the proposed revisions on First Reading. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion. The proposed revisions will be brought under Consent Agenda at the August 28, 2017, Board meeting.

### **Board Member Items**

Mr. Bunn extended summer birthday wishes to Dr. Vaughan, Mr. Woods, Mr. Boone, and Dr. James. He also welcomed Mrs. Darlene Gorman as Deputy Clerk of the School Board and thanked Dr. James and her staff for their excellent work on the Equity conference.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 p.m.

---

Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

---

C. Jeff Bunn, Chairman