

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
November 19, 2018**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, November 19, 2018, at 5 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman, presided.

The Call to Order

Ms. Proffitt called the meeting to order. She 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.
 Mr. C. Jeff Bunn
 Dr. Patricia Y. King
 Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.
 Mr. Harry A. Murphy
 Mr. Michael J. Woods
 Mrs. Christie New Craig (excused at 7:03 p.m.)
 Mrs. Colleen C. Leary, Vice Chairman
 Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman

Also present were Dr. Jared A. Cotton, 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. Cotton had no amendments to the agenda but said he would need a closed session for student matters and two contractual matters. Mr. Murphy moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mrs. New Craig seconded the motion, which passed with all members present voting in favor of the motion.

Closed Session

Ms. Proffitt 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 should convene in closed session pursuant to Section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, for consideration of student matters and two contractual matters.”

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

Reconvene in Open Meeting

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

Items Resulting from Closed Session

The superintendent recommended the long-term suspension of student #1 and student #2 for 180 days under the conditions discussed. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the superintendent’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

A moment of silence was observed, and Miss Jazmyn Alexandria Sammons, a fifth grader at Greenbrier Intermediate School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Clerk’s Items

Dr. Infantino introduced Dr. Angela P. Smith, public information officer, who recognized twelve school representatives and/or principals who earned the 2018 Purple Star Designation Award. This prestigious award is presented to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation’s military. Chesapeake Public Schools had the highest number of Purple Star designated schools in the Hampton Roads region and the second highest number in the state. Representatives and/or principals from the following schools were recognized: B. M. Williams Primary School, Camelot Elementary School, Cedar Road Elementary School, Deep Creek Central Elementary School, Deep Creek Middle School, Grassfield Elementary School, Grassfield High School, Great Bridge High School, Hickory Middle School, Indian River High School, Oscar F. Smith High School, and Western Branch High School,

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan, 2019-2029: No citizens requested time to speak before the Board on this topic.

Hearing of Citizens

Miss Jayda Peets, 113 Queensbury Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about schools being closed on election day.

Mrs. Victoria Nichols, 1124 Mill Lake Quarter, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about solar towers, not stopping for bus signs, and bus driver pay.

Mrs. Michelle Prescott, 1040 Saint Lawrence Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about the shortage of school nurses.

Mrs. Jewell Foot, 1710 Martin Avenue, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about personnel and safety issues at Oscar Smith Middle School.

Miss Grace Pullen and Mr. Jack Mills, 614 Piping Rock Drive, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about environmental quality.

Unfinished Business

Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), 2019-2029 – Work Session and Final Action: Dr. Cotton called on Mr. John Bertocchi, new construction and planning administrator, who reviewed the Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2019-2029. Mr. Bertocchi reviewed the summer projects for 2019, year one projects, the anticipated funds from the city, the anticipated projects that will be funded through June 2020, the yearly project costs for the first five years, 2019-2024, and the joint city and schools' projects.

The total cost of the first five years of the CIP is \$475,433,800. A public hearing, work session, and request for final action are scheduled for the December 10, 2018, Board meeting. Additional copies of the CIP are available at the School Administration Building, at www.cpschools.com, and at all branches of the public library.

Mrs. Leary asked where we could add sustainability into projects in this Capital Improvement Plan. She gave examples of possibilities at E. W. Chittum Elementary School or possibly with the design of Crestwood Intermediate School or Crestwood Middle School. Ms. Stutz noted that we do consider all things and mentioned the use of waterless urinals at Grassfield High School and the pilot solar project at Western Branch High School with Dominion Resources. She noted that rainwater from the roof at Oscar F. Smith High School has been used to water the fields. She stated that when feasible, we try to incorporate sustainability in all of our projects, but many times, it is not spelled out in the CIP.

Joint School Facility Plan and Redistricting Study: Updates were provided to Board members from the joint meeting with city council and staff members. Feedback from the Board was incorporated to include a plan for community engagement, as well as including the methodology used in order to determine the priorities. Dr. Cotton asked for Board approval of the scope of the request for proposal (RFP) being worked on jointly with city council. Mrs. Leary moved to approve the scope of the Joint School Facility Plan and Redistricting Study. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mercer 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. Chesapeake Public Schools' Gifted Education Advisory Committee - Approval of New Members
- C. Chesapeake Public Schools' Special Education Advisory Committee Report: By-Laws and Approval of New Members
- D. School Board Policy P 8-60 - Bereavement Leave Revision
- E. Department of Human Resources - Personnel Report

Mr. Mercer moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn. The motion passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. November is Military Family Appreciation Month, GIS Day, and Native American Heritage Month.
2. We will celebrate the Thanksgiving holidays with an early release on Wednesday, November 21, 2018, and all schools and offices will be closed on Thursday, November 22, 2018, and Friday, November 23, 2018.

3. Superintendent's Spotlight Report:

On November 2, 2018, Thurgood Marshall Elementary School welcomed Dr. Atif Qarni, Virginia's Secretary of Education. He met with students in the media center and was joined by Dr. Cotton, Delegate Cliff Hayes, and other local leaders for a tour of the school given by Principal Lopez. These guests witnessed some of the innovative ways our students meet state standards.

In honor of Veterans Day, schools across the division found unique ways to honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans. We are proud of our strong connection to our military community and thank all of our veterans for their service.

Dr. Cotton met with last year's Teachers of the Year honorees (Keepers of the Flame) at their fall meeting. For almost twenty years, this group has come together twice annually to provide the superintendent the opportunity to meet and garner feedback on various educational issues to help shape the future of our division.

Recently the superintendent had the opportunity to meet with the Chesapeake Educational Foundation's Blue Ribbon Committee at Rena B. Wright Primary School where students shared their artwork and writing projects. The Blue Ribbon Committee donated items to the school's Thanksgiving food drive.

Great Bridge High School and Grassfield High School have both hosted "Coffee With a Cop" programs in collaboration with the Chesapeake Police Department. The goal is to break down barriers between law enforcement and students, staff, and citizens. These programs allow the opportunity to ask questions, voice concerns, and get to know our police officers.

Another powerful initiative in our elementary schools is Watch Dogs or Dads of Great Students. These "watch dogs" provide positive male role models and demonstrate the importance of education.

Dr. Cotton joined several Board members at the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Conference last week in Williamsburg. He and Ms. Proffitt presented a Lunch and Learn Session on the critical role of the School Board in the strategic planning process.

E. W. Chittum Elementary School celebrated its sixtieth anniversary on Friday, November 16, 2018. Students and staff members dressed up to celebrate six decades of education.

Strategic Approach to Upgrading the Division's Network: Dr. Cotton introduced Mrs. Kathleen R. Pitchford, director of information technology, who reviewed the various challenges and the strategic approach to upgrading the division's network infrastructure over the next two years.

Mr. Mercer thanked Mrs. Pitchford for all of the hard work performed recently by her department regarding the challenges of the network infrastructure.

Status of New Construction Projects: Mr. Gregory A. Hanson, supervisor of new construction, reviewed the status of new construction projects consisting of additions to B. M. Williams Primary School, Oscar Smith High School, Hickory Middle School, and the replacement of Great Bridge Primary School.

Superintendent's Listening and Learning Survey Results: Mrs. Penny C. Goodin, program administrator for school improvement planning and program evaluation, reviewed the results of the Listening and Learning Survey conducted from July 2018 through October 2018. This survey consisted of four questions designed to gather input from Chesapeake Public Schools stakeholders regarding the division's strengths, traditions, current practices, and challenges. She reviewed our greatest challenges and the various steps planned for improvement in order to finalize and implement a strategic plan.

Despite all of the efforts made to gather more responses, Mr. Bunn was a little disappointed that we only received a little over 1,100 responders considering we have almost 40,000 students. He thanked Mrs. Goodin for the presentation.

School Board Policy Revisions: Dr. Brooke S. Rudis, supervisor of pupil discipline, reviewed the revisions to School Board Policy P 9-21 – Suspension and Expulsion. She also reviewed changes to School Board Regulations R 9-21 – Suspension and Expulsion and School Board Regulations R 9-22 – Substance Abuse, although Board approval is not required for changes made to regulations. Mr. Mercer asked if these revisions were required due to the action of the General Assembly. Dr. Cotton said that was true for the majority of the revisions with the exception of short-term suspension appeals. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the revisions. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leary and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion. These items will be placed on the Consent Agenda for final action at the December Board meeting.

Board Member Items

Ms. Proffitt announced that Mr. Paul Joseph, principal, at Oscar F. Smith High School, will be honored for his leadership at the annual Martin Luther King Leadership Breakfast to be held on Monday, January 21, 2019. The two youth honorees are Mr. Aaron Shirley, a track star at Oscar F. Smith High School who recently committed to Harvard University, along with Mr. Cam-Ron Kelly, the quarterback of the football team at Oscar F. Smith High School. Mr. Kelly has committed to Auburn University. Both of

these students have a 4.0+ grade point average. Ms. Proffitt is looking forward to honoring them all at the breakfast.

Ms. Proffitt also announced on Monday, December 2, 2018, staff and Board members are invited to participate in Kids Kruz 2018 at the Edinburg Walmart. Mr. James C. Archbell III of A & W Contractors and his foundation host this event for 1,500 of our Title I students. These children receive a \$30.00 gift card to Walmart to shop for gifts for themselves or family members. They are treated to a pizza party with special guest, Santa Claus, and then board buses to see the holiday lights display in Virginia Beach. Four lucky students from each bus will receive bikes or scooters. Ms. Proffitt expressed her gratitude to Mr. Archbell and his foundation for their generosity.

Ms. Leary also thanked Mr. Archbell for his generosity. Students usually buy not for themselves but for their families. Ms. Leary also expressed her appreciation to all of our school nurses and recognized their increased workload. She fully supports proper funding for these nurses.

Dr. King noted that everyone has the opportunity to vote on Election Day, as the polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Mr. Bunn was proud of the students who spoke before the Board tonight and is very interested in other “green” programs involving our students.

Mr. Mercer, along with four other Board members, attended the Virginia School Boards Association meeting in Williamsburg. It was a wonderful opportunity to gather new ideas. He also gave a “shout-out” to Mrs. Pitchford and her IT department along with Ms. Lucente and the budget and finance department. Various viruses affected our payroll system, and he, as well as other Board members who were contacted, appreciated all the extra effort to ensure everyone received their extra pay on time.

Mrs. Proffitt extended belated birthday wishes to Dr. King and wished Mr. Bunn a happy birthday. She also wished Mrs. Pitchford a happy birthday on November 22, 2018.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman