

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
February 11, 2019**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, February 11, 2019, at 4:30 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. Colleen C. Leary, Vice Chairman
 Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman

Excused: Mrs. Christie New Craig

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, three real estate matters, and one personnel matter. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Mr. Mercer seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

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. Mr. Murphy 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 extended long-term suspension of Student #1 under the conditions discussed. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Woods and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

The superintendent recommended the following appointment:

1. Mr. Gregory A. Hanson, from supervisor of new construction, School Plants, to director of new construction, School Plants.

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

Invocation

Senior Associate Pastor Dr. David D. Velloney from River Oak Church gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Captain La'Nita Easton, a teacher at Indian River Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Clerk's Items

Special Recognitions - Chesapeake Scholar Athletes: Dr. Jean Infantino introduced Mr. Wayne Martin, director of student services, who recognized 30 Chesapeake Scholar Athletes who distinguished themselves through special achievements or accomplishments.

Special Recognitions - Fall Chesapeake Champions: Mr. Martin also recognized 60 Fall Chesapeake Champions who distinguished themselves through special achievements or accomplishments. A complete list of the students and staff who were recognized is available through the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

School Board Appreciation Month: The Governor has declared February as School Board Appreciation Month in Virginia. The Superintendent presented certificates of appreciation to members of the School Board. Each Board member received a special gift of “little hawks” from students who attend Southeastern Elementary School.

2019 VSBA Tidewater Regional Spring Network Forum – April 8, 2019: Dr. Infantino reminded Board members of the 2019 VSBA Tidewater Regional Spring Network Forum scheduled for April 8, 2019, in Suffolk. Information is available in BoardDocs. No Board members showed interest in attending this forum.

Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Victoria Nichols, 1124 Mill Lake Quarter, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke on a variety of topics.

Mrs. Mandi Turner, 844 Taft Road, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about transportation.

Unfinished Business

Legislative Update: Dr. Infantino reported that crossover occurred on February 5, 2019. Both the House and Senate budgets include a 5% pay increase for SOQ funded positions, which added an additional two percent to the initial 3%. The difference between the two budgets is the Senate plan increase would go into effect July 1, 2019, while the House plan increase would not go into effect until January 1, 2020. The report available in BoardDocs specifies the differences in funding formulas between the House and the Senate as it applies to lottery funding.

Both budgets retain the Governor’s proposed funding in the area of school safety to:

- Double the School Security Grant funding to \$12M and increase the award cap to \$200,000 per grant application
- Provide school safety training at Virginia schools
- Develop a case management and training tool for threat assessment and provide active shooter training.

In addition, the House budget provides \$428,000 for school resource officer training while the Senate plan offers \$100,000 less. In addition, the House budget offers an additional \$3M for overall funding for school resource officers.

An update on bills that survived crossover are available in BoardDocs. On a positive note, Dr. Infantino reported Senator Cosgrove’s waiver bill passed the full Senate vote requiring the Board of Education to waive up to five teaching days that could result from a mandatory evacuation directed by the Governor. In addition, Senator Spruill’s bill, SB1295 – Public Schools: Tobacco and Nicotine Vapor Products, which calls for restrictions on tobacco and vape products passed the full Senate and was working its way through the House Education Committee.

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. Bid
- C. Proposed New School Board Policy – P 8-9.1 – No Employment Assistance For Persons Known To Have Engaged in Sexual Misconduct – Second Reading and Final Action
- D. Religious Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance
- E. Temporary Construction Easement for 140 George Washington Highway, North

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

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

- 1. A complete list of activities held throughout our schools in honor of Black History Month is included in BoardDocs. February is also Career and Technical Education Month as well as the month dedicated to recognize our school counselors. February is School Board Appreciation Month, and Dr. Cotton appreciates the dedication of all of our Board members.
- 2. Earlier this school year, 12 of our schools were designated as 2018 Purple Star Schools by the Virginia Council on the Interstate Compact on the Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Dr. Cotton announced that Deep Creek High School recently earned a Purple Star Designation. This award is presented to military-friendly schools that have demonstrated a major commitment to students and families connected to our nation's military.

Superintendent's Spotlight:

Mr. Dan Kennedy, a news reporter from Channel 13 NEWSNOW, recently featured Riverbucks, a coffee shop run by special education students at Indian River High School, during a newscast. The special education students, with the help of their teacher, Ms. Lou McCain, set up a coffee shop every Friday morning to provide coffee and breakfast items to the faculty, staff, and students. This program is an outstanding educational tool that not only provides these students with valuable job skills, but also has a

tremendous impact on their self-esteem and self-worth. The Superintendent thanked Ms. McCain and the faculty and staff at Indian River High School.

On January 18, 2019, Great Bridge High School hosted “Friday Night with the Guys,” a choral concert featuring male performance groups from middle and high school students across Chesapeake. This concert also featured The Commodores, a local men’s group who specialize in barbershop-style music. Students joined along on stage in a rendition of “America, The Beautiful.” This concert is an annual tradition across the city and highlights the talented male singers in our schools.

During the month of February, schools across the nation celebrate Career and Technical Education (CTE) month. This is a time to highlight the achievements and accomplishments of our CTE programs. One way our students celebrated this month was with the SkillsUSA competition held at the Chesapeake Career Center on February 2, 2019. SkillsUSA is a co-curricular opportunity that develops student leadership skills and allows them to demonstrate their capabilities in their chosen occupation. The Superintendent thanked Ms. Kari Miller from the Chesapeake Career Center for coordinating these opportunities for our students.

Last week we celebrated National School Counseling Week. Schools across our division took time to celebrate the hard work of these important staff members in our schools. Sponsored by the American School Counselor Association, National School Counseling Week highlights the tremendous impact school counselors have in helping students plan their careers and achieve school success. We appreciate the many school counselors throughout our schools.

Dr. Cotton took the opportunity to thank our School Board members as Virginia celebrates School Board Appreciation during the month of February. He expressed his appreciation for their hard work and dedication for all of our schools, staff, and students.

Active Threat Presentation: Dr. Cotton called on Dr. Miller, assistant superintendent for student services, who introduced Ms. Amber Dortch, principal of Hickory High School. Ms. Dortch presented an overview of the upcoming Active Threat training exercise scheduled for August 15, 2019, at Hickory High School. This joint training exercise will be the first of its kind in the area coordinated between Chesapeake Public Schools, the fire department, the police department, and emergency medical services (EMS). Captain Mike Cole and Lieutenant Jonathan Williams from the Chesapeake Police Department, along with Mr. Ed Ewing, supervisor of safety for Chesapeake Public Schools, also attended this presentation.

Presentation of the Superintendent’s Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020: Dr. Cotton presented the Superintendent’s Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020, which includes grants, special funds, and the operating budgets. When assuming his new role in July 2018, the Superintendent listened and learned about our division from our employees and

community members through his “meet and greet” sessions at all of our seven high schools, an online survey, and his personal visits to all of our schools and centers. The feedback gathered helped develop his new strategic plan, “Empower 2025.” These budget priorities closely align with the four new strategic goals, which are to provide exemplary teaching and learning experiences; recruit, retain, and support our valued employees; provide a safe and supportive learning environment; and engage, inform, and collaborate with the community to support our mission. Some of the budget priority highlights are:

- Expand full-day kindergarten at three schools (Great Bridge Primary, Hickory Elementary, and Deep Creek Elementary)
- Enhance elementary fine arts program
- High school alternative education program
- Workforce development coordinator for the Chesapeake Career Center Program
- Increase tuition reimbursement to \$250.00 per credit hour
- \$12.2M for salary increases and salary study results implementation
- \$1.67M to cover anticipated health insurance increases in January 2020
- Additional support positions (psychologist and clinic specialists, school security support positions, and data quality secretaries)
- Bus, vehicle, equipment, sound systems, and portable replacements
- Engage, inform, and collaborate with the community to support our mission

Ms. Vicki Lucente, assistant superintendent for budget and finance, provided additional details in the 2019-2020 budget proposal. The budget presentation was based upon the Governor’s proposed budget released December 18, 2018. Information regarding this budget proposal is available in BoardDocs. This proposal assumes continued student growth and anticipates an increase of approximately \$28.7M overall for operating, grants, and special funds. Ms. Lucente reviewed an increase in operating revenues of almost \$21.4M. She compared what the General Assembly approved to the amendments contained in the Governor’s budget. She noted that lottery monies continue to be supplanted, and we continue to have a loss of revenue in support position cap of \$10.1M. Mr. Woods questioned the lottery revenues over the past several years. Ms. Lucente informed him that in 2018-2019 the budgeted amount was \$8.7M and \$7M in 2017-2018. He reaffirmed the lottery funding over the past several years was \$0. Two years ago, we began to receive some per-pupil amount funding.

Ms. Lucente reviewed the impact of the budget adjustments and how they affect basic aid. The Governor’s budget does include the cost of additional guidance positions (23.76 full-time employees). The state computes the total cost of basic aid first, then the sales tax is subtracted, and the remaining money is split between the city and the state. She continually monitors enrollment and sales tax receipts. She reviewed the operating expenditures. Currently the division is conducting a salary study since one has not been done in approximately ten years. Dr. Cotton hopes to give a 3% compensation increase to employees. She stated it was too early in the year to predict any increase in healthcare costs.

Ms. Lucente reviewed capital outlay, school nutritional services costs, the 2017-2018 city actual over budget, and compared the budget proposals of the House, Senate, and Governor. Specific details are available in BoardDocs.

Ms. Proffitt asked Ms. Lucente to explain what touch panels were for kindergarten classes (similar to large televisions with touch screens). Dr. King asked if the supply costs for kindergarten classes was for the nine new classes, and Ms. Lucente confirmed the costs were for nine kindergarten classes in three schools (Great Bridge Primary, Hickory Elementary, and Deep Creek Elementary) that will have full-day kindergarten this fall (2019). Mrs. Leary confirmed with Ms. Lucente that the lease purchase for buses is ten years. Mr. Mercer questioned the Senate's stipulation that divisions must provide an average of 6% compensation over a two-year period in order to receive the 5% from the state. Ms. Lucente will research his question and advise Mr. Mercer at a later date.

Ms. Lucente reviewed the schedule of future budget meetings and public hearings. Mr. Bunn confirmed with Dr. Cotton that his proposed 3% increase is for all employees, including part-time employees. Mr. Mercer clarified that Dr. Cotton was recommending at least a 3% raise but acknowledged that any health care cost increases would negatively affect lower-paid personnel. Dr. Cotton is hopeful that any potential increase in health care costs would be below 5%. Any increases in health care costs are split equally between the employee and the division. Mr. Murphy asked Dr. Cotton to review the cost of increasing the hourly rate of bus drivers by \$1.00. He stated that over the past four years, one of our biggest concerns is not having enough bus drivers. He confirmed with Dr. Cotton that we want to be paying our bus drivers more than other divisions. Mrs. Leary would like nurses to be considered for additional compensation also. She thanked Dr. Cotton for putting more art back into elementary classrooms. This will help achieve her goal of getting more planning time for elementary teachers.

Board Member Items

Mr. Bunn thanked Southeastern Elementary School students for making the clay bobble-head hawks in appreciation for School Board members. He was happy to see the expansion of art education in our elementary schools.

Mr. Bunn questioned whether bus drivers do have fuel FOBs in order to get gas for their buses. Dr. Jackie Miller, assistant superintendent for student services, addressed this question. She stated she was recently made aware of the problem with the FOBs is the city has changed their software program, which inhibits about 75 drivers from using their FOBs. These bus drivers will be included in a new pilot program starting soon. Mr. Bunn asked what clean-up supplies were available to drivers on their buses. Dr. Miller's understanding was each bus was equipped with first-aid kits, trashcans, gloves, ecetera.; however, she will look into the supplies currently provided to drivers. She informed Mr. Bunn it is a four-week process for potential drivers who do not have a CDL license, along with additional on-the-road experience with another driver. We currently run two training sessions and offer additional incentives to attract new drivers. He asked about benefit eligibility, and Ms. Lucente stated employees are eligible for benefits after 30 days.

Dr. King thanked Dr. Cotton for the energy he brought to the school system. She will be speaking at Deep Creek High School and the Chesapeake Detention Center in honor of Black History Month.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 p.m.

Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman