

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA  
January 28, 2019**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, January 28, 2019, at 4 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. C. Jeff Bunn  
                      Dr. Patricia Y. King  
                      Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.  
                      Mr. Harry A. Murphy  
                      Mrs. Christie New Craig  
                      Mr. Michael J. Woods  
                      Mrs. Colleen C. Leary, Vice Chairman  
                      Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman

Excused:           Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr.

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 one personnel matter. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the agenda as presented by the Superintendent. Mrs. New Craig seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

## **Closed Session**

Mrs. 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 one personnel matter.”

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. 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. Mercer moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leary and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion. The Superintendent recommended the long-term suspension of Student #3 under the conditions discussed. Mrs. Leary moved to approve the Superintendent’s recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

The superintendent recommended the following appointment:

1. Mr. Larry Wade, from interim director of school nutrition services, School Nutrition Services, to director of school nutrition services, School Nutrition Services

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

## **Invocation**

Reverend Bob Robinson, Messiah United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

## **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Journey Greene, a fifth grader at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **Clerk's Items**

### **2019 VSBA Tidewater Regional Spring Network Forum – April 8, 2019:**

Dr. Infantino announced that the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) will hold the 2019 VSBA Tidewater Regional Spring Network Forum on April 8, 2019, at Col. Fred Cherry Middle School in Suffolk. Since an agenda and additional details are not available at this time, permission was granted by the Chair to place this item on the agenda for future consideration.

## **Hearing of Citizens**

Mrs. Victoria Nichols, 1124 Mill Lake Quarter, Chesapeake, Virginia, spoke about teacher shortages.

## **Unfinished Business**

**Legislative Update:** Dr. Jean Infantino presented a brief legislative update to the Board regarding the Virginia General Assembly since it convened on January 9, 2019. The school calendar bills are currently in negotiations and will be heard before crossover, which is February 5, 2019.

In the Senate Education and Health Committee, Senator Cosgrove's evacuation waiver bill was continued since there was some opposition to the bill. However, Senator Newman, the Committee Chair, indicated he supports the bill but wanted to narrow the scope a bit. Dr. Infantino indicated she plans to return to Richmond on Thursday, January 31, 2019, to speak on behalf of this bill.

Dr. Cotton was in Richmond during the Hampton Roads Caucus meeting. He was prepared to speak in support of this bill but it was not addressed during that time. Dr. Infantino asked Board members to let her know if there were any specific bills they would like her to track, as she will provide regular updates to the Board.

Mrs. New Craig noted that Senator Cosgrove introduced Senate Bill 1023, which would allow law enforcement officers to enter back into the workforce working forty hours per week instead of twenty-eight hours without it affecting their Virginia Retirement System (VRS) income. She was hopeful details could be ironed out with VRS to also shorten the timeframe of having to wait sixty day instead of one year before being able to hire retired law enforcement officers. Mr. Mercer asked about possible opposition to the bill but hopes it will work out favorably.

## **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. Murphy moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig. The motion passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

## **Monthly Financial Report**

Ms. Lucente presented the interim financial report for the November/December 2018 period. She stated that we received approximately \$76.2M primarily from the city and the state. Projected state revenues, not including sales tax, are expected to be short by approximately \$360,000. Federal and other local revenues are not expected to meet budget by approximately \$500,000. At this time, the budget will continue to be managed for a shortfall between \$700,000 and \$860,000 and is proceeding as expected at this time. Ms. Lucente did note that if the Governor's proposed amendments are adopted by the General Assembly, the state shortfall should be eliminated.

## **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. During the month of February, we will celebrate Black History Month, Career and Technical Education Month, and our school counselors. In addition, February is School Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Cotton appreciates each Board member for all they do to support our students and staff members.
2. The Superintendent reminded everyone that the five minutes added to the high school instructional day beginning September 24 due to the mandatory evacuation ordered by the Governor in anticipation of Hurricane Florence has expired. High Schools will resume their original hours beginning on Wednesday, January 30, 2019. Additional details can be found on our website.

### Superintendent's Spotlight:

January is Reading Month. Dr. Cotton shared his love of reading with students at Deep Creek Elementary School, G. W. Carver Intermediate School, Great Bridge Intermediate School, and Cedar Road Elementary School. Mayor Rick West, Michael Cuddyer (former major league baseball player), local news reporters, and School Board members were just a few of the many community leaders who volunteered their time to celebrate reading month.

Schools also hosted a variety of other special events. Grassfield Elementary School received a grant from the Virginia Commission of the Arts to support a unique performance by storyteller and author, Barb Lawson.

At Hickory Elementary School's Literacy Night, students had the opportunity to dress up as characters from their favorite book for a Virtual Wax Museum. They unlocked the treasure of literacy with breakout boxes and a pirate-themed story time.

At Greenbrier Middle School, seventh-grade students read the novel, *Shadow*, as a project to help others. It is a story about a veteran's service dog. Through this project, students raised money to offset the cost of training a local service dog named Murphy who will help someone in our area. They partnered with two local organizations, Hero Kids Foundation and Citizen K9, and raised over \$2,000. In recognition of their efforts, students were able to witness a special service dog demonstration and had their pictures taken with Murphy.

Many of these exciting events would not be possible without the support of our building principals. This past week was Virginia School Principals Appreciation Week. Dr. Cotton reflected on the positive impact his high school principal, Mr. Harry Blevins, made in his life and shared a video of how his dedication to education and approach to leadership inspired so many of our current school leaders. Dr. Cotton appreciates all of our principals and the various ways students and staff expressed their appreciation last week.

Mr. Paul A. Joseph, principal at Oscar F. Smith High School, was recognized at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast, along with two of his students, Cam'Ron Kelley and Aaron Shirley. The Superintendent thanked Chairman Proffitt for nominating these outstanding individuals.

Chairman Proffitt, Vice Chairman Leary, and Board Member Mercer joined Dr. Cotton on January 17, 2019, as they traveled to Richmond to meet with legislators. They were able to discuss many of the upcoming bills that will affect education in Virginia. Dr. Cotton was happy to report that their meetings were productive, and he appreciated the support of Ms. Proffitt, Mrs. Leary, and Mr. Mercer.

**2017-2018 School Activity Funds Audit Report:** Dr. Cotton called on Ms. Vicki Lucente who introduced Ms. Caren Crouse, a partner with the accounting firm of Dixon Hughes Goodman. Mr. Rob McGee and Mr. Tom Hazelwood attended, as they will be Ms. Crouse's replacements when she retires soon. Ms. Crouse presented an overview of the 2017-2018 audit report of the school activity funds. She explained the process followed when auditing all 47 schools this past summer. She stated there were no issues or discrepancies and thanked everyone involved in these successful audits.

**Proposed New School Board Policy – P 8-9.1 – No Employment Assistance For Persons Known To Have Engaged in Sexual Misconduct – First Reading:**

Mrs. Leary moved to approve the new School Board Policy. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion which passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the motion.

**Proposed 2019-2020 School Calendar Options:** Dr. Dalphine A. Joppy, director of staff development, presented two options for the 2019-2020 school calendar. She reviewed the school calendar principles and highlighted the differences between the two options. Dr. Joppy also reviewed a comparison chart between both school calendar options. In addition, she reviewed winter and spring breaks and how they compare with our neighboring school divisions. Following the initial public presentation, the calendar options will be posted on the school division's website for review by employees and citizens. In addition, a calendar survey will be posted on the division's website to solicit input before a final recommendation is made to the Board. Adoption of a calendar for the 2019-2020 school year will be requested at a later meeting.

Mrs. Leary inquired about the law prohibiting the opening of school before Labor Day. Mrs. New Craig stated there is a proposed bill that would allow divisions the choice of opening schools prior to Labor Day, instead of the current requirement of requesting a waiver in order to open school before Labor Day. She felt this bill will pass and give school divisions the choice, however, opening prior to Labor Day in tourist cities could negatively impact them financially.

**Board Member Items**

Mrs. Leary spoke about the positive support she and other Board members received from our legislators regarding education during their recent visit to Richmond. They visited with Senator John A. Cosgrove, Delegate James (Jay) A. Leftwich, Jr., Delegate Cliff Hayes, Jr., Senator Lionell Spruill, Sr., Delegate S. Chris Jones, Delegate Matthew James, and Delegate Barry D. Knight. She felt their trips to Richmond are worthwhile each year and thanked the senators and delegates for listening to our School Board members. She thanked Mrs. New Craig for her part in scheduling their meeting with Senator Cosgrove and asked her to let all of the representatives know how much the Board members appreciated their time.

Ms. Proffitt stated that she looks forward to meeting with our representatives every year during the General Assembly session. She enjoyed participating in events recognizing Reading Month. She also gave a shout-out to Mr. Paul Joseph, principal at Oscar F. Smith High School, and our two outstanding youth honorees, Cam'Ron Kelley and Aaron Shirley, for being recognized as outstanding leaders at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Leadership Breakfast.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

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Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

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Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman