

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

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, March 11, 2019, at 5:00 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

Present: Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr.
 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

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 a student matter and one real estate 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

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 a student matter and one real estate 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. Bunn 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 recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leary and passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Invocation

Reverend Randy Duncan, Senior Pastor, from New Creation United Methodist Church, gave the invocation.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Paige Nesbit, a second-grader at Portlock Primary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Clerk's Items

Special Recognitions – Senior Class Presidents and SCA Presidents:

Dr. Infantino introduced Dr. Sheli Porter, director of high school curriculum and instruction, who recognized the 2018-2019 Senior Class Presidents and SCA Presidents of our seven high schools.

Special Recognitions – Chesapeake Middle School League Champions and Chesapeake Middle School League Forensics and Debate Champions:

Dr. Infantino introduced Mr. Wayne Martin, director of student services, who recognized 50 middle school winter champion students and 17 middle school forensics and debate champion students and staff who distinguished themselves through their 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.

2019 VSBA Hot Topic Conference – April 22, 2019: Dr. Infantino asked for a show of hands from any Board members who wished to attend the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) Hot Topic Conference to be held in Charlottesville, Virginia, on April 22, 2019. No Board members plan to attend this conference.

Public Hearing

Superintendent’s Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020: No citizens spoke regarding this topic.

Hearing of Citizens

Mr. Sean Kentch, 1608 Revella Arch, Chesapeake, Virginia 23322, spoke about the application of aligning discipline to district policy.

Unfinished Business

Superintendent’s Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020 – Work Session and Action: Dr. Cotton introduced Ms. Vicki Lucente, assistant superintendent for budget and finance, who provided an update with the most recent information on our current budgetary process. She responded to previous inquiries from Board members, provided additional details on the General Assembly and their final actions, and reviewed the next steps. Ms. Lucente gave an update on the budget passed by the General Assembly in June 2018 and compared it to the General Assembly adopted budget on February 24, 2019. She then compared the General Assembly adopted budget in February 2019 to the 2018-2019 Appropriated Budget and then made a comparison to the Superintendent’s Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020. The 2018-2019 excess over budgeted revenue from all sources is a projected \$1.3M. This means we are expecting a revenue reversion of approximately \$1.3M instead of the projected shortfall of -\$800,000. Additional detailed information is available through BoardDocs.

While comparing the General Assembly’s final adopted budget in February 2019 to the 2019-2020 Governor’s (also Superintendent’s) Proposed Budget, we are expecting \$1.3M revenue decline. She reviewed the change in the SOQ formula requiring fewer required guidance counselor positions (from 16 to 9 positions), a reduction in the compensation supplement from 3% to 2 %, and a reduction in healthcare costs due to enrollment changes. These changes resulted in a recommended reduction in our budget of \$1,355,611.

Dr. Cotton stated it has been more than ten years since the last salary study was conducted in 2008-2009. His proposed budget contains \$12.2M for both a general salary increase and the implementation of the salary study. The recommended allocation of \$12.2M allows for a 3% general compensation increase (\$9.2M) for all employees effective July 1, 2019. The General Assembly funding requires that Chesapeake Public Schools provide at least a 2% raise in order to receive the funds and a total of 5% over the two-year biennium. The Superintendent reminded everyone we provided for a 3% compensation increase this year, which is more than required by the General Assembly. This is an overall compensation increase of 6% over the two-year period provided by Chesapeake Public Schools. The remaining \$3M will address the salary study results which may not be available until May/June 2019. Current administration and the Board will review the salary study results. Dr. Cotton will advise the Board of his recommendations once enough time has been allocated to properly review the results.

Dr. Cotton requested Board action on the adoption of the Proposed Operating, Categorical, and Special Funds Budgets, 2019-2020, and a request for City Council to appropriate \$2,547,000 of revenue sharing actual over budget funds. These funds will be used for various technology and safety and security items requested as part of the FY 2019-2020, which we were unable to include due to unavailable revenues. Final Board Action will be requested at the May 23, 2019, Board meeting.

Mr. Murphy is looking forward to the salary study results. He is hopeful City Council will be as generous as they have in the past and pointed out what really matters is what we receive in May. He has been a proponent of increasing hourly rates especially for bus drivers.

Dr. King was concerned about the reduction in the number (from 16 to 7) of guidance counselors and questioned whether there was a plan in place to increase the number of guidance counselors eventually. Dr. Cotton supports adding additional guidance counselors, as it was one of the recommendations made by the safety task force. He deferred to Ms. Lucente about possible plans for the future of the General Assembly to increase the number of guidance counselors. She stated it might be likely the General Assembly will change the ratio for the 2020-2021 budget and increase funding for additional guidance counselor positions. Dr. Cotton would support the increase along with adding additional support positions such as social workers and psychologists.

Mr. Mercer reminded everyone we would be adding seven additional guidance counselor positions. Mrs. New Craig stated it was a big concern and discussion topic in the General Assembly this year because of the safety issues. She encouraged the public to contact their local and state representatives prior to budget discussions next year regarding increased funding for guidance counselors.

Mrs. Leary asked Dr. Cotton if we could simply request an additional \$500,000 from City Council in order to include the additional nine guidance counselor positions. Dr. Cotton felt there would be no harm in making that request, but mentioned to the Board that we have applied for a DoDEA grant through the Department of Defense for five additional counselors through the military who would serve at eight different schools. He stated we are looking at other avenues for increasing the number of these positions along with other needed support positions. Mr. Murphy moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. New Craig and passed with all Board members 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. State Technology Resolution
- D. Easement—Western Branch Middle School Baseball Field Lighting

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mercer. The motion passed with a vote of 8-0. Mrs. New Craig did not vote on the motion.

Superintendent's Report

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. During the month of March, we celebrate several important events such as Fine Arts Month as well as Social Work Month. We also celebrate "Read Across America" and "National School Breakfast Week" during the month of March.
2. The Teacher of the Year Celebration will be held on Thursday, March 14, 2019, at Indian River High School at 6:30 p.m.

Superintendent's Spotlight:

Dr. Cotton reviewed the following highlights happening in our division this month.

Last week students from our seven high schools participated in Student Leadership Day, previously known as Mayor's Youth Day. The goal of the event was to expose young people to the daily operations and management of both the city and our school division. Each student was assigned a mentor for the day and had the opportunity to tour facilities, ask questions, and participate in a mock city council meeting. He thanked Mayor West and the City of Chesapeake for sponsoring such a worthwhile event for our future leaders. He thanked Board members for their participation.

Two students from Greenbrier Intermediate School recently received a perfect score in the first of three meets in this year's WordMasters Challenge™—a national vocabulary competition involving nearly 150,000 students annually.

Alyssa Jenkins and Charles Scalf, fourth-grade students from Greenbrier Intermediate School, recently competed in the difficult Blue Division in the WordMasters Challenge™. These two students each earned a perfect score of 20 in the challenge. Only 31 other fourth graders nationally achieved a perfect score. Abigail Andrus, also from Greenbrier Intermediate School, had an outstanding score of 19. Recently, during the second round of the competition, Greenbrier Intermediate School was in the top 10 nationally. He wished these outstanding students well in the final round of competition in May.

In January, the Superintendent proudly reported students from Deep Creek Middle School were statewide winners of the "Samsung Solve for Tomorrow" competition. Dr. Cotton shared an update about these students as they were chosen as one of 10 national finalist teams and only 1 of 3 middle schools represented at this highest level. This team has earned a \$50,000 technology package for their school and will travel to New York City next month to pitch their idea for a chance at the grand prize. Dr. Cotton shared a video featuring these students and their "Sight for Tomorrow" eyeglass project.

This team is also eligible for a Community Choice Award, so please vote for them once a day online at the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow website until March 27, 2019. He offered his congratulations and wished the Hornets good luck!

The Superintendent shared his appreciation for support from our community partners, Kroger and Coca-Cola, as they teamed up to fill 120 backpacks with non-perishable food items for students at Truitt Intermediate School.

Pastor H. Patrick Cason from Bethany Baptist Church presented Mrs. Karen Lopez, principal of Thurgood Marshall Elementary School, a check for over \$10,000. These funds will be used to provide additional resources for our students. Dr. Cotton thanked all of our community partners for their generous donations.

Plan for Elementary Art (STEAM): Dr. Cotton introduced Dr. Anita James, assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction, who reviewed current activities which support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) included as part of our instructional program. Dr. James shared preliminary plans currently underway to add project-based art lessons to create STEAM instructions for students. Dr. James introduced Mrs. Alexandria Taylor, supervisor of art and world language, who presented additional information on the integration of art into STEAM instruction. She reviewed the benefits of the STEAM initiative and provided examples of STEAM (art) activities that could also support science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

K-12 Math Textbook Adoption: Dr. Cotton introduced Mrs. Sharon Huber, supervisor of elementary mathematics, who, along with several outstanding math teachers, shared information regarding the textbook adoption process. Mrs. Huber shared that these new mathematic textbooks will be available at all levels for the 2019-2020 school year. The adoption of new K-12 math textbooks will be placed on the Consent Agenda for the March 25, 2019, Board meeting.

Proposed School Calendar, 2019-2020: Dr. James introduced Dr. Dalphine Joppy, director of staff development, who reviewed the two options and the process in selecting the 2019-2020 school calendar. After presenting results from an online survey, Dr. Joppy recommended approval of Option 1 as the school calendar for the 2019-2020 school year.

Mr. Mercer recommended beginning the calendar selection process at an earlier date due to the recent action by the General Assembly granting permission to begin school prior to Labor Day. He thought if we consider beginning the school year prior to Labor Day, it would be important to gather feedback from citizens and stakeholders in our city. He reminded everyone of the need to select new graduation dates and make new arrangements in advance with the Ted Constant Center.

Dr. Cotton recognized his concerns and hopes to begin discussions throughout the coming school year with our neighboring cities. This is an important regional topic since we share many regional programs. Mr. Mercer moved to adopt Option 1 as the 2019-2020 School Calendar. The motion was seconded by Mr. Murphy and passed with all Board members present voting in favor of the option.

Mrs. New Craig hopes to gather city leaders and regional legislators together to discuss this important topic, as it would affect us regionally, possibly with a loss of revenues if we begin the school year prior to the Labor Day holiday. She felt it was important to make this decision together as a regional decision.

Dr. King questioned whether the Governor did actually sign this bill into law. Mrs. New Craig felt sure the Governor would sign this into law if he had not done so already. Dr. Cotton noted the presidential primary election is scheduled to take place on March 3, 2020. Some of our neighboring school divisions have changed that day to a staff day with no school for students due to an expected higher-than-normal voter turnout. We plan to collaborate with our city registrar to monitor this day to determine if any adjustments should be made to our calendar. Mrs. New Craig voiced her preference of closing schools for students on voting days due to the high volume of people entering our school buildings and safety concerns.

Board Member Items

Ms. Proffitt congratulated the students at Deep Creek Middle School and thanked the pastor and members of Bethany Baptist Church for their generous donation to Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. She thanked Dr. King, Mr. Bunn, and Mr. Murphy, for joining her in Student Leadership Day. She reminded Board members of the Board Retreat on Thursday, March 21, 2019, from noon to 7 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman