

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD  
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA  
November 18, 2019**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, November 18, 2019, at 4:00 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**

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  
                      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, Chief Student Support Services Officer; Dr. Anita B. James, Chief Academic Officer; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Chief Financial Officer; Ms. J. Paige Stutz, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. Jean A. Infantino, Chief of Staff/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 and personnel 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 personnel and student matters.”

Mr. Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session as provided in the Code of Virginia. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion, which passed 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 voting in favor of the motion.

## **Items Resulting from Closed Session**

The Superintendent recommended the extended long-term suspension of Student #1, Student #2, and Student #5 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. The Superintendent recommended the expulsion of Student #4. Mr. Woods 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. The Superintendent recommended the extended long-term suspension of Student #3 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.

The Superintendent recommended the following personnel appointment:

1. **Mrs. Fallon E. Graham**, from technology integration specialist, Hickory High School, to supervisor of secondary mathematics, Instructional Services Center

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

## **Invocation**

Reverend Adrian Woodard from Favor Nation Church gave the invocation.

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

Elijah Eagle, a second grader from B. M. Williams Primary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

## **Awards and Recognitions**

None

## **Public Hearing**

**Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan, 2020-2030:** No citizens requested time to speak before the Board on this topic.

## **Hearing of Citizens**

Mrs. Sandra Williamson-Ashe, 1445 Monarch Reach, Chesapeake, VA, spoke about oppressive language from students.

Mrs. Susannah Uroskie, 291 Independence Boulevard, Suite 542, Virginia Beach, VA, spoke about the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

Mr. Robert Carpenter, 592 Fernwood Farms Road, Chesapeake, VA, spoke about his daughter's welfare in school.

Ms. Lakesha Arnold, 2733 Martha Drive, Chesapeake, VA, spoke about a student injury at Deep Creek High School.

## **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. Chesapeake Public Schools' Gifted Education Advisory Committee – Approval of New Members
- D. Religious Exemptions from Compulsory Attendance (4)
- E. Department of Human Resources - Personnel Report

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.

## **Information Agenda**

**Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), 2020-2030 – Work Session:** Ms. Paige Stutz, chief operations officer, called on Mr. John Bertocchi, new construction and planning administrator, to review the Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2020-2030. The initial presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan, 2020-2030 was during the October 28, 2019, School Board meeting. This was the first public hearing and work session. During this meeting, Mr. Bertocchi reviewed current projects and summer 2020 projects under design, year-one projects, anticipated funded projects through June 30, 2021, and the 2020-2025 project costs by year. The CIP five-year grand total is \$456,235,100.

Mr. Woods confirmed with Mr. Bertocchi that funding for both new field houses has already been established and approved. Mr. Murphy asked the projected date for the completion of both field houses. Ms. Stutz anticipated both field houses will be operational by September of 2020. Mr. Murphy directed a question to Dr. Cotton asking if a projected date for an Open House had been scheduled for the new Great Bridge Primary School. Dr. Cotton asked Ms. Stutz who confirmed all utilities to the old building have now been shut off. Once building demolition has begun, she will discuss potential dates with Dr. Cotton but thought an open house would not be scheduled until after the new year begins and the bus ramp has been completed. The second public hearing, work session, and request for final action for the CIP are scheduled for the December 9, 2019, Board meeting.

**Transportation Start and Stop Times--**Dr. Jacqueline C. Miller introduced Dr. David M. Benson, director of student transportation, who presented information regarding proposed adjustments for school start and stop times effective for the 2020-2021 school year. He stated how the start times were calculated and reviewed a tiered schedule of adjusted start times for our schools. He stated in an effort to seek input from our school community, an online survey will be made available on our website from November 19 through December 10, 2019. Mr. Murphy confirmed with Dr. Cotton survey results and a recommendation will be shared during a future Board meeting, possibly in January.

In response to a question from Mr. Woods, Dr. Benson confirmed we have 583 buses in our current fleet and do not anticipate any additional bus purchases. Mr. Woods confirmed the reason for the proposed adjustments was to eliminate late bus runs to and from school and more time to deal with mechanical bus issues. Dr. Benson also mentioned adjusting school start times would create more streamlined start times across the board and would help with the increased time of bus runs.

**Calendar Survey Results Presentation--**Dr. Infantino introduced Dr. Angela P. Smith, director of communications, who presented the results from a recent calendar survey regarding beginning school prior to the Labor Day holiday. There was a total of 5,897 respondents. Fifty-three percent of the respondents were not in favor of the option to begin school prior to the Labor Day holiday, and forty-seven percent of the respondents felt the option to begin school prior to the Labor Day holiday should be considered. A complete list of open comments from the survey will be listed on our website under District News for our school community to review.

Dr. Cotton added this survey should be considered when developing our school calendars. There was no clear communication from the community to change our school schedule, and when developing our school calendars, we communicate with our regional calendar members from other divisions. Mrs. New Craig stated she has always been a strong supporter of beginning school after the Labor Day holiday. Chesapeake and Virginia Beach are considered tourist areas, and we benefit from the extra tax revenue received prior to the holiday.

### **Action Agenda**

**VSBA Capital Conference – January 13 and 14, 2020 – Richmond, Virginia--**  
Dr. Infantino requested approval for Board members who would like to attend the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Capital Conference in Richmond scheduled for January 13 and 14, 2020. Dr. Infantino mentioned a Board meeting is scheduled on January 13, 2020. No Board members plan to attend this conference. On Thursday, January 16, 2020, Board and Superintendent staff members will have the opportunity to travel to Richmond together. The Caucus meets on this day and would be an opportunity for Dr. Cotton to address that group, as well.

### **Superintendent's Report**

The Superintendent made the following announcements:

1. November is Military Family Appreciation Month
2. Information will be sent out this week to our school family regarding the testing for lead in water at our schools. He reviewed prior testing background information and future testing plans.

### **Superintendent's Spotlight Report**

Dr. Cotton joined approximately 1,200 Chesapeake educators in the first installment of our Chesapeake Speaker Series. Educator, author, and former survivor contestant, Mr. Ron Clark, created an energetic professional development opportunity. His honest conversations about teaching and often simple, but effective methods of reaching students, left everyone with something to consider in their own professional practices.

Dr. Cotton thanked Board members who attended as well as our Chesapeake Educational Foundation for sponsoring the event. He also thanked Mr. Clark for making such a positive impact on educators.

Earlier this month at Hickory High School, Teachers for Tomorrow students from Deep Creek High School, Grassfield High School, and Hickory High School had the opportunity to receive employment and interviewing tips from current principals, teachers, human resources administrators, and a representative from Virginia Wesleyan's teacher preparation program. The Superintendent hopes these students come back and join our educational family.

Mrs. Holly Sawyer, a teacher at Oscar Smith High School, received a grant from the Chesapeake Educational Foundation for a hands-on experience for English language learners at Oscar Smith High School. Mrs. Sawyer was able to provide her students with an equitable learning experience through a trip to historic Jamestown. Students will work on portfolios that present artifacts, reflections, and personal connections between their prior experiences in their home countries as they relate to their field trip experience in Jamestown.

Fourth-grade students had the opportunity for a unique learning experience on the Elizabeth River Learning Barge this fall. Students learned about the blue crab and how rising sea-levels and increased flooding impacts their environment. Experts in marine biology provided real-world connections and opportunities for in-depth learning.

Dr. Cotton thanked our student leaders who took time out of their schedules to serve others last week. During their citywide leadership meeting at Western Branch High School, students from all of our high schools decorated and filled boxes full of Thanksgiving food donations for local veterans. Representatives from VFW Post 9382 thanked students and collected turkeys with all the fixings for seven veterans and their families this holiday season.

### **Board Member Items**

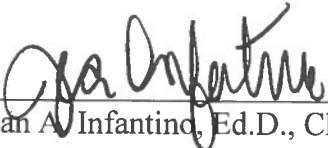
Mrs. Leary thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Ron Clark's presentation and thanked all the teachers who volunteered their time to attend this worthwhile professional development presentation. She also thanked Mrs. Andrea Vail, administrator of business and community partnerships, and the Chesapeake Educational Foundation for funding this wonderful event.


Mrs. Proffitt thoroughly enjoyed Mr. Ron Clark's presentation also!

Mrs. Proffitt extended belated birthday wishes to Dr. King and wished Mr. Bunn a happy birthday.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 p.m.

  
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Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk

  
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Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman