

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
May 21, 2020**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, May 21, 2020, at 5:30 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 and stated the meeting would appear different from other meetings, as some Board members would participate remotely due to restrictions put forth by the Governor's declaration of emergency in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. She provided roll call instructions to those Board members who participated remotely.

Roll Call

Dr. Jean Infantino called roll and recorded attendance noting Board members included in any motions to approve their remote attendance should not participate in that vote:

Mr. Samuel L. Boone, Jr., responded, "Chairman Proffitt, in keeping with the School Board Bylaw 2-33 and following a declaration of emergency brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic requesting that Virginians stay at home as much as possible, I wish to participate in tonight's meeting by remote means."

Mr. C. Jeff Bunn – Present
Dr. Patricia Y. King – Present
Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr. – Present
Mr. Harry A. Murphy – Present

Mrs. Christie New Craig responded, "Chairman Proffitt, in keeping with the School Board Bylaw 2-33 and following a declaration of emergency brought on by the COVID-19 Pandemic requesting that Virginians stay at home as much as possible, I wish to participate in tonight's meeting by remote means."

Mr. Michael J. Woods – Present
Mrs. Colleen C. Leary, Vice Chairman – Present
Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman – Present

Mrs. Leary moved that remote participation be authorized for Mr. Sam Boone. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 8-0 in favor of the motion with Mr. Sam Boone abstaining.

Mrs. Leary moved that remote participation be authorized for Mrs. Christie New Craig. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with a vote of 8-0 in favor of the motion with Mrs. New Craig abstaining.

Also present were Dr. Jared A. Cotton, Superintendent; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Jean A. Infantino, Chief of Staff/Clerk of the Board; and Mr. Robert J. Barry, Attorney.

The following individuals participated in the meeting remotely: Dr. Anita B. James, Chief Academic Officer; Dr. Jacqueline C. Miller, Chief Student Support Services Officer; Ms. J. Paige Stutz, Chief Operations Officer; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Chief Human Resources Officer; 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 personnel matters. Mr. Murphy moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Mercer seconded the motion, which passed with all participating Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Closed Meeting

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 personnel matters.”

Mr. Murphy moved that the Board go into closed session as provided in the Code of Virginia. Mrs. Leary seconded the motion, which passed with all participating Board members 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 participating Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Action – Closed Meeting

The Superintendent recommended the following personnel appointments for the 2020-2021 school year:

1. **Dr. Latoya Walker Harrison**, assistant superintendent, Suffolk Public Schools, to chief academic officer, School Administration Building

2. **Mr. Robert C. Harrell**, assistant principal, Jolliff Middle School, to assistant principal, Great Bridge Middle School
3. **Mr. Andrew J. Hoffer**, assistant principal, Great Bridge Middle School, to assistant principal, Jolliff Middle School

Mr. Murphy moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendations. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Leary and passed with all participating Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Dr. Cotton announced individuals selected to fill Assistant Principal 1 positions for the 2020-2021 school year. Board action is not required.

1. Butts Road Primary School - **Mrs. Angela H. Napier** (former second grade elementary school teacher)
2. Georgetown Primary School - **Mrs. Ashley L. Nolette** (former coordinator of Chesapeake Preschool Initiative)
3. Hickory Middle School - **Mrs. Jane-Marie J. Wieck** (former coordinator of student discipline)
4. Indian River Middle School – **Mrs. Dawn B. Johnson** (former middle school instructional coach)

Moment of Silence/Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

A moment of silence was observed, and School Board member, Dr. Patricia Y. King, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Awards and Recognitions

None.

Hearing of Citizens

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. Division 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 participating Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Information Agenda

Monthly Financial Report and Recommended End-of-Year Transfers:

Ms. Lucente reviewed the monthly financial report for the period ending April 2020 and the recommended End-of-Year Transfers. Information is included in BoardDocs.

Mr. Mercer motioned to approve the recommended End-of-Year Transfers. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which passed with all participating Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Recommended FY 2020/2021 Health Insurance Premiums: Ms. Lucente presented detailed information regarding the Recommended FY 2020/2021 Health Insurance Premiums. Additional information is available in BoardDocs.

Action Agenda

School Board's Proposed Operating, Categorical and Special Funds Budgets, 2020-2021 – Final Action, Approval of Salary Scales for Pay and Classification Plan, Fee Schedules for the 2020-2021 School Year, and FY 2019-2020 Reversion:

Dr. Cotton and Ms. Lucente reviewed the adjusted budget previously presented, but now modified due to the current circumstances (COVID-19 Pandemic). Additional details are available in BoardDocs.

Mrs. Leary clarified with Dr. Cotton the three schools implementing full-time kindergarten this fall are Grassfield Elementary School, Cedar Road Elementary School, and Butts Road Primary School.

Mrs. Leary thanked Mrs. Lucente for such a detailed and informative adjusted budget presentation. Mr. Murphy motioned to approve the Proposed Operating, Categorical and Special Funds Budgets for 2020-2021, Salary Scales for Pay and Classification Plan, Fee Schedules for the 2020-2021 School Year, and the recommended use of the FY 2019-2020 Reversion. Mrs. Leary seconded the motion, which passed with all Board members voting in favor of the motion.

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Cotton informed Board members and the general public that a team of administrators is working on three different scenarios for school re-entry plans. He stated the importance of developing these plans now so our division will be prepared for whatever direction we receive from the state. The Superintendent announced summer school would now be a virtual program for our elementary, middle, and high schools. Additional information will be provided to parents soon regarding these virtual programs.

Board Member Items

Mr. Bunn congratulated Ms. Proffitt, Mr. Boone, and Mr. Mercer for their re-election to another term serving on the School Board, along with newly elected School Board member, Mrs. Angie Swygert. He also congratulated Mayor Rick West on his re-election and the newly elected City Council member, Mr. Don Carey, and re-elected City Council members, Mrs. Debbie Ritter and Mr. Robert Ike. Mr. Bunn was thankful for the wonderful, working relationship the School Board has shared with the city over the years. He also gave a “shout-out” to all the other candidates who ran for office for their time, effort, and willingness to serve in public office.

Mrs. Leary congratulated all the new administrators and welcomed Dr. Harrison as the new chief academic officer. She stated how much the division will miss Dr. Anita James and wished her well in her retirement. She thanked Dr. Cotton and his staff for looking into the possibility of providing a \$500.00 increase in salary for our teachers at the beginning of the year. She realized the disappointment employees felt about not receiving the raises originally planned in the budget but reminded everyone the school division is allocated their money through City Council who receives their money through the state. The Governor decreased his budget, which took away raises for education (teachers). No one is at fault under these unusual circumstances except for the virus (COVID-19). She was hopeful as the state begins to reopen and revenues begin to increase to be able to review our financial situation again in February 2021. We do value every one of our employees.

Mrs. Leary appreciates our teachers and administrators as they worked hard to adapt to virtual teaching and learning. It has been a pleasure for her to learn about all the virtual learning that has taken place throughout our division.

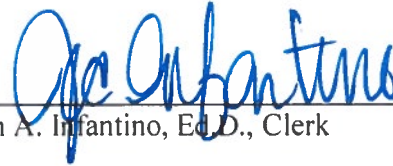
Mr. Mercer hoped everyone realized what a talented pool of teachers and administrators we have in Chesapeake Public Schools. He announced that Dr. Cotton was invited to participate on the Governors reopening committee. He announced that Dr. Dalphine Joppy has been selected and has accepted the position of Superintendent in Charles City County Public Schools. He wished her well and acknowledged our loss will be Charles City County Public Schools’ gain. He looks forward to hearing great things about Dr. Joppy in the future.

He also appreciated the hard work of our teachers and administrators and the virtual learning taking place through Zoom meetings and Google Classroom. Parents may be realizing for the first time how difficult it is to be a teacher. He realized the difficulty we now face to provide raises for our teachers and appreciated the hard work Ms. Lucente has done on the budget adjustments.

Ms. Proffitt appreciated Dr. Cotton and his staff, especially Ms. Lucente for reworking the budget to include a \$500 raise for teachers in spite of the budget restrictions due to our current situation. She appreciates being able to revisit the budget again in February 2021. She thanked all of the teachers for putting in the extra time as they work their way through the virtual learning process.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.



Jean A. Infantino, Ed.D., Clerk



Ms. Victoria L. Proffitt, Chairman