

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
December 10, 2007**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, December 10, 2007, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman, presided.

Opening Ceremony

Mr. Mercer called the meeting to order. He welcomed visitors to the meeting and informed them that a printed agenda for the meeting was available.

The Reverend Frank Webster, Greenbrier Presbyterian Church, pronounced the invocation. Mr. Jay Leftwich led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. Mr. Mercer recognized Dr. William Ward, former Mayor of Chesapeake, who was in the audience.

Roll Call

Dr. Vaughan called the roll and recorded attendance as follows:

Present: Mr. C. Jeff Bunn
Mrs. Barbara B. Head
Dr. Sheila G. Hill-Russ
Mrs. Brenda J. Johnson
Mr. James A. Leftwich, Jr.
Mrs. Ann R. Wiggins
Mr. Michael J. Woods, Vice Chairman
Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman

Absent: Mr. Harry A. Murphy

Also present were Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, Superintendent; Dr. William E. Russell, Deputy Superintendent; Mr. Steven M. Gilbert, Assistant Superintendent for Operations; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance; Dr. Patricia L. Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. James T. Roberts, Assistant Superintendent for Personnel and Support Services; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Administrative Assistant and

Clerk of the Board; Mr. Robert Barry, Attorney; and Mrs. Brenda A. Turbeville, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Minutes

Mrs. Head moved to approve the minutes of the November 26, 2007, meeting as presented. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by all members present.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Superintendent presented a proposed agenda for the meeting and stated that he had no amendments but would need a closed session for one real estate matter and one personnel matter. Mrs. Wiggins moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leftwich and carried.

Special Events

Holiday Musical Presentation: Dr. Vaughan announced that a special holiday program, featuring students from various elementary and middle schools throughout the school division, would be presented. Dr. Vaughan thanked Mr. Craig Robertson, supervisor of music, and Ms. Karen Sharrow, music teacher at Cedar Road Elementary School, for organizing our program this evening. Mr. Roberts announced that the group was comprised of students from Cedar Road Elementary, Carver Intermediate, Chittum Elementary, Great Bridge Primary, Great Bridge Intermediate, Hickory Middle School, and Western Branch Primary. The students performed two selections. The second selection featured a solo by Ms. Julia Coberly, guidance counselor at Cedar Road Elementary.

Clerk's Items

VSBA Legislative Conference: Dr. Vaughan stated that the Virginia School Boards Association would hold its annual legislative conference in Charlottesville on February 7 and 8, 2008. He asked for a show of hands from members who planned to attend. Mr. Bunn, Dr. Hill-Russ, Mr. Leftwich, Mrs. Wiggins, and Mr. Mercer indicated that they planned to attend. Mrs. Head moved to approve their attendance. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wiggins and approved by all members present.

Hearing of Citizens

Ms. Malia Huddle, president of the Chesapeake Education Association, presented the Employee Compensation & Benefits Proposal for 2008-2009. Ms. Huddle stated that the Chesapeake Education Association would like to request that the School Board include in the 2008-2009 budget sufficient funds to implement the following items, or implement policy/regulations that would accomplish the following:

- the local share of a salary increase (inclusive of step) for all employees, at the beginning of the fiscal year
- maintain the current level of health insurance benefits with no additional cost to the employee
- schedule a daily unencumbered preparation period for every teacher not covered by state statutes
- establish adequate facilities and maintain a healthy climate (temperature) and air quality in the work place
- establish and implement a well defined, weighted formula for special education students and students with 504 plans who are included in the regular education classroom
- if the length of the contractual school day/year is increased beyond that which is reflected in the 2007-2008 school calendar provide a salary adjustment to all affected employees equal to the percent increase
- provide relevant staff development opportunities for classified/certified employees
- increase the pay of substitute teachers and consider other forms of compensation to attract more qualified individuals

Dr. Hill-Russ inquired as to the current base pay for substitute teachers in Chesapeake, and Dr. James Roberts provided that information.

Old Business

None

New Business

School Board Retreat Topics: Dr. Nichols requested that the Board identify and approve the actual topics to be discussed at the retreat on February 1-2, 2008. At the January 14, 2008, Board meeting, staff will present an agenda including times, dates, and topics, for Board approval.

In addition to the seven previously requested topics, Board members requested additional topics be added. Mrs. Johnson asked to include a discussion on uniforms and looping. Dr. Hill-Russ asked that staff gather information regarding the benefits of providing services for expelled students. Mr. Mercer asked for a presentation from Information Technology on the future of technology in the schools and school division, including the transition to paperless board meetings. Mrs. Wiggins asked staff to report on the morale in high schools. Mr. Bunn would like to discuss building rental policies and procedures, and appointment procedures for the chair and vice chair of the School Board.

Mrs. Wiggins moved the Board accept these fourteen topics for discussion at the retreat in February. The motion was seconded by Dr. Hill-Russ and carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

By motion of Mr. Woods, seconded by Dr. Hill-Russ, the consent agenda was approved. Items included the following:

- A. Bid
- B. Personnel Report

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent made the following announcements.

1. There will be a reception and ceremony at Oscar Smith High School for last year's IB graduates on December 20, 2007, at 9:30 a.m.
2. Schools close at the end of day Thursday, December 20, 2007, for winter holidays, and will re-open Wednesday, January 2, 2008.

3. A Career Commitment reception will be held Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at 5:00 p.m., at Oscar Smith High School.
4. The next Board meeting will be held Monday, January 14, 2008.

Adult Education Programs: Dr. Nichols explained that this item would be an information only item and would require no Board action. Dr. Nichols asked Mrs. Deborah Hunley-Stukes, Program Administrator for Adult and Continuing Education, to provide an overview of the expanded offerings of this department. Mrs. Stukes presented an overview of the programs that comprise the Department of Adult and Continuing Education: Adult Basic Education (ABE), Adult Continuing Education (ACE), English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), General Education Development (GED), and Individual Student Alternative Education Plan (I.S.A.E.P.).

Mrs. Stukes explained that many of the services offered under the GED program are available to the public free of charge, due to various grant funding sources and partnerships formed within the local community. The Board commended Mrs. Stukes on her enthusiasm and the expansion of the Department of Adult and Continuing Education.

Board Member Items

Dr. Hill-Russ thanked Mr. James Archbell of A and W Contractors, Inc. who donated \$20 Wal-Mart gift cards to 310 students from Carver Intermediate and Truitt Intermediate so the students could shop for holiday presents for their parents. The students were also treated to lunch and were taken to Virginia Beach to view the holiday lights. Dr. Hill-Russ expressed her appreciation to those who give back to their community. Dr. Nichols added that Mr. Archbell has done this for several years for various schools in Chesapeake. Mr. Archbell also provided buses to transport students during their shopping excursion. Dr. Nichols expressed his appreciation to all of the teachers who volunteered their time to accompany students.

Mr. Mercer thanked all of the organizations that give so much to Chesapeake students and families during the holiday season. This is an attribute that makes Chesapeake a wonderful place to live. He thanked the citizens of

Chesapeake for their support of Chesapeake Public Schools in 2007.

Closed Session

Mr. Mercer 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 one real estate matter and one personnel matter."

Mrs. Head moved that the Board go into closed session as provided for in the Code of Virginia and as recommended by Mr. Barry. The motion was seconded by Mr. Leftwich and carried.

Reconvene in Open Session

The meeting reconvened in open session. Mr. Woods moved that the record shows that the only items discussed in the closed meeting were those specifically cited in the motion to convene into closed session. Mr. Leftwich seconded the motion, and the motion carried.

Items Resulting from Closed Session

The Superintendent recommended the approval of the site conveyance agreement regarding the Culpepper Landing development under the conditions discussed in closed session. Mr. Bunn moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. Dr. Hill-Russ seconded the motion and the motion carried.

On behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Head recommended the continuance of the employment of the Superintendent, Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, under the conditions discussed in closed session. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and carried.

The chair congratulated Dr. Nichols and asked if he had any comments. Dr. Nichols expressed his appreciation to Board members for the confidence they demonstrated by awarding him a new contract. The Superintendent expressed his desire to continue working with the Board, the citizens of Chesapeake, and the members of the Chesapeake Public

Schools family, to take students to a higher level of achievement and growth. Dr. Nichols outlined five areas on which he would like to focus during the next two years. The first area is that of bringing teacher salaries up to the national average. Second, the Superintendent expressed his desire to continue to close the achievement gap among students, so that each student achieves his/her maximum potential. The third area of focus is the area of literacy. Dr. Nichols expressed his belief that reading on a proficient level is the most important skill that a child can be taught. Fourth, the Superintendent stated that it is time to re-evaluate what is being done for the gifted child and to move forward to a higher level of offerings for them. The fifth area of focus is the area of housing for students. After 23 years of consecutive growth in our schools, a slight decline in enrollment has been experienced for the past two years. The Superintendent stated that he hoped this decline would allow Chesapeake Public Schools to catch up and rely less on portable classrooms to house students. As enrollment changes, flexibility will be a key factor in housing our students.

Dr. Nichols thanked the Board again for their confidence. The Superintendent stated that he is proud of Chesapeake Public Schools, and proud to serve as Superintendent.

Adjournment

By motion of Mrs. Wiggins, seconded by Mr. Bunn and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman