

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
February 25, 2008**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, February 25, 2008, 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.

Pastor Bennett Sligh, South Norfolk Congregational Christian Church, pronounced the invocation. Mr. C. Jeff Bunn led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

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.
Mr. Harry A. Murphy
Mrs. Ann R. Wiggins
Mr. Michael J. Woods, Vice Chairman
Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman

Also present were Dr. W. Randolph Nichols, 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 J. Barry, Attorney; and Mrs. Brenda A. Turbeville, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

Minutes

Mrs. Head moved to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2008, meeting as presented. Mr. Murphy seconded the motion, which carried with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Adoption of the Agenda

The Superintendent presented a proposed agenda for the meeting and stated that he had no amendments and would not need a closed session. Mr. Murphy moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and carried.

Clerk's Items

2008 VSBA Tidewater Regional Forum - April 24, 2008 - Southampton High School: Dr. Vaughan advised that the Annual Tidewater Regional Forum would be held at Southampton High School on April 24, 2008. He asked which board members planned to attend and requested Board approval for their attendance.

All Board members indicated they planned to attend the meeting. Mr. Murphy moved to approve attendance at the Forum. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and passed unanimously.

Hearing of Citizens

Mr. Jake Manley, 416 Ivy Crescent, signed up to speak, but was not feeling well and left prior to the hearing of citizens. Mr. Manley left printed information for Board members regarding school uniforms.

Ms. Malia Huddle, President of the Chesapeake Education Association, reminded Board members of the National Education Association's Read Across America Day on March 3, 2008. Read Across America focuses on how important it is to motivate children to read in addition to helping them master basic skills. This supports our citywide focus on literacy and reading as a means of student success. Read Across America was launched in 1997 in celebration of children's author Dr. Seuss, who epitomizes the love of learning. An animated digital version of "Horton Hears a Who!" is being released and is available free at www.kidsthing.com/neareadacrossamerica.

Additional information for teachers and parents is available at www.nea.org.

Public Hearing

Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2008-2009 and Planning Budget, 2009-2010: No citizens signed up to speak.

Old Business

Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2008-2009 and Planning Budget, 2009-2010: Dr. Nichols stated that this is the second work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2008-2009 and Planning Budget, 2009-2010. To begin the work session, Dr. Nichols stated that staff would provide answers to several questions asked at the previous work session. The Superintendent asked Ms. Page Stutz, Program Administrator for Planning and Development, to provide information regarding the projected decrease in student enrollment. According to Ms. Stutz, the greatest decrease in enrollment is projected at the middle school level, with a decrease at the high school level as well. The decrease in student enrollment is being seen across the City and not in one particular zone.

The next question referred to the percentage of lottery proceeds received from the State. Ms. Lucente stated that the City receives 100% of the lottery proceeds, but not all are disbursed to the school system as incentive funds. The majority of lottery proceeds are distributed to schools as a portion of Basic Aid.

Ms. Lucente also addressed the formula utilized by the State to distribute lottery proceeds. Approximately 58.4% of the proceeds are allocated to school systems as Basic Aid. Approximately 4.8% of the lottery proceeds are used to fund intervention, prevention, and remediation costs. Ms. Lucente stated that approximately 36.8% of the lottery proceeds were distributed to school systems as incentive funding of which a maximum of 50% could be used for recurring costs, and a minimum of 50% must be used for non-recurring costs.

Ms. Lucente concluded the review of the expenditure portion of the budget. Various questions were asked and explanations given during the presentation. Dr. Roberts

explained that money is included under Operation and Maintenance that would double the bandwidth at the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Dr. Hill-Russ asked staff for an explanation of the line item that includes the fingerprinting machine. Staff will bring back information on this expenditure. Mrs. Johnson asked whether or not the City has repaired the diesel pumps used to fuel buses in Great Bridge. Staff will gather information on the status of this project and present it at the next work session. Mrs. Johnson also asked staff for information regarding scheduled replacements of auditorium sound systems. Information on sound system replacements will be shared at the next work session.

Dr. Nichols stated that additional information regarding the House and Senate versions of Governor Kaine's proposed budget was received over the weekend. Mrs. Woodall presented the projected schools' share of the City budget, the Governor's original proposed budget, the Governor's revised proposed budget, the House and Senate revisions to the Governor's proposed budget, and how each would affect Chesapeake Public Schools. Based on the information provided, the Governor's revised proposed budget would result in a \$9.5M reduction in projected revenue for Chesapeake Public Schools. The revisions proposed by the House would result in a revenue reduction of \$5M. The proposed Senate revisions would result in a revenue reduction of \$7.2M. Dr. Nichols added that even though the revisions proposed by the House version of the Governor's proposed budget would yield a smaller projected reduction in revenue, this revision would not be in the best interest of public education. The House version of the Governor's proposed budget was discussed at length.

Ms. Lucente compared health insurance costs as reflected in the 2007-2008 budget to those contained in the 2008-2009 budget. She discussed cost drivers, history, and cost trends; and closed with the recommended premiums for 2008-2009. Depending on whether an active employee has coverage for the employee only, the employee and spouse, the employee and children, or coverage for the entire family, the proposed increase in premiums for 2008-2009 ranges from \$1.00 per pay period to \$15.00 per pay period. Premium increases for pre-Medicare retirees range from \$7.02 per month to \$122.68 per month depending on the number of years the retiree was employed by Chesapeake Public Schools. Premium increases for Medicare retirees range from \$19.16 per month to \$38.33 per month.

The Superintendent reminded Board members that a final public hearing would be held on Monday, March 10, 2008. The final work session on the budget will also be on Monday, March 10, 2008, with Board action requested.

Proposed School Calendar, 2008-2009 - Final Action:

Dr. Nichols asked Dr. Teresa Mizelle, Director of Staff Development and Assistant to the Superintendent, to review information regarding the calendar options. Dr. Mizelle stated that three calendar options were presented at the January 28 Board meeting. Option 3 was the least favored option and was eliminated from consideration. Option 2 was favored over Option 1 according to information received from parent, community, and employee groups.

Dr. Nichols recommended Option 2 with a provision that if the two banked days are not used first semester, a two-hour early release will be provided on December 23, 2008. Mr. Leftwich moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation with the provision. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bunn and approved unanimously.

Legislative Update: Dr. Vaughan presented an overview of the General Assembly's activities since the last School Board meeting. He reviewed four pertinent bills that have passed both the Senate and the House and await the Governor's signature.

New Business

None

Consent Agenda

By motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mrs. Head, the consent agenda was approved. Items included the following:

- A. Personnel Report
- B. Bid

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Lucente reported on all financial activity for expenditures and revenue through January 31, 2008. She noted that \$2.1M in Impact Aid usually received in January was not received until February. A revenue shortfall of \$2.2M is expected, however, additional state money is anticipated due to ADM. Expenditures are being monitored at this time and are proceeding as expected.

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent made the following announcements.

1. Mayor's Youth Day will be March 4, 2008. Dr. Nichols reviewed the schedule for Board members.
2. The State requires a triennial school census. School census forms will be mailed soon. It is extremely important that citizens complete and return the forms they receive as State sales tax revenues are allocated based on the triennial school census.

Board Member Items

Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Bunn attended Pack 60's annual dinner where six scouts received the Arrow of Light. Mrs. Johnson stated that Hickory High School would be honoring Mrs. Linda Byrd on Tuesday, February 26, 2008, for her dedication and service.

Mr. Bunn announced that the Governor's School of the Arts will present "All Shook Up," a musical, on February 29-March 2, 2008, at the Roper Performing Arts Center on Granby Street. Several Chesapeake students will perform in the musical. Mr. Bunn and Mr. Mercer attended the state wrestling tournament at Oscar Smith High School. Mr. Bunn congratulated Great Bridge High School on its second place finish. Mr. Bunn commended Mr. Wayne Martin, Mr. Greg Jennings, and the Superintendent's staff, for a great job on the tournament. Mr. Mercer added that he and Mrs. Carolyn Bernard presented pictures and medals to bracket winners at the tournament.

Adjournment

By motion of Mrs. Head, seconded by Dr. Hill-Russ and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman