

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
January 31, 2011**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, January 31, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Mr. Harry Murphy, Chairman, presided.

Opening Ceremony

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

Pastor Connie McDonald of New Temple Grove Ministries gave the opening invocation. Julia Mosley, a fourth grader at Hickory Elementary School, led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Roll Call

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

Present: Mr. C. Jeff Bunn
 Mrs. Christie N. Craig
 Mrs. Bonita B. Harris
 Mrs. Brenda J. Johnson
 Mr. Thomas L. Mercer, Sr.
 Mrs. Christina F. Pullen
 Mr. Michael J. Woods
 Mr. James A. Leftwich, Jr., Vice Chair
 Mr. Harry A. Murphy, Chairman

Also present were Dr. James T. Roberts, 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. 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.

Adoption of the Agenda

Dr. Roberts said he had no amendments to the agenda, but would need a closed session for four pupil matters, one legal matter, and two personnel matters. The Chair also had a legal matter to be discussed in closed session. Mrs. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Clerk's Items

None

Public Hearing

None

Hearing of Citizens

Mrs. Heather Foxwell, President of the Chesapeake Education Association, addressed the Board regarding the budget.

Ms. Kamilah Bowers, teacher at Portlock Elementary School, 919 Ketch Court, Chesapeake, VA 23320, spoke on behalf of single parents and/or widows regarding the budget.

Mrs. Mildred Calhoun, teacher at Oscar Smith High School, 1515 River Creek Crescent, Suffolk, VA 23434, spoke requesting a raise for teachers.

Old Business

Planning for Great Bridge Middle School and Hickory Middle School – Proposed Attendance Zone Adjustment – Work Session: Dr. Roberts asked Ms. Paige Stutz, Program Administrator for New Construction and Planning, to present a brief review of the plan aligning the middle school and high school attendance zones serving the neighborhoods of Bridgefield, Great Bridge Gardens, and Stonegate, as well as an overview of feedback from the community meeting held January 19, 2011. Dr. Russell responded to questions regarding the cost of transporting students. Action on this item will be requested at the February 14, 2011, School Board meeting.

Legislative Update: Dr. Vaughan stated that the 2011 Session of the Virginia General Assembly convened January 13, 2011, beginning a short session. The General Assembly is scheduled to adjourn February 26, 2011. The primary focus in the General Assembly continues to be the budget. In addition to the ongoing cuts to the funding formula and lottery funds, there are two major budget-related items that would impact Chesapeake Public Schools. The first concerns whether the School Division would continue to be held harmless for the change in the Local Composite Index. The second has to do with the plan to change contributions and funding for the Virginia Retirement System. Dr. Vaughan then highlighted some of the legislation that has been introduced that is of specific interest to Chesapeake.

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. Personnel Report

Mr. Bunn moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Pullen seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Lucente presented a report on the financial activity for expenditures and revenue through December 31, 2010. The budget under which current financial forecasts were made was based on the budget passed by the General Assembly on March 14, 2010. Under the Governor's proposed amendments, Chesapeake Public Schools could see a \$1.6 million shortfall. Three payments on Impact Aid have been received from the federal government. Other local revenue is expected to fall short of budget. State revenue will be dependent upon the budget passed by the General Assembly. Approximately \$11.5 million of the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds have been expended.

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent announced the following:

1. There will be a special meeting of the School Board on February 3, 2011, that will include a work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget 2011-2012.
2. The VSBA Legislative Conference will be held in Richmond on February 10, 2011.
3. On Thursday, January 27, 2011, Dr. Roberts spoke to the Hampton Roads Caucus at the General Assembly building in Richmond regarding funding for public schools. He thanked Mrs. Craig for arranging this opportunity.
4. Principals Appreciation Week was January 23-29, 2011.
5. National School Counseling week will be February 7-11, 2011.
6. Dr. Powers updated the Board on the situation regarding the newly adopted textbook from Five Ponds Press that contained errors. On January 9, 2011, Five Ponds Press offered free replacement copies of the second edition to those school divisions that purchased first editions. The Virginia Board of Education met on January 13, 2011, to discuss this matter. The Board issued four specific directives to the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Patricia I. Wright, including revising the Virginia Board of Education's process for adopting textbooks.

Proposed School Calendar, 2011-2012: Dr. Roberts stated that this would be the initial presentation of the proposed school calendar for 2011-2012, and that Board action

would be requested at a later meeting. Following the initial presentation, the two options will be circulated among employees and parents for their input. Dr. Mizelle reviewed the school calendar principles, presented the two options and highlighted the differences between them, and explained how well the calendar options are aligned with the calendar principles.

Presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2011-2012:

Dr. Roberts said this would be the initial presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2011-2012. In addition to this presentation, there will be two public hearings and three work sessions on the budget. Dr. Roberts reminded Board members that even after they approve the budget, they would have an opportunity to make revisions after City Council has taken final action.

Dr. Roberts asked Ms. Lucente to provide an overview of the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2011-2012. Ms. Lucente presented a comparison of budgets from the past four years. She detailed how the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Funds, Education Jobs Fund, Voluntary Retirement Incentive Program, and reductions in personnel and non-personnel costs helped Chesapeake Public Schools manage revenue reductions. Ms. Lucente's presentation included the impact on future years of State Fiscal Stabilization Funds and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds. An overview of the impact of the Educational Jobs Fund and changes in the State formula were included in the presentation. Ms. Lucente provided an overview of operating budget needs for future years, and reviewed possible changes to contributions and funding for the Virginia Retirement System. Dr. Roberts commented that the possibility of a raise or bonus for school employees continues to be monitored daily. A special meeting including a work session on the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget, 2011-2012 will be held on February 3, 2011.

Board Member Items

Mrs. Pullen thanked employees who attended this meeting to hear the initial presentation regarding the budget. She encouraged employees to contact Board members with their input regarding budget items.

Mr. Bunn said he and Mrs. Johnson attended "Men in Song," an annual event held at Great Bridge High School. He congratulated Mr. James Sanders, choral director at Great Bridge High School, as well as other choral directors throughout the city for their hard work and dedication.

As the Board's delegate, Mr. Mercer said he attended the SECEP (South Eastern Cooperative Educational Program) meeting. Dr. Judith N. Green, Executive Director of SECEP, announced her retirement. A SECEP Board appointed committee will search for her replacement. A plan to give SECEP workers a one-time bonus was pulled from the agenda prior to the meeting. SECEP employees fall under Norfolk's pay scale. Norfolk gave bonuses to their employees from ARRA (American Reinvestment and Recovery Act) funds. There was a lively discussion, which resulted in the continuation of the matter for 60 days. The proposed bonus plan would mirror the same bonus plan being used by Norfolk Public Schools. He invited Board members to share their input with him.

On January 15, 2011, Mrs. Johnson attended the Third Annual Southeastern Virginia Junior District Orchestra concert held at Greenbrier Middle School. She congratulated Mr. Parrish at Hickory High School who composed one of the songs performed by the eighth-grade orchestra. On January 18, 2011, as a delegate of the School Board, Mrs. Johnson attended a meeting of the Special Education Advisory Board. On January 20, 2011, Mrs. Johnson attended a concert at Great Bridge High School where students from Great Bridge Middle School and Great Bridge Intermediate School performed. She commended Mr. Nick Nespoli for his hard work at Western Branch High School. She commended Oscar Smith High School for improving their writing scores by 18 percent this fall.

Mrs. Harris thanked schools for providing students with a wonderful reading month. She read to classes at Great Bridge Primary School and Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. Mrs. Harris will be attending the PTSA meeting at Indian River High School where the program "Calling All Dads" will be presented. She announced that Indian River High School's award-winning step team would be hosting its annual step show on Saturday, February 5, 2011.

Mr. Murphy said he participated in reading month at Thurgood Marshall Elementary School. He led students in a productive discussion regarding the importance of education and how hard their teacher had to work to become an educator.

Closed Session

Mr. Murphy 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 four pupil matters, two personnel matters, and two matters requiring consultation with legal counsel."

Mr. Leftwich moved that the Board go into closed session as provided in the Code of Virginia. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Harris and approved, with all members voting yes.

Reconvene in Open Meeting

The meeting reconvened in open session. Mr. Leftwich moved that the record show that the only items discussed in the closed meeting were those specifically cited in the motion to convene into closed session. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting yes.

Recommendations from Closed Session

The Superintendent recommended the expulsion of Student #1. Mr. Leftwich moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Pullen seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

The Superintendent recommended the expulsion of Student #1 be under the conditions discussed in closed session. Mr. Leftwich moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Harris seconded the motion, which passed with Mr. Bunn, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Leftwich, Mr. Mercer, and Mrs. Pullen voting in favor of the motion. Mrs. Craig, Mr. Murphy, and Mr. Woods voted in opposition to the motion.

Dr. Roberts recommended that Student #1 be provided services during the period of expulsion. Mr. Leftwich moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Johnson seconded the motion, which passed with Mr. Bunn, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Harris, Mrs. Johnson, Mr. Leftwich, Mrs. Pullen, and Mr. Woods voted in favor of the motion. Mr. Mercer and Mr. Murphy voted against the motion.

The Superintendent recommended that Student #2, Student #3, and Student #4 be expelled under the conditions discussed in closed session. Mr. Bunn moved to accept the recommendation. Mrs. Craig seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Harry A. Murphy, Chairman