

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
March 28, 2011**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, March 28, 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.

The Reverend Kathleen Bobbitt of St. Thomas Episcopal Church gave the opening invocation. George Yates III, a fifth grader and SCA President at G. W. Carver Intermediate 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; Ms. Victoria Lucente, Assistant Superintendent for Budget and Finance; Dr. Patricia L. Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Alan L. Vaughan, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and School Services/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 one legal matter, one personnel matter, and four pupil matters. Mrs. Johnson moved to adopt the agenda as presented. Mr. Bunn seconded the motion, which passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Special Events

Special Recognitions – Chesapeake Scholar Athletes: Dr. Vaughan asked Mr. Wayne Martin, Director of Student Services, to introduce the Chesapeake Scholar Athletes who were to be recognized.

Special Recognitions – Chesapeake Champions: Mr. Martin introduced students who had distinguished themselves as Chesapeake Champions.

A list of all of the students and employees who were recognized is available through the Office of the Clerk of the Board.

Clerk's Items

2011 VSBA School Law Conference – June 3, 2011: Dr. Vaughan advised that the VSBA would hold its Annual School Law Conference on June 3, 2011, in Charlottesville, Virginia. He asked for a show of hands of any Board member wishing to attend the conference and a motion to approve their attendance. No Board members wish to attend the conference.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Old Business

None

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
- D. Proposed Revisions to School Board Policy P 6-29 – Special Education – Second Reading and Final Action
- E. Special Education Annual Plan and Report – Final Action

Mr. Mercer moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Craig 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 February 28, 2011. A revenue shortfall of approximately \$1.8 million is expected in state revenue. This estimate may increase or decrease depending on sales tax collections. Federal revenue is expected to exceed federal revenue budgets. A revenue shortfall is expected in local revenue, bringing the estimated overall revenue shortfall to \$1.4 million. The shortfall is expected to be absorbed by reduced expenditures. Of the total available funds from the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act, approximately \$14.3 million has been expended or encumbered.

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent announced the following:

1. The Teacher of the Year Celebration will be held March 31, 2011, at Deep Creek High School at 6:45 p.m.
2. Schools will be closed for students for a teacher workday on April 6, 2011.
3. On April 8, 2011, Oscar Smith High School will host the Special Games beginning at 9 a.m.
4. Spring break will be April 18-22, 2011. All school facilities and offices will be closed on Friday, April 22, 2011.
5. The next School Board meeting is scheduled for April 25, 2011.
6. Chesapeake Public Schools has been named to the AP Achievement List by the College Board for significant gains in Advanced Placement, Access, and Student Performance. Fewer than 400 school districts in the nation were honored for opening Advanced Placement classroom doors to a significantly broader pool of students while maintaining or improving the percentage of students' scores. Dr. Roberts congratulated all who made this honor possible.
7. Dr. Roberts met with the Mayor's Ambassadors, a group of middle school students who meet with the Mayor, and fielded questions from the group on various topics.
8. Dr. Roberts brought greetings to the Careers 24th Annual 2011 Event. The event was sponsored by Chesapeake Public Schools Career and Technology Department. Approximately 50 businesses participated in the event. Students from all Chesapeake high schools participated. He congratulated students on being well dressed and well mannered.
9. Dr. Roberts will conclude his meetings with faculty members in the various schools in the next few weeks.

Current Year Budget Update: Dr. Roberts stated that the status of the budget for the current year had been reviewed. The School Division has maintained a conservative status for the past three years. Every vacancy has been monitored and expenditures have been held to a minimum. The goal over the last three years has been to reduce spending wherever possible to address the economic problems that have been felt in our locality, state, and nation. The goal has been to keep reductions as far away from instruction as possible and to manage our staff without laying off employees. Every aspect of the financial situation has been monitored

continuously as well as the actions of surrounding school districts. Dr. Roberts gave an overview of the process that was followed in considering options for employees. A pay increase for employees this year could not be provided since it would impact expenditures for next year's budget. Any recommendation for a bonus in the current year could not impact stimulus funds or the Education Jobs Fund. The Superintendent stated that his recommendation would be based on operating budget savings from the current year. The Superintendent recommended a \$500 bonus (before taxes) for all employees in a full time equivalent status be paid by a separate check on April 15, 2011. This bonus would be paid to persons employed as of March 28, 2011. Mr. Leftwich moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Johnson, and unanimously approved by the Board.

Board Member Items

Mrs. Johnson congratulated students from Chesapeake's seven high schools who competed in the CCAP (Career in Culinary Arts Program) junior competition. She congratulated Shanice Barksdale, a student at Great Bridge High School, who received a \$2,000 scholarship. A. J. Dean, a student at Deep Creek High School, received a \$7,500 scholarship. The top winners in the competition included Shauntelle Page, a student at Oscar Smith High School, who received a \$35,200 scholarship, and Wesley Williams, also a student at Oscar Smith High School, who received a \$62,000 scholarship. She congratulated students who have chosen the culinary field as a profession. Mrs. Johnson also attended the 5th Annual CEA (Chesapeake Education Association) Unsung Heroes Ceremony, and congratulated the CEA for recognition of these employees. She enjoyed Mr. Harold Hash, the guest speaker at the event.

Mrs. Pullen took a minute to address the Governor's veto of the bill that would have mandated 150 hours of physical education for students in Virginia. Mrs. Pullen felt the bill would have resulted in a significant unfunded mandate. Mrs. Pullen stated she values the idea of blending health content with other areas of curriculum, and asked staff to explore ways to incorporate health content with other areas of instruction. She would also like to know if the Department of Education has any guidelines on including health and wellness in other areas of curriculum.

Mrs. Craig said she and Delegate John Cosgrove visited Ms. Katy Cosgrove's sixth-grade civics class at Hickory Middle School. Mrs. Craig and Delegate Cosgrove spoke on state and local government and fielded questions from students. It was a most enjoyable day.

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 one personnel, four pupil matters matter, and one matter requiring consultation with legal counsel.”

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

Recommendations from Closed Session

The Superintendent recommended the expulsion of Student #1, Student #2, Student #3, and Student #4 under the conditions discussed in closed session. Mrs. Johnson moved to approve the Superintendent's recommendation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Pullen and passed with all members voting in favor of the motion.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Harry A. Murphy, Chairman