

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CITY OF CHESAPEAKE, VIRGINIA
October 29, 2007**

A meeting of the School Board of the City of Chesapeake, Virginia, was held on Monday, October 29, 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.

Mr. Harry A. Murphy pronounced the invocation. Dr. Sheila G. Hill-Russ 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; 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

On motion of Mrs. Head, seconded by Mr. Bunn, minutes of the regular meeting held on October 8, 2007, were approved as presented.

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. Leftwich moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Wiggins and carried.

Clerk's Items

School Board Forum and Public Hearing: Dr. Vaughan reminded the Board members and the public that the Annual Forum would be held Thursday, November 1, 2007, at Deep Creek High School. The public was encouraged to participate. A reception will begin at 6:00 p.m., followed by the forum, beginning at 7 p.m. Citizens may submit questions prior to the forum. A public hearing on the Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan - 2008-2018 will follow the forum. Citizens were advised to call the Clerk's office at 547-1047 to sign up for time to speak during the public hearing.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Consent Agenda

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

- A. Bids
- B. Personnel Report
- C. Advisory Committee on Gifted Education
- D. 2008 Application—Medicare Part D

Monthly Financial Report

Ms. Lucente reported on all financial activity for expenditures and revenue through September 30, 2007. The September enrollment figures were higher than anticipated,

and will result in a slightly higher than anticipated revenue. This will be contingent on sales tax revenue coming in as projected. Expenditures are as expected for September.

Superintendent's Report

Announcements: The Superintendent made the following announcements.

1. The dedication of Grassfield High School will be held Sunday, November 4, 2007, at 2:00 p.m. Tours of the facility will be available to the public following the ceremony.
2. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be Monday, November 5, 2007, at 7:00 p.m.
3. The Annual Forum will be held Thursday, November 1, 2007, at Deep Creek High School.
4. The Superintendent reminded everyone that schools will be closed for students on November 5, 2007, and November 6, 2007. November 5, 2007, is a teacher workday and November 6, 2007, is a staff development day.
5. Dr. Nichols congratulated RRMM Architects/Waller, Todd, and Sadler Architects for receiving the 2007 VSBA Exhibition of School Architecture Distinguished Design Award for Grassfield High School.

Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan - 2008-2018: Dr. Nichols said that this initial presentation of the Superintendent's Proposed Capital Improvement Plan - 2008-2018 required no action. He asked Ms. Paige Stutz, Program Administrator for Planning and Development, to make the presentation.

Ms. Stutz stated that the capital improvement plan (CIP) is intended to convey the school system's needs. The CIP spans a ten-year period including cost information for the first five years. The CIP is a fluid document that is updated annually. Ms. Stutz reported that the 2008-2013 five-year grand total is \$372,349,400 in current dollars. According to Ms. Stutz, the cost of these same projects would amount to \$446,428,800 in inflated dollars.

Ms. Stutz announced that additional presentations would be made on the following dates:

- November 1, 2007 - Public Hearing & Work Session
- November 5, 2007 - Public Hearing & Work Session
- November 26, 2007 - Public Hearing, Work Session, & Final Action

Program Evaluation - Accelerated Reader: Dr. Nichols stated that this would be an information only item and that

Board action would not be required. Mrs. Penny Goodin, Program Administrator for School Improvement Planning, Internal Audit, and Program Evaluation, and Dr. Elaine Chase, Assistant in Program Evaluation, presented the nature and findings of the evaluation. Dr. Patricia Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Instruction, presented the steps that will be utilized to remedy the concerns reflected in the evaluation.

Dr. Elaine Chase presented an overview of the evaluation of the Accelerated Reader program including the background and the evaluation process. Mrs. Penny Goodin reviewed the major conclusions drawn from the evaluation on both the elementary and middle school levels. Dr. Powers outlined the process for improvement, which will include a literacy panel consisting of various stakeholders, an Action Plan, and consistent guidelines for implementation and recognition.

A general discussion of the Accelerated Reader program followed the presentation. Suggestions from Board members included utilizing stakeholders on every level, determining the extent to which the program will be used in grading, implementing fair and equitable recognition on all reading levels, and providing tests for all books in all schools.

Dr. Powers reiterated the school system's intent to restore the Accelerated Reader program to its original purpose, which was to motivate students to read individually.

Board Member Items

Mrs. Johnson commended the Rena B. Wright community for supporting the carnival and yard sale. She also commended Mrs. Brenda Hobbs, principal at Rena B. Wright Primary, for checking for proper identification prior to releasing students to adults. Mrs. Johnson attended a dinner in the Dunedin area, which funds a yearly scholarship for a Western Branch High School student. Mrs. Johnson was invited to interview marketing students in Mrs. Noble's class at Grassfield High School, preparing them for the work force. Mrs. Johnson stated that she, Mr. Mercer, Mrs. Wiggins, Mrs. Head, and Mr. Bunn attended Sunday's ceremony at B. M. Williams Primary School. On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Johnson extended sympathies to the families who lost loved ones in a fire in North Carolina.

Mr. Bunn visited the Seventh Annual Chesapeake Public Schools College Fair and commended Dr. Powers and her staff for their hard work. He also attended the Southeastern District Cheerleading Championship Competition at Oscar Smith High School. Three Chesapeake schools placed in the competition: First place went to Hickory High School,

Second place went to Western Branch High School, and Third place went to Grassfield High School.

Mr. Mercer noted Mr. Stephen Best, Fire Chief, and Mrs. Carolyn Bernard, principal at Grassfield High School, were honored, along with Dr. Nichols, at the W. Randolph Nichols Scholarship Fund dinner on October 25, 2007. He also reminded everyone of the Home Run Derby to be held at Grassfield High School on November 3, 2007.

Adjournment

On motion of Mr. Murphy, seconded by Mr. Bunn and approved unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Alan L. Vaughan, Ph.D., Clerk

Thomas L. Mercer, Sr., Chairman