

MEETING MINUTES

School Board of Stafford County
Regular School Board Meeting
September 14, 2021
7:00 p.m.
School Board Chamber
31 Stafford Avenue
Stafford, Virginia 22554



1. CALL TO ORDER

1.01 Call to Order

The meeting was convened at 7:00 p.m.

1.02 Authorization to Participate Electronically in the Meeting

Ms. Healy moved, and Ms. Randall seconded, that the Board authorize Ms. Yeung to participate electronically in the meeting. **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. (As the subject of the motion, Ms. Yeung did not cast a vote.)**

1.03 Roll-Call

The following Board members were in attendance:

Holly Hazard, Chair (Hartwood District);
Susan Randall, Vice-Chair (George Washington District);
Dr. Sarah Chase (Falmouth District);
Patricia Healy (Rock Hill District);
Irene Hollerback (Aquia District);
Dr. Elizabeth Warner (Griffis-Widewater District); and
R. Pamela Yeung* (Garrisonville District).

Ms. Yeung participated in-person from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.; from 8:30 p.m. to 9:21 p.m., she participated electronically from a separate room in the building in order to attend to an important telephone call.

Also present on the dais was Interim Superintendent Dr. Stanley Jones.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.01 Color Guard Presentation and Pledge of Allegiance

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

3.01 Approval of the Agenda

Ms. Yeung moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board approve the meeting agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

4. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

4.01 Proclamation for Arts in Education Week

The Board issued [a proclamation](#) to designate September 12-18, 2021, as Arts in Education Week throughout the school division.

4.02 Proclamation for Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month

The Board issued [a proclamation](#) to designate September 15 through October 15, 2021, as Hispanic and Latinx Heritage Month throughout the school division.

5. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS & REPORTS

5.01 Unaudited FY21 Year-End Financial Report

The Board received an FY21 year-end [preliminary financial update](#).

5.02 Staff Update on the First Four Weeks of School

The Board received [an update](#) on the first four weeks of school.

6. CITIZEN COMMENTS

6.01 Citizen Comments

The Board heard comments from [the following citizens](#): Nichole Dulin; Melissa Angel (see [written speech](#)); Logan Moore (see [written speech](#)); and David Andrusko (see [handout](#)).

7. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

7.01 Standing Committee Reports

Dr. Warner reported that the school board's Finance and Budget Committee met on September 9. The committee made its final edits to the proposed FY23 Budget Priorities and is recommending that the Board adopt the priorities this evening. The committee also discussed large class sizes, staffing shortage areas, and employee salary scales. As one of several recruitment and retention tools, the committee will be recommending that the Board amend Policy 2105 (Nonresidents) to allow full-time nonlicensed staff who live outside Stafford County to enroll their children in our schools.

Dr. Warner also reported that the school board's Governance Committee met on September 13. The committee reviewed proposed amendments to Policy 1121 (Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations). The amendments are required due to recent changes to Virginia laws. The committee also received information regarding updates to our Title IX policy, which are the result of a federal update. Additionally, the committee reviewed proposed amendments to a number of 4,000-series policies (Human Resources policies). Dr. Warner further stated that the committee reviewed a draft school board resolution for the creation of a new ad hoc school transportation

advisory committee. The Governance Committee is recommending that the Board adopt the resolution and all of the proposed policy amendments.

8. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

8.01 Board Member Comments

Ms. Healy spoke of her deep frustration about our lack of communication to parents regarding late buses. She requested that staff improve communication to parents.

Ms. Hollerback urged Dr. Jones to let the Board know if more personnel resources are needed to assist Transportation staff to answer parent phone calls.

Dr. Chase agreed with Ms. Healy's comments and also expressed concern about students missing instructional time due to late buses.

Dr. Chase stated for the record that Critical Race Theory (CRT) is not part of our curriculum and, to her knowledge, is not being taught in any of our schools. She also condemned the recent adoption of a resolution by the board of supervisors regarding the teaching of CRT.

Ms. Yeung stated that when the Board decided in May to change the school start times this year, it may have contributed to the transportation problem that we are now experiencing. She believes the Board needs to relook at the start times. Ms. Yeung also wishes to provide some type of compensation to parents who are transporting their own and neighbors' children to school.

Ms. Randall spoke about the divisions that exist today in our society – both national and local. She also expressed her hope that we will be able to shorten the required duration of our quarantines so that students will lose less in-person instructional time. Further, Ms. Randall requested that we establish vaccine clinics in all four quadrants of the county for the convenience of students and parents. She also expressed deep concern for the lost instructional time due to chronically late buses.

Dr. Warner thanked parents for their patience and cooperation as we struggle to resolve the many transportation issues. She then echoed Dr. Chase's assurance that SCPS does not teach CRT. She spoke of the difference between CRT and the subject of equity. Dr. Warner stated she shares Dr. Chase's concern regarding the board of supervisors' recently adopted CRT resolution.

Ms. Hazard spoke of the partnerships that make it possible to educate our County's children. She also stated that our staff are diligently trying to find ways to resolve the transportation issues that are causing frustration for everyone.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

9.01 Interim Superintendent Comments

Dr. Jones stated that he hopes to have transportation data to share with the Board members within the next few days. He also reported that the Transportation Department has been holding bus driver recruitment drives and training classes. Every effort is being made to onboard as many qualified new drivers as possible. Dr. Jones then invited Executive Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin to update the Board on what has been done in recent days to improve communication. Mr. Baldwin explained the communication processes that are being followed by his staff.

10. CONSENT ITEMS

- 10.01 [Approval of the Minutes for the 7 p.m. Special Board Meeting of August 4, 2021](#)
- 10.02 [Approval of the September 14, 2021 Personnel Report of Resignations and Appointments](#)
- 10.03 [Excusal of Eight Students from Compulsory Attendance by Reason of Bona Fide Religious Belief.](#)
- 10.04 [Appointment of Members to the CTE Advisory Committee, the Fine & Performing Arts Advisory Committee, the School Health Advisory Committee, the Special Education Advisory Committee, and the Technology Advisory Committee](#)
- 10.05 [Approval of a Payment in the Amount of \\$155,210.89 to Tyler Technologies, Inc., for Annual Maintenance, Hardware, and Support Costs for Transportation/Fleet Services \(Using Budgeted FY22 Operating Funds\)](#)
- 10.06 [Award of a Contract to Trane, Inc., for Chiller Maintenance in the Amount of \\$130,000 \(Using Operating Funds\)](#)
- 10.07 [Award of a Contract to Miller's Supplies at Work for Air Max Air Purifier Filters in the Amount of \\$339,838.16 \(Using Federal Grant Funds\)](#)
- 10.08 [Award of a Professional Contract in the Amount of \\$7,922,385 to Grimm & Parker Architects for Design and Construction Administration Services for High School #6 \(Using VPSA Bond Funds\)](#)

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board approve Consent Items 10.01 through 10.08. **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

Following the Board's approval of the Consent Items, Executive Director of Technology Jay Cooke announced the appointment of Steven Rayford as the new assistant director of Technology.

11. ACTION ITEMS

- 11.01 [Approval of the Name and Dedication of an Outdoor Classroom at Widewater Elementary School for Dr. Scott R. Kizner](#)

There was no discussion regarding this matter.

Ms. Healy moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board move this item from Information (as Item 12.03) to Action (as Item 11.01). **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

Dr. Warner moved, and Ms. Randall seconded, that the Board approve the name and dedication of [an outdoor classroom](#) at Widewater Elementary School for Dr. Scott R. Kizner. **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

11.02 [Approval of the Proposed FY23-FY32 Stafford County Public Schools Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) and “3R” Infrastructure Plan](#)

Ms. Hazard noted that page 29 of [the proposed CIP/3R plan](#) talks about our aging infrastructure. She pointed everyone’s attention to the age of the Fleet Services and support services facilities (c. 1980 and c. 1998, respectively). She strongly believes that the FY23-FY32 capital improvement plan should include a project to address the Fleet Services facility. With our county’s explosive growth, it would be far more efficient and cost-effective to have at least two Fleet Services shops (one in each half of the county). She stressed the importance of telling the board of supervisors about our needs.

Ms. Healy recommended tasking the new transportation advisory committee with looking at this issue and providing recommendations. Dr. Chase and Dr. Warner agreed.

Ms. Healy also requested that the Joint Schools Working Committee discuss the issue of shared Fleet Services at its next meeting.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board approve [the proposed FY23-FY32 CIP and 3R Infrastructure Plan](#). **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

11.03 [Adoption of the School Board’s FY23 Budget Priorities](#)

Ms. Hazard asked her fellow Board members to consider amending [the proposed document](#) to include a statement about establishing an agreement with the local funding body to begin providing a certain percentage of funding over what the State provides. That is truly the only way we will be able to compete with other school divisions for high quality staff and faculty.

Dr. Warner advocated for maintaining some flexibility and recommended against committing to any particular percentage. But she agrees that the school board does need to work with the board of supervisors on a long-term strategy to improve our competitiveness.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board adopt [the proposed school board FY23 budget priorities](#). **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

11.04 [Adoption of a Proposed Amendment to Policy 1403 \(School Attendance Areas\)](#)

Dr. Warner and Ms. Healy voiced their support for the amended draft policy.

Dr. Warner moved, and Ms. Healy seconded, that the Board adopt the proposed amendment to Policy 1403. **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

11.05 [Adoption of a Resolution for the Formation of a One-Year Ad Hoc Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

The Board members reviewed [the proposed resolution](#) and agreed upon the following edits:

- First page, fifth paragraph
Add “and (5) review the transportation support facilities” at the end of the sentence;
- Second page, section 3
Change “bus monitor” to “bus attendant;” and
- Second page, section 6
Change “The superintendent or designee may serve as a committee member and be entitled to propose and recommend...” to “The superintendent or designee will serve as a committee resource and may propose and recommend...”.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board move this item from Information (as Item 12.01) to Action (as Item 11.05). **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays.**

Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.

Dr. Warner moved, and Dr. Chase seconded, that the Board adopt the proposed resolution for the formation of a one-year ad hoc school transportation advisory committee with the edits listed above. **The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and no nays. Ms. Yeung was unable to cast a vote due to technical difficulties.**

11.06 [Award of a Delivery Order to Blue Bird Bus Sales of Virginia, Using Budgeted FY22 Annual Operating Funds in the Amount of \\$973,051, for the Procurement of Five Mainstream School Buses and Four Special Needs School Buses](#)

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration Chris Fulmer advised the Board that it would be to our benefit to complete the delivery order as soon as possible, as there are parts shortages in the school bus manufacturing sector just as there are in the regular automobile sector. It typically takes at least six months to receive a new bus after ordering it. The current manufacturing issues will likely extend that even further.

Ms. Hazard asked for clarification about the pricing differences between the two vendors (Blue Bird Bus Sales and Sonny Merryman). Mr. Fulmer explained that some of the new buses will run on gas, while others will run on diesel, so the prices are slightly different.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board move this item from Information (as Item 12.04) to Action (as Item 11.06). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board award the proposed delivery order to Blue Bird Bus Sales of Virginia in the amount of \$973,051 for the procurement of five mainstream buses and four special needs buses. **The motion passed unanimously.**

11.07 [Award of a Delivery Order to Sonny Merryman, Inc., Using Budgeted FY22 Annual Operating Funds in the Amount of \\$344,515, for the Procurement of Two Mainstream School Buses and One Special Needs School Bus](#)

This matter was discussed simultaneously with Item 11.06.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board move this item from Information (as Item 12.05) to Action (as Item 11.07). **The motion passed unanimously.**

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board award the proposed delivery order to Sonny Merryman, Inc., in the amount of \$344,515 for the procurement of two mainstream buses and one special needs bus. **The motion passed unanimously.**

12. INFORMATION ITEMS

These items were brought to the Board for a “first reading” and discussion today. Unless otherwise indicated, the items will be brought back to the Board for action on September 28, 2021.

12.01 [Adoption of a Resolution for the Formation of a One-Year Ad Hoc Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 11.05.)

12.02 [Discussion Regarding the Stafford County Planning Commission’s Possible Recommendation to Modify the Urban Services Area Boundary in the Vicinity of the Clift Farm School Property Owned by the School Division](#)

Executive Director of Facilities and Operations John Anderson provided [a draft map of the Clift Farm Project Future Land Use](#) and explained there has been a request for the County to remove an area from the urban services area (“USA”) which includes our Clift Farm property. He advised the Board that it would not be to our advantage for the land to be removed from the USA. School division staff has notified County staff of our opposition to the plan. Mr. Anderson stated, however, that if the land is removed from the USA, it could be put back if and when we are ready to build on the site. He explained that although the property is not suitable for any of the projects that are in our current 10-year capital improvement plan, the land could be suitable for something further into the future.

Dr. Chase reported that she has spoken with a number of residents in that area and some of them have concerns about the nearby Filippo Farm property being rezoned and turned into a 55+ community. Dr. Chase also stated that she hopes the Clift Farm property can remain in the USA.

Ms. Hollerback stated she is curious to know the intent behind the push to remove the property from the USA, and she wonders how doing so could aid the County’s efforts to control urban sprawl.

Ms. Hazard stated that she does not want to make any decision that would make the Clift Farm property any less marketable.

12.03 [Approval of the Name and Dedication of an Outdoor Classroom at Widewater Elementary School for Dr. Scott R. Kizner](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 11.01.)

12.04 [Award of a Delivery Order to Blue Bird Bus Sales of Virginia, Inc., Using Budgeted FY22 Annual Operating Funds in the Amount of \\$973,051, for the Procurement of Five Mainstream School Buses and Four Special Needs School Buses](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 11.06.)

12.05 [Award of a Delivery Order to Sonny Merryman, Inc., Using Budgeted FY22 Annual Operating Funds in the Amount of \\$344,515, for the Procurement of Two Mainstream School Buses and One Special Needs School Bus](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 11.07.)

13. UPCOMING MEETINGS

13.01 [Next Meeting of the School Board](#)

The Board has the following meetings scheduled for the remainder of September:

- September 21 at 6:00 p.m. – Meeting with the superintendent search firm, BWP & Associates;
- September 23 at 6:00 p.m. – Meeting with representatives from the parent/teacher organizations and associations across the school division; and
- September 28 at 7:00 p.m. – Regular school board meeting.

14. ADJOURNMENT

14.01 [Adjournment](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 9:21 p.m.

Holly H. Hazard, Chair
School Board of Stafford County

Melissa D. Hall, Clerk of the Board