



MEETING MINUTES

School Board of Stafford County
Regular School Board Meeting
August 24, 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 7:17 p.m.

1.02 Authorization to Participate Electronically in the Meeting

Ms. Healy moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board authorize Dr. Chase, Ms. Hollerback, and Ms. Yeung to participate electronically. **The motion passed by a vote of four ayes and no nays. (As the subjects of the motion, Dr. Chase, Ms. Hollerback, and Ms. Yeung did not cast votes.)**

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) – *departed at 10:15 p.m.*;
Dr. Elizabeth Warner (Griffis-Widewater District); and
R. Pamela Yeung*** (Garrisonville District)

*Dr. Chase participated electronically from a hotel in Baltimore, Maryland, where she was caring for her husband following surgery.

**Ms. Hollerback participated electronically from her workplace in Arlington due to a work obligation that prevented her leaving early enough to return to Stafford for the Board meeting.

***Ms. Yeung had recently been in close contact with unmasked individuals. For this reason, she participated electronically from her home in Stafford County out of an abundance of caution to protect her fellow Board members and all others who were present in the school board chamber.

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

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2.01 Pledge of Allegiance

3. AGENDA APPROVAL

3.01 Approval of the Agenda

Dr. Warner moved, and Ms. Yeung seconded, that the Board approve the meeting agenda with two revisions: 1) Move the Consent Items to immediately after the agenda approval, and 2) add a new Action Item 10.02 to either cancel or repurpose the September 21 special called board meeting in light of recent developments. **The motion passed unanimously.**

4. CONSENT ITEMS

4.01 Approval of the Minutes for the June 29, July 27, and August 4, 2021 School Board Meetings

4.02 Approval of the August 24, 2021 Personnel Report of Resignations & Appointments.

4.03 Excusal of Six Students from Compulsory Attendance by Reason of Bona Fide Religious Belief

4.04 Appointment of Members to the Seven School Board Advisory Committees for the 2021-2022 School Year

4.05 Authorization for Newly-Elected School Board Members to Attend the Virginia School Boards' Association's Annual Convention in Williamsburg, Virginia, at an Estimated Cost of \$1,600 from FY22 Operating Funds

4.06 Award of a Construction Contract in the Amount of \$692,624 to Atlantic Constructors, Inc., for the Replacement of Two Chillers at Park Ridge Elementary School (Using VPSA 2020B Bond Funds, Subject to Appropriation by the Board of Supervisors)

4.07 Award of Four Contracts for Food, Milk, Bread, and Non-Grocery Items, for School Nutrition (Using Budgeted FY22 School Nutrition Funds)

Ms. Randall moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board approve Consent Items 4.01 through 4.07. **The motion passed unanimously.**

Following approval of the Consent Items, Executive Director of Human Resources Patrick Byrnett announced the appointment of Ms. Delfa Jimeno as a new supervisor of Human Resources.

5. AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

5.01 Partner Recognition for New Teacher Institute, Transportation Services Institute, and Collect for Kids

The Board recognized our many community partners who provided invaluable aid for this year's New Teacher and Transportation Services Institutes and the Collect for Kids donation drive.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.01 COVID-19 Update

Executive Director of Student Services and Special Education Dr. George Hummer and Administrator of Health Services Colette Hokana provided [an update](#) regarding our current practices and procedures for isolation and quarantine.

6.02 [Update on Recruitment and Retention of Staff and Faculty for the 2021-2022 School Year](#)

Mr. Byrnett provided [a report](#) on our recruitment and retention efforts for staff and faculty positions.

6.03 [Transportation Update](#)

Executive Director of Transportation Keba Baldwin provided [a transportation update](#).

7. CITIZEN COMMENTS

7.01 [Citizen Comments](#)

The Board heard comments from the following citizens: Jodi Fagan ([copy of speech](#)), student Michael Gallant ([handout provided](#)), William Mays, Chris Lawson ([copy of speech](#)), Kevin Haimovici ([copy of speech](#)), Jesse Belt, Juliet Schwerter, Maureen Siegmund, Sarah Taylor, Deanna Fisher, and Marcia Whaley.

8. BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS

8.01 [Standing Committee Reports](#)

There were no committee reports.

9. SUPERINTENDENT COMMENTS

9.01 [Superintendent Comments](#)

Dr. Jones made the following statement regarding Critical Race Theory: “Stafford County Public Schools does not teach, nor do we promote, the philosophy of Critical Race Theory in any of our schools. Stafford County Public Schools’ K-12 history and social sciences program is based on the Virginia *Standards of Learning* and the accompanying history and social sciences curriculum framework. For the public, in order to assist you in an examination of the teaching materials employed in SCPS, as well as across the Commonwealth of Virginia, I encourage you to visit our SCPS history and social studies instruction webpage. This webpage will provide you with the standards of learning, curriculum framework, and additional resources for instruction.” Dr. Jones then shared an [informational handout](#) from the VSBA entitled *Understanding the Difference Between Critical Race Theory and Education Equity: What You Need to Know*.

Dr. Jones also thanked retiring Superintendent Dr. Scott Kizner, who is now the longest-serving superintendent in Virginia. Dr. Jones spoke of his admiration and affection for Dr. Kizner and wished him well in his future. On behalf of herself and the other members of the Board, Ms. Hazard also thanked Dr. Kizner and expressed their well-wishes for him and his family.

10. ACTION ITEMS

10.01 [Appointment of a School Board Member to Serve as Its Liaison to the Head Start Policy Council for the Term of September 2021 through August 2022](#)

Dr. Warner volunteered to continue serving as the Board's liaison to the Council.

Ms. Randall moved, and Dr. Chase seconded, that the Board appoint Dr. Warner as its liaison to the Head Start Policy Council for the term of September 2021 through August 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

10.02 Cancel or Repurpose the September 21, 2021 Special Called Board Meeting

In light of the Virginia Governor's recent mask mandate for all pre-K through 12 schools, the Board's special called meeting of September 21 is no longer required for the previously-planned discussion regarding the SCPS mask policy. The Board will instead use that opportunity to meet with the consultants from BWP & Associates to discuss the superintendent search.

Dr. Warner moved, and Ms. Randall seconded, that the Board repurpose the September 21 special called meeting to meet with consultants from BWP & Associates to discuss the superintendent search. The motion passed by a vote of six ayes and one nay (Yeung).

10.03 Award of Two Contracts to Allied Instructional Services, L.L.C., in the Amount of \$101,250 Each, for Two Teachers for Visually-Impaired Students (Using FY22 Budgeted Operating Funds)

Mr. Byrnett confirmed that these two positions were referenced in his recruiting and retention update to the Board earlier in this meeting.

Dr. Chase moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board move this matter from Information (as Item 11.01) to Action (as Item 10.03) as requested by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Healy moved, and Dr. Warner seconded, that the Board award two contracts to Allied Instructional Services as recommended by staff. The motion passed unanimously.

10.04 Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing an Application to the Virginia Public School Authority (VPSA) for the Sale of Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \$12,480,000, With the Objective of Providing Net Proceeds of \$11,610,000 for the 2021 Fall Bond Pool

Ms. Hazard questioned whether the three projects proposed for these new bond funds are our most urgent needs. She stated that Hartwood Elementary School has many very pressing issues that must be addressed.

Ms. Hollerback stated that the chillers at Brooke Point High School (BPHS) desperately need to be fixed or replaced. Executive Director of Facilities and Operations John Anderson reported that the chillers at BPHS are already being addressed. That work is already funded, and is scheduled to be completed next year.

Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Administration Chris Fulmer explained that the three projects proposed for these funds are ones which were approved in last year's CIP list for this bond sale. The projects are: repair of mechanical systems and finishes at North Stafford High School (\$3,654,000); upgrade of mechanical, roof, and finishes at Ferry Farm Elementary School (\$2,500,000); and partial funding for the construction of High School #6 (\$5,456,000). He stated that we have many, many needs (as shown in the proposed FY23 CIP and "3R" plan at Agenda Item 11.07, below). He explained that the three projects being recommended for the fall bond sale are those which we are poised to start right away.

Dr. Chase moved, and Ms. Yeung seconded, that the Board move this matter from Information (as Item 11.06) to Action (as Item 10.04) to avoid a delay in submitting the request for the bond funds. The motion passed by a vote of four ayes (Chase, Randall, Warner, Yeung) and two nays (Hazard, Healy). Ms. Hollerback was not present during the vote.

Dr. Warner moved, and Ms. Yeung seconded, that the Board adopt the proposed resolution. The motion passed by a vote of five ayes (Chase, Healy, Randall, Warner, Yeung) and one nay (Hazard). Ms. Hollerback was not present during the vote.

11. 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 14, 2021.

11.01 [Award of Two Contracts to Allied Instructional Services, L.L.C., in the Amount of \\$101,250 Each, for Two Teachers for Visually-Impaired Students \(Using FY22 Budgeted Operating Funds\)](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 10.03.)

11.02 [Award of a Contract to Trane, Inc., for Chiller Maintenance in the Amount of \\$130,000 Using Operating Funds](#)

Mr. Anderson explained that this contract is for normal, routine/scheduled maintenance which has to be done each year.

11.03 [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 \(Using Budgeted FY22 Operating Funds\)](#)

Regarding the mobile application software for parents to track their child’s bus, Dr. Chase suggested that we offer user training to parents who are new to the system.

11.04 [Award of a Contract to Miller’s Supplies at Work for Air-Max Air Purifier Filters in the Amount of \\$339,838.16 \(Using Federal Grant Funds\)](#)

Mr. Fulmer stated that the grant funds are available now. He also explained that the purifier devices notify us when it is time to change the filter.

11.05 [Award of a Professional Contract in the Amount of \\$7,922,385 to Grimm & Parker Architects for Design and Construction Administration Services for the High School #6 Project \(Using VPSA Bond Funds\)](#)

Mr. Anderson reported that our staff is working on the educational specifications for the new school. Once finalized, the specifications will be sent to the architects. He stated that there are ongoing discussions and meetings about the specifications and the design for the school. A steering committee and focus groups have been involved in the process. Information about the steering committee and focus groups was shared with the Board on [January 26](#) and [June 8](#).

Mr. Fulmer stated that some of the funding for this contract will be coming from future bond sales. The contract will be stretched across the four-year life of the project and will be paid out in increments during that time.

11.06 [Adoption of a Resolution Authorizing an Application to the VPSA for the Sale of Bonds in an Amount Not to Exceed \\$12,480,000, With the Objective of Providing Net Proceeds of \\$11,610,000 for the 2021 Fall Bond Pool](#)

This item was moved to Action. (See Item 10.04.)

11.07 [Approval of the Proposed FY23-FY32 Stafford County Public Schools Capital Improvement Program and 3R Infrastructure](#)

Supervisor of Planning and GIS Lionel White [briefed the Board](#) on [the proposed FY23-FY32 CIP and "3R" Infrastructure Plan](#). He advised the Board that the previous "flat dollar" revenue approach to the Schools' 3R projects has not allowed the school division to keep pace with known deficiencies. A new funding approach based on a percentage of tax revenue or school capital/construction budget should be considered.

Ms. Hazard and Ms. Healy requested that staff look for ways to include a capacity increase as part of the fine arts wing renovation at North Stafford High School. If staff are unable to make this change in the FY23 CIP, they will do it in the FY24 version.

Ms. Healy suggested that the Board chair talk with her counterpart on the board of supervisors to plan a joint work session between the two boards to discuss a new and better funding strategy for our 3R projects.

Dr. Chase asked if any of the air quality projects on the 3R list will qualify for federal pandemic stimulus funds. Mr. Fulmer responded that the State will actually be allocating a considerable amount of special funding for air quality improvement in schools. Staff is currently waiting for more information. The funds may require a local match.

Ms. Hazard spoke about the urgent need to replace the shingle roof at Hartwood Elementary School. Mr. Anderson stated that staff is targeting the use of FY22 year-end funds to replace the roof during the summer of 2022.

12. UPCOMING MEETINGS

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

The Board will hold its next regular meeting on September 14 at 7:00 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

13.01 [Adjournment](#)

The meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Holly H. Hazard, Chair
School Board of Stafford County

Melissa D. Hall, Clerk of the Board