

***Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the School Board of the City of Richmond
Monday, May 3, 2010***

- Reconvene*** The Chair reconvened the Monday, May 3, 2010, meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the School Board Room, 17th Floor, of City Hall.
- Others Present: Dr. Darlene Currie, Director, Professional Development
Vincent Ashley, Director of Transportation
Andrew Davis, Director of Plant Services
Susan Roberson, Director, School Nutrition
Harry Morgan, Manager, Pupil Personnel
- Pledge of Allegiance*** The pledge of allegiance was led by Dr. Murdoch-Kitt and it was followed by a moment of silence.
- Adoption of the Agenda*** The agenda was amended to carryover the following items from the 3:30 p.m. Work Session:
- Discuss the request for a material change to the 2008 Charter Agreement regarding an alternative site for PHSSA Charter School.
 - Receive a Status of PHSSA Charter School Waiver Requests to Virginia Department of Education.
 - Receive Updates from School Board Representatives on the Math Science Innovation Center Board and Head Start Council.
 - Receive updates from other meetings attended by School Board members and Superintendent: Inter-city visit to Raleigh.
- On a motion by Ms. Graham Scott, seconded by Dr. Murdoch-Kitt, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the agenda as amended.
- Public Information*** Angela Dews, President of Richmond Education Association, spoke on the superintendent's recommended changes for 2010-2011 general fund budget. She stated that due to the major changes to VRS, group life contribution rate, and city appropriations, she asked that the Board support the removal of the three-day furlough and fewer personnel reductions as outlined in the superintendent's recommendations. She stated that it was imperative that the Board not recommend further reduction to the programs and services for the school system. She was asking that the Board demonstrate the true spirit of equity and do what was in the best interest of all employees.
- Arthur Burton, a citizen, stated that in 2007 the Richmond City Council of PTAs had put forth an agenda that included the building of ten new schools. He stated that the Board and the Patrick Henry community were asked to support the PTAs agenda. He stated that any plan that failed to build an elementary school in the east end was not bent on education equity or educational reform. Education reform transforms the schools to increase their wealth and improve the quality of life.
- Eric Richards, a citizen, urged the Board to vote in favor of the temporary location for the Patrick Henry Charter School. He stated that it would show a willingness to increase opportunities for the students. It would also send a message to individuals who may not be in a public school setting to consider it for the future.
- Jesse Senechal stated, as a parent of two future Patrick Henry students, the proposed curriculum expanded the SOLs within and outside of the classrooms, and the school was diversified. He urged the Board to take action because it was important for both groups to step up and do everything in its power to make it happen.
- Judy Long, a parent, shared that her son Conner would be enrolled in the charter school as a first grader. She stated that it was important to see the school succeed. Her son Conner shared that he was excited to attend the Charter School. He was looking forward to visiting the park to learn about its surroundings.
- Keith Cable, a citizen, shared that a charter school was an opportunity for Richmond to grow within the community. He asked the Board to consider the students, the community, and the whole city.

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Pamela Boyd, Patrick Henry Charter School Principal, shared that she would like to have a cooperative and collaborative relationship with RPS. She stated that she was drawn to PHSSA because of its year around calendar and unique outdoor classroom. The alternative location for the school was safe, clean, and a well suitable environment. Ms. Boyd shared letters from students that would be attending the PHSSA. She asked that the Board vote “yes” for the children and families of PHSSA.

Zora Burrell stated that she would be a third grader at the PHSSA. She stated that PHSSA would be good school to attend.

It was the consensus of the Board to extend the public information period by 15 minutes.

Reginald Malone, Sr., former School Board member, stated that he was in support of PHSSA. He stated that he would have two grandchildren attending the school. He asked that Board give the school an opportunity to succeed.

King Salim Khalfani, Executive Director of Virginia State Conference of the NAACP, spoke in opposition of PHSSA. He stated that the information the Board had received was sufficient for its vote. He asked that Board support the students at John B. Cary and the other 23,000 students that attended Richmond Public Schools.

Emily Thomas, a parent, shared that both of her children had been accepted to attend Patrick Henry Charter School. She stated that Richmond City was about change, education, learning and giving all children an opportunity that had been accepted to the Charter School. The school was an option for smaller classrooms and the different opportunities that may be provided by Patrick Henry.

Leigh Shumake, a resident in the Woodland Heights area, stated that there were other alternative schools at the middle and high school levels within the Richmond school system. The charter school was an opportunity for the Board to test out bigger issues to change existing school protocol. She asked the Board to vote “yes” for the charter school.

Vanessa McLaulay, a citizen, stated that she would have children attending PHSSA. The Patrick Henry school was an option for her children because traditional schools would not be good for her children. The Board voted that it was an option, now at the tenth hour the Board was telling parents it may not be.

Shamaria Zimmerman, an RPS school bus driver, stated that there were Richmond Public schools that were suffering. She stated that there were other schools that were in need of funding and teachers. She asked why put all the focus on the Patrick Henry School when there were other schools within the district that also needed the focus.

Irving Banks, a citizen, stated that he was in support of the Charter School. He stated that there were dedicated and loyal parents who wanted what was best for their children and it should be given to them. He also stated that the other schools within the district had the opportunity to improve.

Melvin Law, former School Board member, urged the Board to vote “no” on the Patrick Henry Charter school for the following reasons: (1) there were already alternative schools at every level of education in Richmond; (2) that in this time of financial distresses all of children that attended RPS needed smaller classes. (3) every dollar should go to perfect the education of the 23,000 students within RPS.

Approve the Minutes of the March 1, 2010, meeting, March 15, 2010, Meetings, and the March 18, 2010 meetings

The minutes of the March 1, 2010, meeting, March 15, 2010, meetings, and the March 18, 2010 meetings were approved as presented.

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**Receive a
Proclamation
Recognizing School
Nutrition Services
Week**

The Clerk read the Proclamation recognizing School Nutrition Services Week into the record.

Whereas, nutritious meals at school are an essential part of the school day; and
Whereas, the staff of the Richmond Public school nutrition services department are committed to providing healthful, nutritious meals to the Richmond Public Schools Students; and

Whereas, the men and women who prepare and serve school meals help nurture our children through their daily interaction and support; and

Whereas, the week of May 3-7, 2010 is School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week;

Now therefore, be it resolved that Richmond Public School Board and administration expresses its deep appreciation to these valuable employees and commends their good work on behalf of the students.

**Receive a
Proclamation
Recognizing Teacher
Appreciation Week**

The Clerk read the Proclamation Recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week into the record.

Whereas, a strong, effective system of free public school education for all children and youth is essential to our democratic system of government; and
Whereas, the United States has made considerable progress in the social, technological, and scientific fields due to our system of free and universal public education; and

Whereas, much of this progress can be attributed to the qualified and dedicated teachers entrusted with the educational development of children to their full potential; and

Whereas, teachers make public schools great, teachers work to open students' minds to ideas, knowledge and dreams, teachers keep American democracy alive by laying the foundation for good citizenship, teachers fill many roles, as listeners, explorers, role models, motivators and mentors, teachers continue to influence us long after our school days are only memories, and

Whereas, teachers should be accorded high public esteem, reflecting the value the community places on public education; and

Whereas, PTAs on every level nationwide are keenly aware of the importance and impact of teachers on children; and

Whereas, it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for this dedication and commitment to educating their students;

Now Therefore be it proclaimed, that the School Board of the City of Richmond, and the administration, does hereby join in the celebration and proclamation of May 3 – 7, 2010 as National Teacher Appreciation Week, and Tuesday, May 4, 2010, National Teacher Day, and urges all citizens to pay tribute to our public school teachers.

The Superintendent announced that Fox and Southampton Elementary Schools had received an award from the Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in recognition for their excellent teaching of the Spanish Immersion Program. The award would be displayed in each school during the months of May and June.

**Receive an Update
on Building a Better
Richmond**

Ms. Bragga provided an update on a Building a Better Richmond community meeting that was held in April regarding the construction of two new elementary schools in Richmond south side area. The schematic design included plans for Broad Rock and Oak Grove Elementary Schools. Each of the facilities would accommodate 650 students. In September 2010 a third community meeting would review the design development phase of work to set the final scheduled for construction and building occupancy. Project completion was scheduled in the spring/summer of 2012 and occupancy in the fall of 2012.

A community meeting was held on April 29 for Martin Luther King Middle School. The school would accommodate up to 800 students and was scheduled for completion in 2013. A community meeting for the Huguenot High School site was scheduled for May 5, 2010. The Huguenot school instruction focus was science, technology, and math. The plans would accommodate 1,400 students. The project was scheduled to begin in mid-2011 and be completed in the spring of 2014 with occupancy in 2014.

Communications plan on the projects would be sent home to parents or shared via parent link.

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Discuss the Request for a Material Change to the 2008 Charter Agreement Regarding an Alternative Site for PHSSA Charter School

Audrey Burkleno, director of Finance for PHSSA shared highlights of the proposed lease between Woodland Heights Baptist Church and Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts as following:

- Twelve-month lease (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011).
- Rent would be based on utilities and wear and tear of the facilities. PHSSA anticipated not exceeding \$36,000 annually.
- PHSSA would interface with RPS network by connecting through a third party server.
- Telephones would be installed in the PHSSA main office and the WHPC education center. Telephones or two-way communications would be installed in each of the classrooms.
- The Patrick Henry School year would begin August 11, 2010.
- The daily schedule was as follows:
 - Before care hours: 7:00 a.m. – 8:10 a.m.
 - School hours: 8:10 a.m. – 2:40 p.m.
 - After care hours: 2:40 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.
- PHSSA selected for its meals program option 4.
- Lunch was scheduled to be served 11:00 – 11:30 a.m. for K-2 graders and 11:30 a.m. – Noon for 3-5 graders
- PHSSA had identified ten classrooms, two large common areas, office space, dining room, and creative workspace for teacher and students, three bathrooms (two men and one woman) within the facility.
- A portion of the parking lot would used as a recess area.
- Any religious icons located in the designated space areas would be covered or removed.
- Staff, parents, and students would have access to the school at a separate entrance in the back of the church.

Board members raised questions and concerns of how the staff would accommodate the children's access to the park with limited sidewalks.

Receive a Report on Student Placement

Mrs. Oakley reviewed the options for student placement for the 2010-2011 school year. Those options included Pre-K, School Choice *Under No Child Left Behind*, high school, and middle school specialty programs. The acceptance letters for each of options were sent during the month of April. She also noted that under the open enrollment option that 576 entries had been processed. The open enrollment acceptance letters were mailed and parents would have until May 5, 2010 to register their child at the selected school. Schools would be contacted within approximately one week to inquire about whether the school could accept students from the waiting list. The parents who did not have the opportunity to participate in the open enrollment process in February would be allowed to submit an application to be placed on a waiting list for their school of choice for the 2010-2011 school year.

Receive an Update on the 2010-2011 Budget

Ms. Bragga shared that Councilman Samuels had put through an amendment that designated \$132,000 for the Spanish Immersion Program for the school system, which would allow the district to reinstate the program. In addition to the proposed amendment for the general fund budget, City Council had proposed \$3.1 million for ADA compliance and \$460,000 for school maintenance. Council Tyler and Hilbert had also presented an amendment for an additional \$2.5 million for maintenance for the school system. With approximately \$3 million, it would allow the school system to consider its list of critical needs projects that totaled \$10.6 million. She noted that City Council would adopt its budget on May 24, 2010.

Receive a Status of PHSSA Charter School Waiver Requests to Virginia Department of Education

Mrs. Oakley shared she had worked with Dr. Anne Wescott, Assistant Superintendent of Policy and Communications at the Virginia Department of Education to submit a waiver request for PHSSA to open school before Labor Day. The waiver was presented to the Virginia Department of Education and it would be scheduled for a vote at its May Board meeting. Mrs. Oakley also shared that she would be working with the PHSSA Board on additional subsequent waivers regarding transportation and guidance. The waivers would be presented to the VDOE Board of Education in June.

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Other Informational Items

MathScience Innovation Center

Mr. Henderson shared that a workshop entitled “Emerging Worlds of Forum” was hosted by the MathScience Innovation Center at the Richmond Raceway. The focus of the workshop was looking at trends that would provide capabilities in technology in 2017.

Head Start Council

Mr. Henderson also attended the Early Head Start Policy Council Board meeting. He shared that the Board had discussions on the policy council budget, development of nutritional training for the parents’ advisory committees, and future policy decision making.

Inter-city visit to Raleigh

The Superintendent had an opportunity to visit Raleigh, North Carolina for an inter-city visit that was sponsored by the Greater Richmond Chamber of Commerce. The group had an opportunity to meet with civic and community businesses that focused on areas that would be in high demand within the next ten years. The five areas of focus would be regional economic development, business recruitment, business expansion, talent recruitment, and talent retention. The Superintendent also visited the A. B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary School that housed 860 students and 100 staff members. The school served students from 28 different countries that spoke many different languages. She also visited Duke University and attended a lecture that was focused on China given by the Dean of Fuqua School of Business.

Consent Agenda

On a motion by Ms. Graham Scott, seconded by Mrs. Page, the Board voted unanimously to approve the following items under the Consent Agenda:

- The Human Resources Actions that were presented at the 3:30 p.m. Work Session.
- The Proclamation recognizing School Nutrition Services Week.
- The Proclamation recognizing Teacher Appreciation Week.
- The financial statement for the month ended March 31, 2010.

Consider Approval of the Request for a Material Change to the 2008 Charter Agreement Regarding an Alternative Site for PHSSA Charter School for 2010-2011

Ms. Graham Scott made a motion; it was seconded by Mr. Coleman that the Board vote to approve the request for a material change to the 2008 Charter Agreement regarding an alternative site for PHSSA Charter School for 2010-2011.

Board members expressed their support and concerns regarding the agreement on the alternative site. They express concerns regarding the agreement based on their comments on church and state, ADA requirements, financial, soundness, sustainability of programs, economic sustainability. Mrs. Page called the question to end the discussion; Ms. Graham Scott seconded it.

On the original motion made by Ms. Graham Scott, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board voted to approve the request for a material change to the 2008 Charter Agreement regarding an alternative site for PHSSA Charter School for 2010-2011. (*Mesdames Bridges, Gray, Murdoch-Kitt, Graham Scott, Mr. Coleman voted “aye, Mesdames Page, Smith, Wilson, and Mr. Henderson voted “nay”.*) The motion passed 5-4.

Consider Approval of Revisions to Policy 7.59, Use of Computer Technology, of the Personnel Section of the Bylaws and Policies Manual

On a motion by Mrs. Gray, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board voted unanimously to approve the revisions to Policy 7.59, Use of Computer Technology, of the Personnel Section of the *Bylaws and Policies Manual*.

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Closed Session

On a motion by Dr. Murdoch-Kitt, seconded by Ms. Graham Scott, the Board voted unanimously to go into closed session [pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(1)(2)(7) of the *Code of Virginia*] to consider the assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of specific public officers, appointees or employees of the School Board, or for discussion, consideration, or interview of prospective candidates for employment and the admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a Richmond Public School student and the consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants pertaining to actual or probable litigation, where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the School Board; and/or consultation with legal counsel employed or retained by the School Board regarding specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by such counsel.

Open Session

On a motion by Ms. Graham Scott, seconded by Mr. Henderson, the School Board voted to go into open session.

Motion: Ms. Graham Scott Resolution: 23
 Seconded: Mrs. Henderson Date: May 3, 2010

Open Session

CERTIFICATION OF CLOSED MEETING

I move that the Richmond School Board direct its Clerk to call for a roll call vote of the Board’s members that, to the best of each member’s knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the Richmond School Board.

VOTE

A roll call was taken of members present and it was unanimous that the closed meeting was conducted in accordance with prescribed laws.

AYES: (9) (*Mesdames Bridges, Gray, Graham Scott, Murdoch-Kitt, Page, Smith, Wilson, and Messrs Coleman and Henderson*)
 NAY: (0)
 ABSTENTIONS (0)
 ABSENT DURING VOTE: (0)
 ABSENT DURING MEETING: (0)

Clerk

**Student Matter
 #0910-01**

The Board approved the request for religious exemption.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:23 p.m.

Clerk

Chair