

WILLIAMSBURG-JAMES CITY COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
Minutes from Tuesday, April 19, 2022
Regular Meeting

**Closed Session beginning at 5:45 p.m. in Room 300 in the Annex at the School Board & Central Office,
117 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA
and the Regular Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the James Blair Middle School Gymnasium,
101 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA**

1. Meeting Opening

1.01 Call to Order - The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m.

1.02 The Roll Is Taken - Present were Dr. James Beers, Ms. Kyra Cook, Ms. Julie Hummel, Mrs. Kimberley Hundley, Mrs. Sarah Ortego, Mrs. Sandra Young, and Mr. Greg Dowell (Chair). Also present were Olwen E. Herron, Ed.D., superintendent; Ms. Beth Allar, clerk of the board, staff, press and the public.

2. Closed Session(s)

2.01 Personnel Issues at 5:45 p.m. - A motion was made that the Williamsburg-James City County School Board convene in closed session for review and discussion of appointments, change in status, leaves of absence, separations, academic and athletic stipends; and, associated actions, pursuant to the personnel exception at § 2.2-3711(A)(1) of the Code of Virginia.

Motion by Sandra Young, second by Kyra Cook.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

At 6:28 p.m., the board recessed.

3. Regular Meeting

3.01 Chair Reconvenes the Meeting - The meeting reconvened at 6:39 p.m.

Mr. Dowell announced that the agenda was modified in the late afternoon to remove the item regarding discussion and action for Policy ECABA, Employee Identification Badges. He further explained that the intention was to remove the policy from the handbook via action this evening, however staff recommended to hold the change until the threat and vulnerability assessment report is given in May, rather than remove the policy at this meeting.

3.02 Board Certifies Closed Session(s) - Ms. Hummel certified, that to the best of each member's knowledge, the Williamsburg-James City County School Board, while in closed session, discussed only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements as stated in Virginia Law and that only such public matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered.

Motion by Julie Y Hummel, second by James Beers.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

3.03 Approval of the Agenda - A motion was made to approve the agenda as presented.

Motion by Sarah Ortego, second by Kimberley Hundley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

Abstain: Kyra Cook

3.04 Pledge of Allegiance - The pledge was led by Emily Cobb, a teacher at Toano Middle School, and her husband Taylor Cobb.

4. Announcements/Superintendent's Report

4.01 Announcements/Superintendent's Report - In honor of the 26th annual Public School Volunteer Week, Dr. Herron recognized the contributions of volunteers throughout the school division, and how they enrich the academic,

social, and career development of students.

She explained that though the pandemic prevented the division from welcoming volunteers at full capacity in schools, the more than 300 individuals who donated their time to support students, teachers, and staff this year at the secondary level were instrumental to schools' successes. She then highlighted that volunteers: tutored students, supported after-school enrichment activities in the areas of arts and athletics, sponsored staff-appreciation events, organized fundraisers, garnered additional community support and provided unending encouragement and commitment to students, teachers, and staff.

Dr. Herron then spoke about the secondary schools' Volunteers of the Year who will be profiled throughout the week on the division website and social media outlets; and, also noted that she is looking forward to opening the doors at all levels to welcome back volunteers in the fall.

She then shared a brief video that expressed gratitude for dedicated volunteers.

Mrs. Hundley reported on a recent Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting. She welcomed people to attend, including students, and announced the next meeting will be on 5/12. She also shared that the committee is working on a SEAC informational brochure that will be distributed at the schools, as well as an annual report that will be presented to the board in June.

5. Recognition of Students and/or Staff

5.01 Students and/or Staff Recognized - The following staff were recognized by the board:

- **Volunteers of the Year** - These volunteers spend countless hours in schools and contribute their time, talents, and expertise to the learning process. WJCC is grateful for their unwavering support and strong sense of advocacy towards students' success. The following volunteers were recognized for their contributions:
 - **Michael Loy**, Berkeley Middle School
 - **Ashlynn Pearce**, James Blair Middle School
 - **Core Yatzeck**, Lois Hornsby Middle School
 - **Lisa Wolff**, Toano Middle School
 - **Beth Kluger**, Jamestown High School
 - **Susan Schlimme**, Lafayette High School
 - **Craig Wojcik**, Warhill High School
- **Teachers of the Year** - The WJCC Teacher of the Year program allows the division to pay tribute to teachers who are exceptionally skilled, dedicated and who demonstrate excellence in the classroom. Each school's teacher of the year is selected by peers for their outstanding classroom instruction and leadership. These teachers embody WJCC's core values of Individualism, Integrity, Innovation, Accountability and Collaboration. The following teachers were recognized as Teachers of the Year:
 - **Paige Hanna**, Bright Beginnings
 - **Marie Parks**, Clara Byrd Baker Elementary School
 - **Tamara Donovan**, D.J. Montague Elementary School
 - **Sarah Schleicher**, J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School
 - **Tracey Clary**, James River Elementary School
 - **Stephanie Kline**, Laurel Lane Elementary School
 - **Alison Howell**, Matoaka Elementary School
 - **Christine McBee**, Matthew Whaley Elementary School
 - **Rachael Davis**, Norge Elementary School
 - **April Farulli**, Stonehouse Elementary School
 - **Robin Jones**, Berkeley Middle School
 - **Jenny March**, James Blair Middle School
 - **Ji Soo Kim**, Lois S. Hornsby Middle School
 - **Emily Cobb**, Toano Middle School
 - **Joy Tyson**, Jamestown High School
 - **Andrew Linn**, Lafayette High School
 - **Jerome Rhodes**, Warhill High School

6. Citizens' Comments

6.01 Public Comment - The following citizens addressed the board, and the themes of their comments are noted below:

- Ann Marie Smith - Textbooks
- Michael Hosang - School Board Issue
- Alynn Parham - Staff Bonuses
- Phyllis P. Eastman - Divisive Textbook
- John Slokovitz - Textbook Issue

7. Consent Agenda - A motion was made to approve the consent agenda as presented, which consisted of the following items: 7.01 Approval of Financial Report and Monthly Bills & Payroll - March 2022; 7.02 Approval of Minutes from 3-15-22 Meeting; 7.03 Approval of Minutes from 4-12-22 Meeting; 7.04 Approval of Resolution R-14-22, National Teacher Appreciation Week; 7.05 Approval of Resolution R-15-22, School Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week; 7.06 Approval of Resolution R-16-22, National School Nurse Day; 7.07 Approval of Revisions to Policy IGDB, Student Publications; 7.08 Approval of Revisions to Policy EBBA, First Aid/CPR Certified Personnel; 7.09 Approval of Revisions to Policy GC, Professional Staff; 7.10 Approval of Revisions to Policy GCE, Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment; and, 7.11 Approval of Revisions to the School Board's Standard Operating Procedures.

Motion by Sandra Young, second by Sarah Ortego.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8. Action Items

8.01 Approval of Personnel Actions - A motion was made to approve Personnel Actions as presented.

Motion by James Beers, second by Kimberley Hundley.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8.02 Approval of Special Education Annual Plan 2022-2023 and the Title VI-B Flow-Through Funds - A motion was made to approve the Special Education Annual Plan 2022-2023 and the Title VI-B Flow-Through Funds.

Ms. Cook reiterated from the discussion at the last meeting, that every school board in the nation wishes the federal government would fully fund the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) which this plan is a part. She further explained that the underfunding leaves local governments to pay the larger portion of the requirements and the law.

Motion by Sandra Young, second by James Beers.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8.03 Approval of the Local Plan and Budget for Career & Technical Education (Carl D. Perkins Grant) for SY2022-2023 - A motion was made to approve the Local Plan and Budget for Career & Technical Education (Carl D. Perkins Grant) for SY2022-2023.

Motion by Sarah Ortego, second by Julie Y Hummel.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8.04 Approval of Request to Purchase Six (6) Emergency Radio Bi-Directional Antennas (BDA) for Schools - A motion was made to approve request to purchase six (6) Emergency Radio Bi-Directional Antennas (BDA) for schools and the associated budget transfer, for a total cost of \$297,990.32.

Regarding 8.04 and 8.05, Ms. Cook thanked the school division and local governments for their cooperation in providing infrastructure for a safe environment for students and staff. Mr. Dowell concurred, and also thanked Mr. Snipes for his diligent work to keep the school division in line with what the city and county counterparts are achieving for their safety.

Motion by Julie Y Hummel, second by Kyra Cook.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8.05 Approval of Purchase Request for Replacement of 270 Emergency Radios - A motion was made to approve the purchase request for replacement of 270 emergency radios and the associated budget transfer, for a total cost of \$975,356.37.

Prior to the vote, Dr. Herron clarified the replacement is specifically for the emergency radios.

Motion by Sandra Young, second by Kyra Cook.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

8.06 Approval of Request for Social Studies Curriculum Resource Adoption and Purchase - A motion was made to approve the request for social studies textbook and instructional materials adoption and purchase to Five Ponds Press, Savvas, and Cengage for a Total Cost of \$130,921.19, and the Associated Budget Transfer.

Prior to the vote, board members discussed the textbook review process - some expressed concerns over the process and noted that because division staff identified gaps where improvements could be made, additional review time was needed with the stakeholder group; a member commented that efforts for continuous process improvement should not be a reason to reject the textbooks, and that the professionals who brought the recommendations forward should be trusted; it was clarified that the adoption timeline was time-sensitive in order to use year-end funds and have texts ready for the next school year; concern was expressed that for the AP Government textbook they were judging a book by the cover and not the content within the book, which was noted as being historically relevant and current; a member commented that the content did not have anything in particular that was overtly offensive or divisive - though could see how it might be construed as such; another member proposed separating out the textbooks, and removing the AP Government textbook for further review; and, staff were commended for the work that was done.

Motion by Kyra Cook, second by Kimberley Hundley.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Kimberley Hundley

Nay: Julie Y Hummel, Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young, Greg Dowell

A second motion was made to approve the request for Virginia Studies - *Our Virginia: Past and Present, 3rd Edition*, Five Ponds Press; AP US History - *By the People: A History of the United States, 2nd Edition, 2019*, Savvas; AP Economics - *Principles of Economics, 9th Edition, 2022*, Cengage; and, the Associated Budget Transfer.

Motion by Julie Y Hummel, second None.

Final Resolution: Motion Fails

8.07 Approval of Request for Science Curriculum Resource Adoption and Purchase - A motion was made to approve the request for science textbook and instructional materials adoption and purchase to Discovery Education, Savvas, and McGraw Hill for a total cost of \$387,789.54, and the associated budget transfer.

Prior to the vote, Mrs. Ortego commented that it was a significant amount of material, and the process warranted longer review. Mrs. Young agreed, and commented that the process should be revisited, and then the books reviewed again.

Motion by Julie Y Hummel, second by Kyra Cook.

Final Resolution: Motion Carries

Aye: James Beers, Kyra Cook, Julie Y Hummel, Kimberley Hundley, Greg Dowell

Nay: Sarah Ortego, Sandra Young

9. Board Matters/Requests

9.01 Board Members' Comments - Board members commended the volunteers and teachers of the year; spoke about school visits; announced that the WJCC Foundation is sponsoring Teacher of the Year, and is exploring innovative ways to engage with the school system; a member stated that leadership operates in a way that is transparent; and, a comment was made that it is appropriate to teach about the constant social and political change in the United States.

Multiple comments were made regarding the textbook decision: disappointment was expressed for depriving children and teachers of new textbooks; it was noted that the current materials are antiquated at best; that staff went through a rigorous process; there is a need for a more thorough review process with increased advertising to the community; having additional review time before approving the controversial materials would be appropriate; discussed the possibility of approving textbooks with a new review process this school year; textbooks should be representative of the total community and not lean one way or another; that teachers running the classrooms are the experts, and their experience and knowledge should be valued; disappointment was shared that a small group of individuals swayed board members to make the decision not to approve, and the opinions weren't necessarily reflective of the whole community; and, transitioning out of a period of discord in the community impacted the decision for one member who noted that though nothing was glaringly divisive in the text, some aspects could be viewed that way, and caution was given to dividing the community further.

10. Meeting Schedule

10.01 Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Time	Location
Policy Committee	4/21/22	8:30 a.m.	Virtual
21st Century & Career Ready Advisory Committee	5/11/22	3:30 p.m.	Legacy Hall, 4301 New Town Avenue, Williamsburg, VA
Special Education Advisory Committee	5/12/22	6:30 p.m.	James City County Recreation Center, 5301 Longhill Road, Room D, Williamsburg, VA

10.02 Upcoming Meetings

Type of Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Closed Session	5-3-22	4:00 p.m.	Room 300 in the Annex at the School Board and Central Office, 117 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA
Work Session & Action Items	5-3-22	4:30 p.m.	Room 300 in the Annex at the School Board and Central Office, 117 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA
Closed Session	5-17-22	6:00 p.m.	Room 300 in the Annex at the School Board and Central Office, 117 Ironbound Road, Williamsburg, VA
Regular Meeting	5-17-22	6:30 p.m.	James Blair Middle School Gymnasium 101 Longhill Road, Williamsburg, VA

11. Adjournment

11.01 Meeting Adjourns - The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Beth Allar, School Board Clerk

D. Greg Dowell, Jr., Chair