

FREDERICKSBURG CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Fredericksburg, Virginia

A regular meeting of the Fredericksburg City School Board was held at 6:30 p.m. on March 7, 2016 in City Council Chambers, 715 Princess Anne Street. Board members present were:

Mrs. Patricia B. Green, Chairperson
Rev. Jarvis E. Bailey, Vice-Chairperson
Ms. Jannan W. Holmes
Ms. Malvina Rollins Kay *
Mrs. Barbara A. Miller-Richards
Mrs. Elizabeth R. Rehm

Others Present: Dr. David G. Melton, Division Superintendent
 Mrs. Deborah B. Wright, Clerk of the Board

* Ms. Kay arrived during closed session.

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by the Chairperson.

15-16-139: BOARD CONVENES INTO CLOSED SESSION; RECONVENES INTO OPEN SESSION. A recommendation was made by the Superintendent that the Board convene into closed session under FIA 2.2-3711(A), Section 1 - Personnel (discussion regarding employment recommendation, extra-duty assignments, retirement recommendation, substitute teacher, substitute nurse, substitute bus/car driver, substitute custodian recommendations, volunteers for athletic programs, and student teacher/practicum student placement). A motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation was made by Mrs. Rehm, seconded by Rev. Bailey, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote. The Board convened in closed session at 6:39 p.m. On a motion by Ms. Kay, seconded by Rev. Bailey, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote, the Board reconvened in open session at 7:30 p.m. and approved Certificate of Closed Meeting No. 15-16-9 which involves a statement concerning items discussed in closed session. A copy of Certificate of Closed Meeting No. 15-16-9 is attached to the minutes.

15-16-140: APPROVAL OF AGENDA. The Chairperson called for a motion to approve the agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Mrs. Miller-Richards, and unanimously approved by the Board.

15-16-141: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2016 REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING. Minutes of the February 1, 2016 Regular School Board Meeting were presented for approval. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mrs. Miller-Richards, seconded by Mrs. Rehm, and unanimously approved by the Board.

15-16-142: RECOGNITIONS. As part of the school division's character education program, Ms. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, Principal of Walker-Grant Middle School, presented a video prepared by eighth grade students Ariana Garcia, Janine Myles-Mills, and Christian Taylor from Ms. Kerry Devine's class to describe the Word of the Month for March - Perseverance. The video described several incidents of perseverance by various notable individuals throughout history.

Mr. Jay Snyder, Teacher and Coordinator for the International Baccalaureate Programme at James Monroe High School, announced that James Monroe High School has received notification that it is now fully authorized to begin offering the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme beginning in the fall of 2016. Mr. Snyder expressed appreciation to several groups and individuals who helped achieve the goal. These included the School Board for support of the programme, Dr. Melton and Dr. Gordon for the vision to pursue the programme at the high school and throughout the Fredericksburg City Public Schools community, Dr. Rachal for her time in helping to prepare James Monroe High School to be successful throughout the application process, and the faculty for their tireless and successful efforts in preparing for the programme.

Representatives of the Mary Washington Hospice and Home Health organization, Ashland Evans and Teresa McCormack, recognized the support from Fredericksburg City Public Schools and Mr. Brian Kiernan for participating as a food vendor at the organization's annual fund raiser. Mr. Kiernan was also praised for his work in providing meals for the participants of Camp Rainbow which is a grief support program for children and others in the community.

Mrs. Marjorie Tankersley, Principal of Hugh Mercer Elementary School, described the schoolwide More Math Contest in which students wrote captions outlining the many uses of math in everyday life. Mrs. Tankersley recognized the following student who won first place in the contest:

Kira Bugge

Mrs. Tankersley then introduced the following students who were recognized as first place winners in the Black History Art/Essay Contest:

Daphane Reno (not present)	Kindergarten
Petra Kawesi-Mukooza	First Grade
Holly Rowland	Second Grade

Mr. Matt Terry, Principal of Lafayette Upper Elementary School, recognized the following winners in the statewide Black History Month Association Contest:

Laurel Melville (not present)	Third Place
Khalil Gil-Perez	Second Place
Josephine Chew	First Place

Mr. Terry then recognized the following grade level winners of the Spelling Bee from Lafayette:

<u>Third Grade</u>	
Jaden Lee	Runner-up
Baxter Reed	Winner
<u>Fourth Grade</u>	
Simon Young	Runner-up (tie)
Bryce Caldwell	Runner-up (tie)
Bianca Hernandez-Alvarez (not present)	Winner
<u>Fifth Grade</u>	
Osyris Murray	Runner-up (tie)

Jake Hatton
Bella Kimball
Dr. Melanie Kay-Wyatt, then recognized the following grade level Spelling Bee winners from Walker-Grant:

Runner-up (tie)
Winner and FCPS District Champion

Sixth Grade

Ryland Holland (not present)
Katherine Fidler (not present)

Runner-up
Winner

Seventh Grade

Adia Hein
Zoey Young

Runner-up
Winner

Eighth Grade

Shelby Munford (not present)
Christian Taylor

Runner-up
Winner

Dr. Kay-Wyatt also recognized the following students who participated in the All-District Choir:

Soprano

Anasia Laureano
Dagny Oakley (not present)
Delia Rabatin

Alto

Brianna Brooks (not present)
Ashanti Tyler (not present)
Janaya Lewis (not present)

Baritone

Caeden Ribel (not present)
Thomas Hancock

The following student was recognized for participation in the All-District Band:

Emily Kabza

Ms. Kay-Wyatt also announced the winner in the District Reflections, a PTA Arts competition:

Grace Maynard

First Place – Film Category

Mr. Justin Woodside, Assistant Principal at James Monroe High School, recognized the champion in Indoor Track and Field athletics:

Alexis Clark

Alexis was recognized as the VHSL Group 3A Indoor Track and Field State Shot Put Champion with a new championship record. Alexis ranked #1 in the Area, #1 in group 3A final standing, #1 female

Shot Putter in the State of Virginia, #1 female Shot Putter in the Nation among Sophomores, and #19 female Shot Putter in the Nation.

Tammy Clark, Coach of the Indoor Track and Field Team and Head Coach Darryl Dyson (not present) were also recognized.

On behalf of the School Board, Mrs. Green then recognized School Board Clerk Debbie Wright who will soon be retiring after nearly 33 years with the school system. Mrs. Green expressed appreciation to Mrs. Wright for her work with the Board in many different ways.

15-16-143: PUBLIC HEARING ON PROPOSED 2016-2017 SCHOOL DIVISION OPERATING BUDGET. The Chairperson opened the public hearing portion of the meeting for comments on the proposed 2016-2017 school division operating budget, the special grants budgets, and capital improvements plan with budgets. There being no citizens wishing to address the Board on this topic, Mrs. Green declared the public hearing on the school budget closed.

15-16-144: CONSENT AGENDA. The following items were included on the consent agenda:

- James Monroe High School DECA Trip Request – A recommendation was made that the School Board approve a trip request for the James Monroe High School DECA students to participate in the International Career and Development Conference in Nashville, Tennessee from April 22-27, 2016.
- VSBA Business Honor Roll – A recommendation was made that the School Board approve the resolutions naming Businets, Inc. and Old Mill, Inc. to the VSBA 2016 Business Honor Roll.
- Head Start Approvals – A recommendation was made that the Board approve the following items requested for the Head Start Program:
 - Fredericksburg Regional Head Start Fiscal Policies and Procedures
 - Record Keeping and Financial Management
 - Program Selection Criteria
 - ERSEA Policies and Procedures

The Superintendent recommended approval of the consent agenda items. A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by Ms. Holmes, seconded by Rev. Bailey, and unanimously approved by the Board. Copies of the consent agenda items are attached to the minutes.

15-16-145: PERSONNEL MATTERS. The Superintendent recommended approval of the personnel list as presented. A motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation was made by Mrs. Rehm, seconded by Ms. Holmes, and unanimously approved by a roll call vote. A copy of the personnel list is attached to the minutes.

15-16-146: APPROVAL OF THE SCHOOL DIVISION OPERATING AND SPECIAL REVENUE (GRANTS) BUDGET(S) FOR 2016-2017 AND THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLAN AND BUDGETS FOR 2017-2021. The Superintendent provided the Board with some updated information concerning the proposed School Operating Budget which was recently received. Board members were informed that the division may receive \$50,000 to \$70,000 more funding from the state than originally

projected. However, health insurance rates will increase 11% which is higher than projected. The proposed Operating Budget would require an increase of \$949,936 in city funding. In response to a question from Ms. Kay, Dr. Melton stated that the health insurance rate increase was based on experience factors for the division over the past year. Following these comments, the Superintendent recommended that the School Board approve the 2016-2017 School Division Operating and Special Grants Budget(s) as presented in the amounts of \$42,920,836 and \$5,141,035 at this time along with the Capital Improvements Plan and Budgets for 2017-2021 and that the budgets be forwarded to City Council. A motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation was made by Mrs. Miller-Richards and seconded by Ms. Holmes. Mrs. Green stressed that this is a "no-frills" budget and noted that as the City continues to approve new housing developments, there will be a need for budget increases to accommodate additional students. The motion to approve the Superintendent's recommendation was then unanimously approved. Copies of the approved budgets and the Capital Improvements Plan and budgets are attached to the minutes.

15-16-147: INSTRUCTIONAL PRESENTATION – PERFORMANCE ASSESMENT AT LAFAYETTE UPPER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. Dr. Harry Thomas, Director of Instruction, provided background information concerning the performance-based assessments. In September 2014, the Virginia Board of Education took action on legislation by the General Assembly which amended the Code of Virginia to eliminate several Standards of Learning tests: Grade 3 History, Grade 3 Science, Grade 5 Writing, U. S. History to 1865 and U. S. History: 1865 to the Present., School divisions were required to develop alternative assessments to replace the eliminated SOL test. Dr. Thomas stated that a group of Key Instructional Leaders in the state's Region III was formed and charged with developing alternative assessments for the eliminated tests. Mrs. Lori Bridi, Director of Assessment and Accountability, along with other Key Instructional Leaders drafted an Alternative Assessment Assistance Grant proposal.

Mr. Matthew Terry then shared information on the Project Based Learning and Performance-Based Assessments programs which have been developed for Lafayette Upper Elementary School. School staff have been working with Dr. Chris Gareis on Teacher-Made Assessments and How to Connect Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Learning. Performance-Based Assessment (PBA) is defined as "authentic assessments that require students to develop a product, response, analysis, or problem solution that reflects the kind of reasoning or performance required beyond the classroom." The project-based learning and performance-based assessments involve real-life experiences, student engagement, high rigor, creativity and critical thinking, and rubrics. The interactive approach is school-based and fun for students. Eight performance-based assessments were drafted: two for grade 3 science, two for grade 3 history, 2 for U. S. History I, one for grade 5 writing, and one for U. S. History II. Mr. Terry elaborated on the professional development sessions provided in regard to implementation of the PBA's. Mr. Terry shared examples of PBA projects for various instructional areas. Staff feedback reveals that students have been very engaged in the PBAs and found them to be exciting and challenging. Mr. Terry outlined the next steps which include the Design Team continuing to lead PBA's, integrating PBA's, exploring implementation of PBA's in Grade 4, developing PBA's in other content areas and examining PBA's and the future IB Program. Mr. Terry responded to questions from the Board. Several Board members expressed excitement regarding this new form of instruction.

15-16-148: FINANCIAL REPORT. Mr. David Baker, Chief Financial Officer, provided an update on the school system's financial status through the month of January 2016. Mr. Baker noted that the revenues and expenditures are running close to budget projections with small positive variances in both

categories. Mr. Baker stated that the fund balance appropriation has been approved by the City and will be reflected in updated budget figures in the near future.

15-16-149: TUITION RATES FOR 2016-2017. A summary of proposed tuition rates for 2016-2017 was provided. The Superintendent stated that tuition rates were increased significantly last year. Therefore, no increases are being recommended for the 2016-2017 school year. Current tuition rates for 2015-2016 are:

<u>Regular Tuition Rate</u>	<u>City Employee Tuition Rate</u>
\$4,250 for each of the first two children	\$425 for the first child
\$2,125 for each additional child	\$212.50 for each additional child.

Proposed tuition rates for 2016-2017 will be as follows:

<u>Regular Tuition Rate</u>	<u>City Employee Tuition Rate</u>
\$4,250 for each of the first two children	\$425 for the first child
\$2,125 for each additional child	\$212.50 for each additional child.

Tuition rates will be presented for the Board's approval at the April meeting.

15-16-150: SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2016-2017. The Superintendent noted that the proposed school calendar for 2016-2017 is very similar to the current year's school calendar. It is also similar to the calendars for other area school divisions. The proposed calendar was developed by a Calendar Committee chaired by Mr. John Russ. The committee was comprised of members from the Superintendent's Employee Advisory Committee which allows for representation of all buildings and all groups of employees. Dr. Melton responded to questions. Major highlights in the proposed calendar for 2016-2017 include:

- All new teachers report to work on August 22, 2016
- All teachers report to work on August 29, 2016
- School begins on September 6, 2016
- Winter Vacation – December 19, 2016 – December 30, 2016 (two full weeks)
- Spring Vacation – April 17, 2017 – April 21, 2017
- School ends on June 16, 2017
- Snow make-up days: February 20 and April 5, 2017

Board members noted that the Board discussed mid-week workdays last year and asked that staff consider scheduling workdays on Fridays in the future to allow more time for family functions. Dr. Melton responded that efforts are made to keep the number of days in each grading period as close as possible and that sometimes makes a workday fall in the middle of the week. The workday could be changed which would mean the length of grading periods would be slightly different. The calendar will be presented for approval at the April meeting.

15-16-151: UPDATE ON ORIGINAL WALKER-GRANT RENOVATION. Dr. John B. Gordon III, Director of Administrative Services, provided an update on the renovation of Original Walker-Grant. Staff members have participated in several online meetings regarding technical issues and other matters related to the project. Asbestos abatement in the gym will take place later in March. Dr. Gordon

expressed appreciation to City Manager Bev Cameron and city staff for their assistance with a water line issue in the area. Dr. Gordon noted that the project is on schedule for substantial completion by August 31, 2017.

15-16-152: OLD BUSINESS. The following items of old business were addressed:

- VSBA Northeastern Regional Forum – The VSBA Northeastern Regional Forum will be held at Fauquier High School on March 9, 2016. Rev. Bailey and Ms. Holmes plan to attend the regional forum. Deputy Superintendent Marceline Catlett will also attend.
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- VSBA Hot Topic Conference – March 16, 2016 - Wytheville – The VSBA Hot Topic Conference will be held in Wytheville on March 16, 2016. Rev. Bailey will attend. Ms. Holmes may attend the meeting as well. It was noted that attendance at one hot topic conference satisfies the attendance requirements for the Board of Distinction. This matter was confirmed with VSBA Executive Director Gina Patterson.

15-16-153: NEW BUSINESS. The following items of new business were discussed:

- VSBA Hot Topic Conference – A VSBA Hot Topic Conference will be held in Charlottesville on April 26. Rev. Bailey and Mrs. Miller-Richards plan to attend. The Superintendent also plans to attend.
- Date for July 2016 School Board Meeting – The School Board meeting in July will be held at James Monroe High School on July 11, 2016.
- VSBA School Law Conference – The VSBA School Law Conference will be held on June 4, 2016 in Charlottesville. Any Board members who wish to attend were asked to contact Mrs. Wright.

15-16-154: GOOD OF THE ORDER. The following comments were made under “Good of the Order:”

- Mrs. Green noted the beginning of Daylight Savings Time this weekend.
- Mrs. Green also expressed appreciation to staff for all the work they do.

15-16-155: ADJOURNMENT. There being no further business to conduct at this regular meeting of the Fredericksburg City School Board for March 7, 2016, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 p.m. on a motion by Rev. Bailey, seconded by Mrs. Rehm, and unanimously approved.

Patricia B. Green, Chairperson
Fredericksburg City School Board

Deborah B. Wright
Clerk of the Board

MOTION: Ms. Kay

SECOND: Rev. Bailey

**CERTIFICATE OF CLOSED MEETING
15-16-9**

WHEREAS, the Fredericksburg City School Board has convened a closed meeting on this date pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3711(A) of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by this School Board that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Fredericksburg City School Board hereby certifies 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.

VOTE:

AYES: 6

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

Clerk of Fredericksburg City School Board

March 7, 2016
Meeting Date