

Portsmouth, Virginia, February 5, 6, 7, 1999

The School Board of the City of Portsmouth met in a Special Meeting on February 5, 1999, beginning at 7:00 p.m., and continuing until 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, February 7, 1999, for the purpose of a School Board Retreat. The retreat was held at The Williamsburg Hospitality House, 415 Richmond Road, Williamsburg, VA.

School Board members present were: Mr. Bridgeford, Dr. Daniels, Dr. Joyner, Mr. Kloeppe, Mr. Nance, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Walden and Chairman I'Anson. Mr. Mott was absent because of personal illness.

Chairman I'Anson convened the retreat at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the order of business.

BUDGET PARAMETERS FOR FY 2000

Superintendent Trumble presented an overview of the budget priorities as follows:

1. Pay increase and benefits for all employees, plus senior/experienced teacher increase,
2. Program on city-wide basis to coordinate effort to improve reading skills in all elementary schools,
3. Implementation of vocational center,
4. Capital improvements and maintenance plan,
5. Instructional materials/textbooks and
6. Program evaluations/audits conducted by external person who reports directly to the School Board.

Superintendent Trumble reviewed the Budget Planning Guide, as follows:

February 11, 1999 - 7:30 p.m.

Superintendent presents his proposed budget for 1999-2000.

February 18, 1999 - 7:00 p.m.

Public Hearing on Superintendent's proposed 1999-2000 School Board budget prior to the regular meeting.

March 4, 1999 - 7:00 p.m.

Public Work Session on Superintendent's proposed 1999-2000 budget.

March 11, 1999 - 7:00 p.m.

School Board adopts proposed 1999-2000 budget.

Dr. Hawkins reviewed the tentative 1999-2000 revenue estimates, additional cost projections based on a 3% salary increase or a 4% salary increase, new positions and budget reductions.

Board members discussed the basic aid formula, lottery funds, teacher turnover, a realistic salary increase of 4% or a minimum of 3% beginning in July for all employees, new personnel and budget reductions including \$13,744,288 for maintenance.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Kloeppe moved that the School Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 2.1-344 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of:

Discussion of the condition of real property for public purpose or of the disposition of publicly held property, as permitted under Subsection (A)(3).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bridgeford. The motion was carried unanimously by voice

vote.

At 9:15 p.m., the School Board convened in open session.

MOTION CERTIFYING EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded that each Board member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge, only public business matters which are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion to go into Executive Session, were heard, discussed or considered during the preceding Executive Session.

The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman I'Anson recessed the meeting until 8:00 a. m. on Saturday, February 6, 1999.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1999
JOINT MEETING WITH CITY COUNCIL

School Board members present were: Mr. Bridgeford, Dr. Daniels, Dr. Joyner, Mr. Kloeppe, Mr. Mott, Mr. Nance, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Walden and Chairman I'Anson.

City Council members present were: Mr. Benn, Mr. Griffin, Mr. Moody, Mr. Pitts, Mr. Robinett, Mr. Whitehurst and Mayor Holley.

Mayor Holley welcomed the School Board. Chairman I'Anson thanked the Mayor and the City Council for the opportunity to meet together to share ideas.

OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED SCHOOL OPERATING BUDGET

City Council members and city staff members were presented with copies of An Overview of Projected Revenue and Costs Associated with the Superintendent's Proposed Operating Budget for 1999-2000.

Superintendent Trumble began the budget presentation with the School Board priorities, as follows:

1. Pay increase (3% or 4%) and benefits for all employees, plus (2%) senior/experienced teacher increase,
2. Program on city-wide basis to coordinate effort to improve reading skills in all elementary schools,
3. Implementation of vocational center,
4. Capital improvements and maintenance plan,
5. Instructional materials/textbooks and
6. Program evaluations/audits conducted by external person who reports directly to the School Board.

Dr. Hawkins reviewed the tentative revenue estimates, explained changes in the Basic Aid formula and the channeling of lottery money into Basic Aid. Dr. Hawkins outlined new cost projections and budget reductions.

City Council members asked questions relative to senior teacher incentives, disparity at the top of the teachers' scale compared with other districts, explanation of step procedures, increments between steps, class size, pupil/teacher ratio and student achievement.

LONG RANGE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Mr. Sidney Duck III, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services, presented a draft

Portsmouth, Virginia, February 5, 6, 7, 1999

of a Long Range Capital Improvement Program. The plan would close ten (10) schools, Brighton, Mt. Hermon, Park View, Shea Terrace, John Tyler, Highland-Biltmore, Olive Branch, Port Norfolk, Simonsdale and Hunt-Mapp. The plan would provide for one (1) new middle school and five (5) new elementary schools. The plan calls for renovation and expansion of the remaining elementary schools including air conditioning. The plan would eliminate sixty-one mobile classrooms at the elementary level and reduce the average class size to twenty (20) students. The report noted that two-thirds of the city's schools need immediate repair.

The five (5) proposed new elementary schools will have an enrollment of 700 students and the schools will be 66,500 square feet. Total construction costs for the elementary schools are \$33 million. The middle school will have a proposed enrollment of 2,100 and will be 156,000 square feet. Construction costs for the new middle school are \$17 million. The total cost of the plan is \$72 million.

City Council concerns include: the plan does not include a specific timeline for renovations and closures; the study does not include costs for maintaining the new schools outlined in the plan; the study does not prioritize the maintenance needs and does not include architectural and engineering projected costs; are there any opportunities for cost-savings by renovating some of the older schools instead of constructing new ones; is the cost of demolition of the old school facilities included in the plan; is there any assurance maintenance will be done to maintain the new facilities; is there a plan or will there be a plan to keep the schools from getting in the same predicament; what is the cost to fix the system; what is the cost to keep it that way and does the plan include cost for furniture, fixtures and equipment for the new schools.

Dr. Trumble and several school officials indicated that they would prioritize the needs outlined in the Maintenance Plan. Vice Chairman Smith stated that the Board would provide the City Council with a cost estimate to repair the schools and to keep the schools in good condition.

Mayor Holley adjourned the joint meeting at 12:08 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1999
1:30 P.M.

CHARTER SCHOOLS

Dr. Wilbert D. Hawkins, Deputy Superintendent, presented a handout entitled, Virginia Charter Schools, Law and VSBA Policy and Application Recommendations. Dr. Hawkins stated that "charter school" means a public, nonsectarian, nonreligious or non-home-based alternative school located within a public school division. Dr. Hawkins stated that a charter school may be created as a new public school or through the conversion of all or part on an existing public school. Dr. Hawkins stated that a charter school cannot be established through the conversion of a private or a nonpublic home-based educational program.

Dr. Hawkins reviewed the operational procedure for establishing a charter school and the responsibility of the local school board. Dr. Hawkins stated that in order to receive and consider applications for charter schools, the School Board must first hold a public hearing, after proper public notice and adopt a resolution stating its intent to receive applications.

Chairman P'Anson recommended that the Board hold a Public Hearing to receive in-put on charter schools. It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Public Hearing in April.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 2:10 p.m., Dr. Joyner moved that the Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 2.1-344 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of:

Discussion of the performance of the Superintendent

Portsmouth, Virginia, February 5, 6, 7, 1999

of Schools, as permitted under Subsection (A)(1).

The motion was seconded by Mr. Bridgeford. The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

MOTION CERTIFYING EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded that each Board member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge, only public business matters which are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion to go into Executive Session, were heard, discussed or considered during the preceding Executive Session.

The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Chairman I'Anson recessed the meeting until Sunday, February 7, 1999, at 8:30 a.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1999
8:30 A.M.

School Board members present were: Mr. Bridgeford, Dr. Daniels, Dr. Joyner, Mr. Kloeppe, Mr. Mott, Mr. Nance, Mr. Smith and Chairman I'Anson. Mrs. Walden was absent because of personal illness.

SCHOOL DIVISION IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Mr. Claude C. Parent, Director of Communications and Development, reviewed Comprehensive School Reform; Dr. Daisy M. Murphy, Director of Elementary Education, summarized Year-Round Schools; Dr. Patricia H. Fisher, Director of Secondary Education, reviewed the Curriculum and Instructional Support Plan and Dr. Viola Morgan, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, concluded the presentations with A Call to Action for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Chairman I'Anson recessed the meeting at 10:00 a.m. to reconvene at 10:15 a. m.

MOTION FOR EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:15 a.m., the School Board reconvened. It was moved and seconded that the School Board go into Executive Session under the provisions of Section 2.1-344 of the Code of Virginia for the purpose of:

Discussion of the assignment and performance of
specific School Board employees, as permitted under Subsection (A)(1).

The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

At 10:30 a.m., the School Board convened in open session.

MOTION CERTIFYING EXECUTIVE SESSION

It was moved and seconded that each Board member certify that, to the best of his or her knowledge, only public business matters which are lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and which were identified in the motion to go into Executive Session, were heard, discussed or considered during the preceding Executive Session.

The motion was carried unanimously by voice vote.

Portsmouth, Virginia, February 5, 6, 7, 1999

BOARD DISCUSSION/COMMENTS

Board members shared comments and discussed the following items: Board Control over Internal School Programs, Inequalities between Schools, Quality and Content of Presentations to the School Board, Mandatory Kindergarten, Expansion of 4-Year Old Program, Enforcement of Curriculum Timelines for all Courses, Immediate Remediation for Students who Fall Behind in a Class, Social Promotion and Can We, Should We, Evaluate the School Board Attorney.

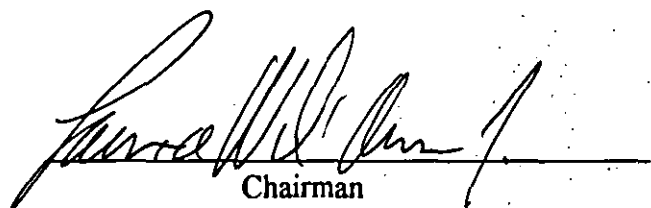
Chairman I'Anson requested the Policy Committee to review the policy dealing with the rental of school facilities and bring a recommendation to the Board for consideration.

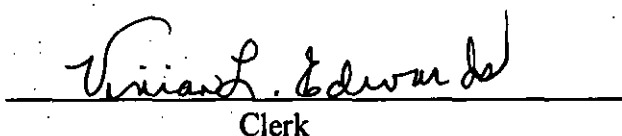
Chairman I'Anson stated that Mr. Massie had offered for Mrs. Lee to brief the Board on the financial state of the city. Mrs. Lee is willing to meet with the Board for about 45 minutes on February 11, 1999.

Superintendent Trumble stated that he would request at the February regular meeting that the Board authorize a date to hold a Public Hearing to close Shea Terrace Elementary School at the end of the 1998-99 school year.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chairman I'Anson adjourned the meeting at 12:20 p.m.


Chairman


Clerk