Minutes of the Special Meeting of the School Board of the City of Richmond
February 9, 2013

Special Meeting

A special meeting of the School Board of the City of Richmond was held on Saturday, February 9, 2013, at 2:00 p.m., in the Conference Room on the 17th floor of City Hall. The Chair called the meeting to order. The Clerk called the roll. The following were present:

Members: Jeffrey Bourne Chair
Donald Coleman, Vice Chair (arrived at 12:17)
Glen Sturtevant
Ms. Kimberly Gray (arrived at 12:10)
Mrs. Mamie Taylor
Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed
Dr. Derik Jones
Mrs. Tichi Pinkney Eppes

Officers: Dr. Yvonne Brandon, Superintendent
Ms. Angela Lewis, Clerk
Mrs. Victoria Oakley, Chief Academic Officer/Deputy Agent

Others Present: Steven Bolton, Public Information
Dr. Kathleen Smith, Virginia Department of Education
Dr. Randy Barrack, Executive Director, Virginia Foundation of Educational Leadership

Attorney: Ms. Jonnell Lilly

Absent: Mrs. Kristen Larson
Ms. Angela Anderson, Chief of Financial Reporting/Deputy Clerk
Paul Hawkins, Chief Operating Officer/Agent

A call of the roll reflected that a quorum was present.

Receive the Memorandum of Understanding Between Richmond Public Schools and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership's Turnaround Zone Initiative

Richmond Public Schools has five priority schools – Elkhardt Middle, Henderson Middle, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle, John Marshall High, and Richmond Alternative (Capital City Program). These schools were identified by the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) based on criteria in the Elementary and Secondary Act Flexibility Waiver. The school division and the schools that are identified are required to select and implement a turnaround model to address the needs of the students.

The VDOE and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership (VFEL) were selected to partner with Richmond Public Schools to implement a plan to meet the needs of the students in city school system.

Dr. Smith shared information with the Board regarding why the school system had to have a turnaround partner to work with the schools that had been identified as priority schools. She also shared information regarding the partnership with the VDOE and the VFEL.

The School Improvement Grant required that the Lead Turnaround Partner be able to demonstrate a proven successful track record in turning around low-performing schools. It was noted that the VFEL had provided leadership to the VDOE’s Office of School Improvement (OSI) since 2006. It was also noted that the OSI had implemented the model school for turnaround and that work had become the basis for Lead Turnaround initiatives.

The role of the Lead Turnaround Partner was to bring in the right reform strategies. The VDOE asked the VFEL to design a program that would be able to assist in differentiating the needs among schools and develop a strategic plan that would bring out system transformation. The VDOE asked VFEL to serve as the Lead Turnaround Partner and bring the right resources from vendors that had been approved by Virginia because of their track record for success and on state contract. Cambridge Education and Edison Learning were identified as having demonstrated their track record for success.
Receive the Memorandum of Understanding Between Richmond Public Schools and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership’s Turnaround Zone Initiative Continued

Another concern identified was the need for leadership training. VDOE had noted that the National Institute of School Leadership had completed leadership training in other states.

Documents regarding the VFEL, Edisonlearning, Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center, Mass Insight were provided for the Board to review.

Consider Approval of the Memorandum Understanding Between Richmond Public Schools and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership’s Turnaround Zone Initiative

On a motion by Dr. Jones, seconded by Mrs. Pinkney Eppes, the School Board voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Richmond Public Schools and the Virginia Foundation for Educational Leadership’s Turnaround Zone Initiative with the amendment of a one-year contract and Memorandum of Agreement term with a sixty-day termination provision. (Mrs. Larson was not present)

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:28 p.m.

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Clerk

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Chair