A meeting of the School Board of the City of Richmond was held on Monday, May 19, 2014, at 6:00 p.m., in the School Board Room – 17th Floor of City Hall. The Chair called the meeting to order. The Clerk called the roll. The following were present:

Members:  
Mr. Donald Coleman, Chair  
Mrs. Kristen Larson, Vice Chair  
Ms. Kimberly Gray  
Mrs. Kristen Larson  
Mrs. Mamie Taylor (arrived later)  
Mrs. Shonda Harris-Muhammed  
Dr. Derik Jones (arrived later)  
Mrs. Tichi Pinkney Eppes  

Officers:  
Dr. Dana Bedden, Superintendent  
Ms. Angela Lewis, Clerk  
Mrs. Victoria Oakley, Chief Academic Officer/Deputy Agent  
Mrs. Tonya Friend, Executive Assistant, School Board  

Others Present:  
Kavansa Gardner, ICTS Manager  
Dandridge Billups, Director, Human Resources  
Ralph Westbay, Assistant Superintendent, Financial Services  
Dr. Michelle Boyd, Executive Director, Exceptional Education  
Student Representative, David Crutchfield  
Ms. Debora Johns, Chief Auditor, Internal Audit  
A. Washington  
A. Matthis  
Mr. Harold Fitner, Communities in Schools  
Mr. Thomas Kranz, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services  
Mrs. Cletisha Lovelace  
Mr. Andrew Davis, Director, Plant Services  
Dr. Anthony Leonard, Executive Director, Elementary Education  
Dr. Abe Jeffers, Executive Director, Secondary Education  
Mr. Timothy Mallory, Chief of Safety and Security  

Attorney:  
Ms. Jonnell Lilly  

Absent:  
Mr. Glen Sturtevant  

Mr. Coleman called the meeting to order.  

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

Mr. Bourne led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Everyone participated in a moment of silence.  

Adoption of the Agenda  
On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Ms. Gray the School Board voted to amend the agenda with the following additions:  
SR1314-42: Receive and approve a Pledge by Americas Great City Schools.  
IA1314-26: Approve the 2014 – 2015 General Fund budget.  

Recognitions  
The following cheerleaders from Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle School were recognized:  
Makiyah Cardwell  
DeCara Fleming  
Khyann Johnson-Crumble  
Tick-nequwa Johnson  
Dayohnna McDonald  
Mikayla Walker  
Tarquasia Bell  
Laura Blackwell  

Public Information

The following citizens addressed the Board, David Lindsey, Jenna Owen, Charlotte Hayer, and Kirsten Gray. Their topics of discussion were, thanks for money given to the building project, a request for the administration to support discipline within the school system, a student denied admission to Open High School, bullying, and non-compliance of an IEP, thanking the Board for its commitment on the budget, Administrator’s Night, professional development for all employees, and parental advocating.

Dr. Bedden recognized the following new hires:

Dr. Anthony Leonard, Executive Director of Elementary Schools
Dr. Abe Jeffers, Executive Director of Secondary Schools
Mr. Thomas Krantz, Assistant Superintendent of Support Services
Mr. Timothy Mallory, Chief of Safety and Security
Ms. Terry Perkins, Director, Curriculum

Approve the minutes of September 3, 2013 and September 16, 2013 meetings

On a motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mr. Bourne, the Board voted 8-0 to approve the minutes of September 3, 2013 and September 16, 2013. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

Receive and approve Proclamation regarding Child Savers

The following Resolution was read for the School Board to approve.

Whereas, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic will mark its’ 90th anniversary on August 7, 2014; and

Whereas, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic, then known as the Children’s Memorial Clinic, was established in memory of Dr. McGuire Newton, one of Richmond’s first pediatricians on August 7, 1924; and

Whereas, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic was one of the first ten child guidance clinics in the United States, and the first in the South; and

Whereas, the Richmond City Public School system was one of the original agencies involved in the formation ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic; and

Whereas, representatives of Richmond City Public Schools attended the first meeting in 1924 and placed a representative on the original board of directors of ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic; and
Whereas in the early 1980’s the Child Development Services Department was added to train and equip child care providers, parents, and the community to better care for young children; and

Whereas, founded in 2004, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic’s Trauma Response program is Virginia’s only program devoted to immediate response and trauma counseling services for children exposed to trauma; and

Whereas, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic believes all children have the right to be safe, healthy, happy, and ready to lean and provides trauma response, mental health counselling and early childhood development services so that children have a chance to reach their potential and thrive; and

Whereas, through their philosophy of preventing developmental problems to the greatest extend possible and intervening to help reverse them when necessary, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic serves thousands of children/teens, their families, and caregivers each year, regardless of a family’s ability to pay; and

Whereas, in fiscal year 2013, ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic provided mental health counseling to 408 children in their Guidance Clinic, served 424 children through their Trauma Response program, and provided mentoring and training through their Child Development Services program for child care professionals to improve the quality of care and learning in preschool for 1,658 children 0 – 5 years old; and

Whereas, of the children served by ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic in fiscal year 2013 – 262 of them attended Richmond City Public Schools; now, therefore ,be it

Resolved by the School Board of the City of Richmond, that ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic hereby be commended on the occasion of its 90th anniversary; and, be it

Resolved further, that the Clerk of the School Board of the City of Richmond prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the L. Robert Bolling, Chief Executive Office, as an expression of the School Board of the City of Richmond’s congratulations and admiration for ChildSavers-Memorial Child Guidance Clinic’s commitment to the Greater Richmond metropolitan area.

/Donald L. Coleman, Chairman
/Dana T. Bedden, Superintendent

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, the Board voted 8-0 to receive and approve the Proclamation regarding Child Savers. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

Child Savers Representatives shared comments regarding the Proclamation.

Receive and approve a Proclamation recognizing National Education Bosses Week

The following Proclamation was read for the School Board to approve.

Whereas, the National Association of Educational Office Professionals – the only national professional association for office personnel in education – affirms its belief that a good education is the birthright of every American; and

Whereas, the members of NAEOP recognize the significance of the many and varied duties and responsibilities assumed by the educational leaders at all levels of the educational process;

Now, therefore be it proclaimed that the week of May 18 – 24, 2014, shall be known as “National Educational Bosses Week” in grateful recognition of the unselfish and dedicated service provided to the nation’s schools, colleges, universities, and communities; and

Be it also proclaimed, that October 16, 2014 be observed as “National Bosses Day”.
/Donald L. Coleman, Chairman
/Dana T. Bedden, Superintendent
On a motion by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, seconded by Dr. Derik Jones, the Board voted 8-0 to receive and approve a Proclamation recognizing National Education Bosses Week. *(Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)*

**Receive a presentation from Communities in Schools**

Dr. Fitter and his team gave a presentation showing how the CIS model works. The model included an annual needs assessment, a site plan based on the needs assessment; delivery of services, regular monitoring and adjustment of service plans; and an evaluation of effectiveness in achieving student goals.

When implemented with fidelity, the research shows the CIS Model is effective in both lowering the dropout rate and increasing graduation rate.

Mr. Bourne asked why there was a drop-off regarding the number of graduates from 2011 to 2013 (191 PLC graduates, 123 PLC graduates). CIS indicated the age of students and number of credits needed may have been variables in the decline in graduates.

Mrs. Taylor asked of the 123 students CIS assisted, how specifically does CIS assist and what is the total number of students preparing to graduate?

Dr. Jones wanted to understand the metric used to come up with the academic statistics.

Ms. Gray asked about GED and technical programs.

Ms. Eppes asked about the criteria used for RPS to enter partnership with CIS.

**Receive the Richmond Public Schools Procurement and Transportation audits from the City Auditor**

The city auditor shared that he completed (5) audits with Richmond Public Schools (RPS) and talked about transportation audit and procurement audit.

In regards to transportation audit – the budget was about $10m fiscal 2012, but expenditures exceeded $12m. He found there are opportunities for cost savings (remove the school field trips and other trips). He also indicated the current maintenance contract needs to be revisited. There is an opportunity to save about $680,000.

Additionally, the city auditor expressed that RPS is acquiring a lot of overtime, and that RPS could save at least $87,000 if full-time staff was hired. He also indicated the educational value of some of the trips need to be reevaluated. RPS is not recovering full cost of trips.

In regards to student and driver safety, only 23% of buses had functioning equipment or even had equipment.

Ms. Gray indicated we should approach City Council regarding an ordinance on installation of cameras on buses.

Mrs. Taylor voiced her concerns regarding the field trips students are taking. She indicated we should find field trips that are more conducive to their education.

Dr. Jones wanted to know what our game plan is for holding ourselves accountable for recommendations that we deem need improvement on our end. Additionally, Dr. Jones inquired about how to keep these items before the Board to ensure these items are being addressed.

Mr. Bourne addressed overtime reduction and how to deal with, and he hopes it is included in the action plan.

Ms. Harris-Muhammed would like the courtesy of knowing when contracts are renewed.

**Discuss the Facilities Report and the Facilities Task Force**

Ms. Gray gave a brief update, along with Ms. Larson (co-chairs of facilities task force). All names from the Board were accepted. They will send letter to the Facilities Task Force members and have their first meeting on June 3 at 4:30.

**Receive proposed changes to Section 8-**

Ms. Jonnell Lilly reviewed the policy summary revision to Section 8-2.2, which allows students whose fifth birthday occurs between October 1 and December.
2.2, Admissions, of the Student section of the Policy Manual

31, to attend kindergarten after appropriate assessments have been given.

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Ms. Gray, the Board voted, unanimously, to receive proposed changes to Section 8-2.2, Admissions, of the Student section of the Policy Manual. *(Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)*

Receive revisions to Section 8 of the Student section of the Policy Manual

Ms. Jonnell Lilly shared a first read of revisions to Section 8 of the Student section of the Policy Manual. She asked the Board to bring any questions and/or comments to her by May 28, 2014.

Mrs. Taylor wanted to know details of who is responsible—the parent or the child. Dr. Bedden indicated that he would get a report for Mrs. Taylor.

New Business

Mr. Bourne would like the Board to review the re-election of principals and assistant principals separate and apart from other re-elections.

Mrs. Harris-Muhammed thanked everyone who attended the teacher appreciation dance, to include Dr. Bedden, the public information office, technology team, and the Hilton Garden Inn for hosting the dance. Mrs. Harris-Muhammed indicated that George Wythe had the most teachers in attendance.

Ms. Gray shared that she attended Little Martin Cobb’s funeral and admonished everyone to look through the lenses of our students to see what they go through in their personal lives.

Mr. Coleman thanked everyone for their support in his absence and honored the Board in their commitment in working together. Additionally, Mr. Coleman thanked Mrs. Larson for doing an outstanding job in holding it down while he was out. He also gave kudos to everyone who stepped up with the student discipline committee.

Receive and approve the Human Resources Actions

Mr. Tim Billups presented the HR agenda for approval to include:

Nomination of 35 employees
Change of contract of 6 employees
Resignation of 11 employees
Retirement of 18 employees
Rescission of employment of 1 employee
Furlough of 6 employees
Returning of leave for 1 employee

Receive and approve a Resolution for employee participation in the 403b plan

Mr. Westbay shared the modification of the existing plan of the 403b.

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Ms. Gray, the Board voted, 8 - 0, to receive and approve a Resolution for employee participation in the 403b plan. *(Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)*

Receive an update on K-12

Dr. Bedden shared update on K-12’s climate and culture surveys.

On a motion by Ms. Gray, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, the Board voted 7-0 to direct Dr. Bedden to enter into a contract with K-12 Insight to perform a culture and climate survey to include the Let’s Talk component. *(Mrs. Taylor and Mr. Sturtevant were not present for the vote)*

Discuss IB Programs at Lucille Brown Middle School and Thomas Jefferson High School

Representatives gave history and overview of IB program to include the initial authorization, current program structure, and current admissions.

Dr. Jones stated that we can improve and expand at the same time but we need to implement in a responsible and concise way.

Receive and approve a Pledge by Americas Great City Schools

There was a consensus of the Board to accept Males of Color in the Great City Schools Proposed Additional Activities by the Council of the Great City Schools. The following were outlined in the proposed additional activities:

- Encourage Council-member city school districts to adopt a resolution or pledge in support of strategies to improve the education outcomes of the Males of Color in urban school systems.
• Strengthen early childhood programs in urban schools by expanding offerings for Males of Color, developing rubrics to review language-development strategies in the programs, creating components that acclimate students to school culture, and maintaining data on the effectiveness of the programs and the progress of individual pupils.

• Design and launch a series of grade three through eight STEM competitions nationally for Males of Color attending urban schools that would foster peer support, group cohesion, cognitive, social and academic development, and math and science skills and interest.

• Design and launch an effort to increase student attendance in urban schools and decrease suspension among Males of Color by scaling proven and promising programs.

• Create an “early-warning” data system as part of the Council’s widely used Performance Management System and Key Performance Indicators to flag emerging trends and warning signs with Males of Color in our urban schools.

• Partner with College Board to identify Males of Color who score high enough on their PSATs to successfully participate in advanced placement or honors courses but do not do so – even when their schools offer such courses.

• Develop a tool kit for Council members and others on strategies for launching local initiatives and on systemic changes in our schools to improve outcomes for our Males of Color.

• Expand the Council’s Strategic Support Teams that provide on-the-ground technical assistance to member districts to include instructional and support activities to improve outcomes for Males of Color in urban schools.

• Continue Council webinar series on African American males with Call for Change authors Robert Green, Aisha Ray, James Moore III and Lamont Flowers, Alfred Tatum, Robert Moses, Mike Nettles, Oscar Barbarin, Leticia Smith-Evans, George Garrow, Ron Walker, and Hal Smith.

• Strongly support President Obama’s “My Brother’s Keeper” initiative.

Receive and Approve Budget Transfers

Mr. Westbay shared the major factors influencing the budget FY 2014-15 and there were no budget transfers for approval.

Approve Recommended Changes to Policy 8-2.2, Admissions, of the Student Section of the Policy Manual

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, the School Board voted 8 – 0 to approve the recommended changes to Policy 8-2.2, Admissions, of the Student Section of the Policy Manual. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

Approve the VFEL State Required Turn-Around Partner Renewal

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Mrs. Taylor, the School Board voted 8 – 0 to approve the VFEL turn-around partner renewal. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

Approve the 2014 – 2015 General Fund Budget

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Dr. Jones, the School Board voted 8 – 0 to approve the 2014 – 2015 General Fund budget. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

Closed Session

On a motion by Mrs. Pinkney Eppes, seconded by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, the Board voted to go into closed session [Pursuant to the personnel exemption at §2.2-3711]
On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Ms. Gray, the School Board voted to go into open session.

Motion: Mr. Bourne Resolution: 34
Seconded: Mr. Sturtevant Date: May 19, 2014

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: (8) (Mesdames Gray, Larson, Taylor, Harris-Muhammed, Pinkney Eppes, Messers Bourne, Coleman, and Jones)
NAY: (0)
ABSTENTIONS (0)
ABSENT DURING VOTE: (1) (Mr. Sturtevant)
ABSENT DURING MEETING: (1) (Mr. Sturtevant)

On a motion by Mr. Bourne, seconded by Ms. Gray, the School Board voted 8 – 0 to approve the Human Resources Actions. (Mr. Sturtevant was not present for the vote)

On a motion by Mrs. Harris-Muhammed, seconded by Mr. Bourne, the School Board voted 8 – 0 to approved the recommendation of the administration for a 3-day suspension without pay in employee matter #1314-14.

The being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:08 p.m.

Clerk

Chair