



City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street
Richmond, VA 23219
www.rva.gov/office-city-clerk

Meeting Minutes - Final Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, February 10, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall
Virtual Meeting

This meeting was held through electronic communication means.

Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Alternate Member
The Honorable Ann-Frances Lambert – Council Member

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
Jerry Carchedi, Council Budget Analyst
Joyce Davis, Interim Council Chief of Staff
Jamie Isley, Boards and Commissions Administrator
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Katherine Jordan

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m., and presided.

Electronic Meeting Announcement

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles, in accordance with the current ongoing declaration of a local emergency concerning the COVID-19 pandemic confirmed by Res. No. 2020-R025, adopted March 16, 2020, and as permitted by section 2.2-3708.2(A)(3) of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, announced the meeting would be held through electronic means. Assistant City Clerk Bowles stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public on February 3, 2022, and through Legistar on the city website in accordance with usual practice. She also stated members of the public were encouraged to provide comments in writing prior to the meeting and all comments received prior to 10:00 a.m., on Thursday, February 10, 2022, were provided to committee members. Ms. Bowles indicated that members of the

public who signed up to speak and provide comment would be called to speak at the appropriate time.

Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles provided the citizen speaker guidelines.

Paper(s) for Consideration

Chair Stephanie Lynch requested to amend the agenda regarding ORD. 2021-308.

[ORD.
2021-308](#)

To amend Ord. No. 2021-042, adopted May 24, 2021, which accepted a program of proposed Capital Improvement Projects for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 and the four fiscal years thereafter, adopted a Capital Budget for Fiscal Year 2021-2022, and determined a means of financing the same, by transferring funds in the amount of \$7,310,391.00 from the School Planning and Construction project in the Education category and appropriating such transferred funds to the School Modernization - George Wythe High School project in the Education category for the purpose of funding the planning and design of a new George Wythe High School.

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2021-308](#)
[Staff Report](#)
[O&R Map](#)
[Public Hearing Handout_RPS School Board](#)

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the proposed ordinance refers to the financing of a new George Wythe High School. Chair Lynch stated that in speaking with additional members of Council and members of the Richmond School Board, it has been determined that a lengthy discussion between the Education and Human Services Committee and Richmond School Board (RSB) is needed.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson stated that she also had conversation with RSB Chair Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed regarding ORD. 2021-308. Ms. Robertson stated that due to the sensitivity of this issue, a special meeting between the Richmond School Board, all Council members and city administration needs to take place. Vice Chair Robertson stated that Dr. Harris-Muhammed agreed to a virtual meeting, involving all entities, regarding this matter.

There were no further comments or discussions and Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to continue ORD. 2021-308 to a special Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, date to be determined, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, December 9, 2021, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.003](#) December 9, 2021 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20211209 EHS Minutes](#)

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Board Vacancies

Boards and Commissions Administrator Jamie Isley reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward the following board appointments and reappointments to Council with the recommendation to approve and to continue consideration of remaining applicants to the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to the April Education and Human Services meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:

Jackie Merrick (reappointment)

Kimberly A. Moulden

Eddie Archer (reappointment)

Board of Directors of Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, Inc.:

Anedra Bourne (reappointment)

Truitt Allcott

Steven Williams

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:

Sarah C. Mines

Social Services Advisory Board:

Lisa Specter-Dunaway (reappointment)

A copy of the following report has been filed.

[CD.2022.046](#) Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [20220210 - EHS - Quarterly Vacancy Report](#)

Dr. John P. Lindstrom, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Richmond Behavioral Health Authority (RBHA) spoke in reference to meeting applicants that have a genuine interest in RBHA. Dr. Lindstrom stated that RBHA staff offers an informal "meet and greet" for applicants; however, staff does not make recommendations for applicants to sit on RBHA Board. Dr. Lindstrom also stated that four positions will be vacant as of July 1, 2022 and provided a brief review of reasons that members will be leaving RBHA.

Chair Stephanie Lynch acknowledged Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed, the new Richmond School Board (RSB) chair, will periodically be joining the committee meetings to offer updates of the RSB.

Presentation(s)

Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Update on Evictions

Interim Chief Executive Officer of Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority (RRHA) Stacey Daniels-Fayson informed the committee that lease enforcement activities have resumed through RRHA. Ms. Daniels-Fayson stated that RRHA has been in an eviction moratorium for over two years with a self-imposed moratorium from November 2019 to February 2020, and a federally mandated moratorium from March 2020 to October 2021. Ms. Daniels-Fayson also stated that RRHA has had several media campaigns to reach out to residents to ensure residents can become current on their rent. She noted that information has been provided to Council members regarding previous efforts of RRHA.

Ms. Daniels-Fayson informed the committee that approximately 1,700 families are behind with rent as of February 9, 2022. Ms. Daniels-Fayson also stated that the majority of families owe greater than \$51.00 but less than \$500.00; however, 96 families have balances that are greater than \$1000.00 but less than \$5000.00. She further stated that as of February 10, 2022, 549 applications have been submitted through the Gov2Go application process which is administered by the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. Ms. Daniels-Fayson stated that if rental assistance is not available, RRHA will work with families to enter into a repayment agreement. Ms. Daniels-Fayson's stated that the goal is to have no evictions.

Ms. Daniels-Fayson responded to committee questions and thanked the committee for allowing the brief update on evictions.

Richmond School Board Chair Dr. Shonda Harris-Muhammed requested the number of RPS students that will be impacted by lease enforcement.

Chair Lynch stated that staff would follow-up with Ms. Daniels-Fayson regarding Dr. Harris-Muhammed's request.

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Budget Update

Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Jason Kamras provided an update regarding RPS's budget. Mr. Kamras stated that the \$98,000,000 balance of federal funds needs to be spent by the end of the 2023-2024 school year. Superintendent Kamras also reviewed the costs of seven goals showing needs of maintenance, staffing, and care for the mental health of staff and students. Mr. Kamras further stated that the costs will include expanded learning time, technology and other academic support such as additional teachers and support for students with special needs.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.051](#) RPS Updated Federal Stimulus Plan

Attachments: [RPS Updated Federal Stimulus Plan](#)

Council Member Ann-Frances Lambert departed the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager, Office of Children and Families provided a brief update regarding gun violence prevention as it connects with RPS.

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Assistant City Clerk Debra Bowles informed the committee that the previous motion regarding ORD. 2021-308 retains the ordinance within the committee. Ms. Bowles stated that based upon the information brought forward by Vice Chair Robertson to have a special meeting involving both Council and RSB, a clarifying motion was necessary.

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Attachments: [Ord. No. 2021-308](#)

[Staff Report](#)

[O&R Map](#)

[Public Hearing Handout RPS School Board](#)

There were no further comments or discussion and Vice Chair Ellen Robertson moved to forward ORD. 2021-308 to Council with no recommendation, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:49 p.m.