



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, October 10, 2024

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee and Other Council Members in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch - Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille - Vice Chair
The Honorable Nicole Jones - Member
The Honorable Ellen Robertson - Council Member (early departure)

Staff and Others in Attendance

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Kimberly Morris, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
Steven Taylor, Council Policy Analyst
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Public Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Kimberly Morris provided information on the appropriate manner in which the Council Chamber is to be evacuated in the event of an emergency along with public speaker guidelines.

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

Discussion Item(s)

Update from the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services

Traci DeShazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, provided the committee with an update regarding the Office of Community Wealth Building's 10-year anniversary, the commemorative luncheon for the Anti-Poverty Commission, the Mayor's press conference concerning city youth, funding from the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice Services, homeless services initiatives, the launch of the Community Resource and Training Center, the city's response to the increase in unsheltered residents, and Richmond Public Library card sign up month.

Council Member Ellen Robertson left the meeting at 2:37 p.m.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked DCAO DeShazor to address the committee about the food served to the unhoused community at the Salvation Army shelter.

DCAO DeShazor stated the Salvation Army has hired a food services manager who will check expiration dates and assess funding to ensure the best quality service. She also stated her office is in communication with the Salvation Army to possibly expand services to a year-round walk up shelter for residents.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille acknowledged the human services portfolio for the Out of School Time program, reducing youth violence by 64 percent.

Chair Lynch stated the Education and Human Services Standing Committee, in collaboration with Richmond Public Schools, will discuss the Out of School Time program at the November 14, 2024 Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2024-253](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Standard Project Administration Agreement between the City of Richmond and the Virginia Department of Transportation for the purpose of funding a safe routes to schools program.

Patrons: Mayor Stoney, Vice President Lambert and Ms. Robertson

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2024-253](#)

Eva Colen, Senior Policy Advisor and Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided the committee with an introduction and background regarding ORD. 2024-253.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no comments or discussions and Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward ORD. 2024-253 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board vacancies for the committee's consideration.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.301](#) October 10, 2024 Education and Human Services Board Vacancy Report

Attachments: [20241010 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille asked about opportunities to increase the number of students who can participate on the Human Rights Commission.

Traci DeShazor, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (DCAO) for Human Services, provided the committee with background on the selection process for the Human Rights Commission concerning students.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired if the Human Rights Commission will have a staff person and the duties of that position.

DCAO DeShazor stated the position will be part-time and funding is currently allocated for the Human Services Commission to fill the position. She also stated Human Services is providing assistance for the phones, inbox and website for the commission.

J.D. Ratliff, Policy Advisor, Neighborhood and Community Services, provided the committee with additional information regarding the job description and role of the position.

Vice Chair Newbille asked if students can receive an honorarium for serving as commissioners.

DCAO DeShazor stated an honorarium can be researched.

Chair Lynch stated a full-time person may be the best practice.

DCAO DeShazor stated the commitment is to have a fully operating commission and then revisit to see if the position will need to be full time.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille moved to forward the following board appointment and reappointment applications to Council with a recommendation to approve, and to continue the RPS student vacancy on the Human Rights Commission to the November 14, 2024, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, and the remaining vacancy on the Richmond Behavioral Health Authority to the January 9, 2025, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:
Charlie Williams (reappointment)

Human Rights Commission City Resident:
Elle Merkle
Christopher Pittman
Davion La'Chelle Washington

J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Board:
Paul Logan

Maggie L. Walker Initiative Citizens Advisory Board:
Zenobia Cardwell

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:
Diane Sheehey

Discussion Item(s)

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) and Richmond School Board Updates

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools Superintendent, provided the committee with an update regarding RPS.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille congratulated the success of the Standard of Living program.

Superintendent Kamras stated the wellness priority of the strategic plan is to reduce bullying and promote wellness.

Member Nicole Jones congratulated Superintendent Kamras on the recent successes of RPS.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked when will RPS exit the state memorandum of understanding (MOU).

Superintendent Kamras informed the committee that the state is working on a revision of the MOU, due to changes in accreditation.

Chair Lynch inquired why Pre-K is not in the Dreams4RPS Strategic Plan.

Superintendent Kamras stated Pre-K is still a focus item.

Vice Chair Newbille asked how can RPS ensure universal Pre-K to help students reach reading goals by 3rd grade.

Superintendent Kamras stated it will need to be a regional effort to ensure Pre-K for all income levels.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Tuesday, September 17, 2024 special meeting and the Thursday, September 19, 2024 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2024.308](#) September 17, 2024 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Special Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240917 EHS Minutes Special Meeting](#)

[CD.2024.307](#) September 19, 2024 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20240919 EHS Minutes](#)

Staff Report

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with the October Education and Human Services staff report.

Chair Stephanie Lynch provided additional information developed from the Education and Human Services Standing Committee September 17, 2024 Special meeting.

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

[CD.2024.328](#) EHS Staff Report, Oct 2024

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.