



City of Richmond

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

Meeting Minutes - Draft Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Thursday, May 12, 2022

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Other in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Committee Member
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Council President (early departure)

Samson Anderson, Council Budget Analyst
Debra Bowles, Assistant City Clerk
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Absent

The Honorable Ellen Robertson – Vice Chair

Call to Order

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

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

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

Electronic Participation

Pursuant to Rule III(D)(4)(b) of Council's Rules of Procedure, Committee Member Katherine Jordan made a request to participate in the meeting via Microsoft Teams from her home as she was quarantining due to a known exposure to COVID-19. The Committee Members present were required to adopt a motion to approve Councilor Jordan's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means if it appeared to the body that her request complied with Rule III(D) of Council's Rules of Procedure. A motion was solicited from those members physically assembled to approve Councilor Jordan's participation in the meeting by electronic communication means.

President Cynthia Newbille moved to allow Member Jordan to participate in the meeting by electronic communication means. The motion was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Newbille, Lynch. Noes, None.

Member Jordan joined the meeting via Microsoft Teams at 2:04 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, April 14, 2022, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2022.194](#) April 14, 2022 Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20220414 - EHS Minutes - DRAFT](#)

Public Comment Period

There were no public comment speakers.

Presentation(s)

Update of Homeless Shelter Census After Emergency Shelter Closure

Housing and Community Development (HCD) Director Sherrill Hampton provided updated information regarding homeless services and shelter closings. Director Hampton stated that the American Recovery Fund Act (ARPA) funds will be used for an additional 150 beds for medical respite at the Daily Planet; however, there is a continued need for isolated hotel rooms, and ARPA funds are being used to provide a retro fit at Carritas for isolation and space distancing. Ms. Hampton stated further that all individuals using the non-congregate shelter have established stabilized housing. Ms. Hampton added that the inclement weather shelter had a seasonal average of 123 individuals per night and a second inclement shelter site is being considered. Director Hampton stated that the consultant contract to finalize procurement utilizing the cooperative agreement to purchase a hotel for permanent housing at the end of May, will be considered by the city and the collaborating counties of Chesterfield and Henrico. Ms. Hampton stated further that a tiny home village is a consideration for the future; however, available space is a major factor in the consideration.

Director Hampton shared information regarding the Eden Village model for tiny homes in Springfield, Missouri, per request of President Cynthia Newbille. Ms. Hampton stated that the community is approximately 25 – 40 units with rules and policies that must be followed. Each home has a rent of \$325.00 per month.

Commonwealth Catholic Charities (CCC) Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Jay Brown informed committee members that all families at the non-congregant shelter will be in permanent housing by the end of May. CEO Brown also stated that individuals seeking emergency

resources should contact the housing crisis line through the Greater Richmond Continuum of Care (GRCoC); however, the CCC also offers a housing counseling program to assist those individuals in need.

A copy of the following presentation has been filed.

[CD.2022.212](#) Homeless Shelter Update

Attachments: [20220512 After Item - Homeless Services Update and Shelter Presentation Part III](#)
[20220512 After Item - PLO PIT Attachment 4-14-22 ATTACHMENT A2](#)
[20220512 After Item - ATTACHMENT C for Homeless Update](#)

President Cynthia Newbille left the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Update of the HOPE Project

Richmond Police Department Officer Matt McHugh, representing the Homeless Outreach Partnership and Enforcement (HOPE) Unit, provided information regarding the HOPE project. Officer McHugh stated that the project began in 2008 as a 90-day initiative which has resulted in the current homeless assistance program through the police department. Officer McHugh noted that the city follows the national average of homeless population; however, those individuals that the HOPE Unit helps are primarily individuals that are experiencing chronic homelessness. Officer McHugh also stated that the HOPE Unit has developed partnerships with many programs to find assistance for those in need and reiterated that these individuals do need a point of entry for needed shelter, especially during severe weather occurrences. Officer McHugh stated further that the HOPE Unit does remind individuals of appointments with caseworkers and noted that the department does not have a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW) on staff.

Update on Richmond Public Schools' Middle School Rezoning, School Construction and 2023 Final Budget Highlights

Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Jason Kamras provided information on the proposed contract for the design services of the new George Wythe High School (GWHS), and stated that the proposal has been updated to accommodate 1800 students. The contract includes the demolition of the current school and athletic facilities, and stated that RRMM Architects was selected to oversee the construction of the new facilities. Mr. Kamras provided drawings to the committee of the new GWHS.

Superintendent Kamras provided information regarding the overflow of students housed at River City Middle School. Mr. Kamras explained the rezoning and distribution of students between Binford, Boushall and Lucille Brown Middle Schools for the 2022-2023 school year. Mr. Kamras also explained the upgrades that are needed at the middle schools to accommodate additional students in classrooms, and transportation and staffing considerations.

Superintendent Kamras shared that Kiara Thompson, a Boushall Middle School science teacher, was selected as the 2022 RPS Teacher of the Year. Mr. Kamras also stated that the William Fox Elementary School students moved to the former Clark Springs Elementary School building on Monday, May 10th, and the celebration dinner of RPS scholastic award winners was held on Tuesday, May 11th.

A copy of the following presentations have been filed.

[CD.2022.209](#) Richmond Public Schools Presentation for May 12, 2022

Attachments: [20220512 RCMS Rezoning - RPS](#)
[20220512 Wythe Design - RPS](#)

Discussion Item(s)

There were no discussion items.

Paper(s) for Consideration

There were no papers for consideration.

Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies for consideration.

Staff Report

There was no staff report.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:31 p.m.