



# City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
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## Meeting Minutes Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, March 2, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

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**Rescheduled from the March 9, 2023 Education and Human Services Meeting Date**

### Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair  
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member  
The Honorable Katherine Jordan – Council Member

Janet Palmer, Assistant City Attorney  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst  
Rachael Paul, Assistant City Clerk  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### Absent

The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Vice Chair

### Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:17 p.m., and presided.

### Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Rachael Paul 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.

### Public Comment Period

There were no public comments.

## Presentation(s)

There were no presentations.

## Discussion Item(s)

### **Fiscal Mapping for Shared Priorities**

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, provided information regarding fiscal mapping for shared priorities. Ms. Colen stated that fiscal mapping could be discussed at a joint meeting with City Council and the Richmond School Board.

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, informed the committee that city administration and Council staff have been working on procuring a vendor to facilitate the fiscal mapping process and will issue the request for proposals (RFP) to vendors in the upcoming week. Ms. Davis stated that March 16, 2023 is the projected start date.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch asked if the vendor would participate in a joint meeting with City Council and Richmond School Board.*

Ms. Davis advised that the vendor would want to meet with all agencies that work with children.

*Member Andreas Addison stated that fiscal mapping will help identify what programs are needed.*

### **Review of Construction Timeline for George Wythe High School & William Fox Elementary School**

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Superintendent, and Dana Fox, Chief Operating Officer of Richmond Public Schools, provided the committee with the construction timelines for George Wythe High School and William Fox Elementary School.

Mr. Kamras stated that the projected reopening date for William Fox Elementary School would be in the year 2025. He also stated that the projected opening date for a new George Wythe High School would be in the year 2027.

Ms. Fox informed the committee that the city would be eligible for 10%-30% of construction cost to be provided by the state's School Construction Grant.

*Councilor Katherine Jordan asked if RPS is looking into grants that would help the schools with green infrastructure and if they need city assistance with that moving forward.*

Mr. Kamras stated that RPS welcomes any help they can get.

### **School Board Budget Update**

Jason Kamras, Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Superintendent, provided an update on the School's budget. He stated the current budget requests \$29,000,000 in additional funds, and if the Virginia Senate budget bill passes they would receive an additional \$16,000,000, but if the Virginia House of Delegates budget bill passes they would see a reduction in the current budget.

Mr. Kamras informed the committee that the Virginia Virtual Academy serves K-12 and requires a tuition fee. He stated that RPS students that were enrolled were not successful and were removed from the program for their performance.

*Member Andreas Addison asked how much is budgeted for the virtual academy.*

Mr. Kamras stated that about \$3,000,000 is budgeted for virtual school and currently funded by the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

*Chair Stephanie Lynch requested an update on the Dreams for RPS Strategic Plan and advised she would discuss with President Michael Jones if it should be added as an agenda item for the next Organizational Development Standing Committee meeting.*

### **Richmond School Board Update**

Cheryl Burke, Richmond School Board Vice Chair, provided an update on the Richmond School Board. Ms. Burke informed the committee that the school calendar for the 2023-2024 school year has been approved.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch asked if there was a list of schools that have opted for extended school.*

Jason Kamras informed the committee that there are three schools that are under consideration for having extended school. He also informed that Fairfield Court Elementary School is close to making a decision on having extended school.

*The committee had further discussion with Jason Kamras and Cheryl Burke about extended school.*

## Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

1. [ORD. 2023-056](#) To authorize the Chief Administrative Officer, for and on behalf of the City of Richmond, to execute a Bridging the Gap in Virginia Grant Contract between the City of Richmond and Bridging The Gap In Virginia, for the purpose of implementing a solar panel training program in the city of Richmond.

**Patrons:** Mayor Stoney, Ms. Lambert and Ms. Jordan

**Attachments:** [Ord. No. 2023-056](#)

Reggie Gordon, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Human Services, provided information about Ord. 2023-056, and stated that he is in support of the ordinance and the city partnering with Bridging the Gap in Virginia.

### Public Hearing

Richard Walker, Chief Executive Officer of Bridging the Gap in Virginia, stated that he is in support of Ord. 2023-056. Mr. Walker gave an overview on his past partnership experience with the city and an update regarding what Bridging the Gap in Virginia offers.

*The committee had further discussion with Richard Walker regarding Bridging the Gap in Virginia.*

**There were no further comments or discussions and Member Andreas Addison moved to forward Ord. 2023-056 to Council with a recommendation to approve, which was seconded and unanimously approved.**

### Board Vacancies

There were no board vacancies.

*Chair Stephanie Lynch addressed the committee about adding the Altria Career and Tech Center as a future agenda item.*

*Councilor Katherine Jordan informed the committee that the Diamond District developers were in the process of trying to get the Altria Career and Tech Center added to the Richmond School Board agenda for an upcoming meeting.*

*Member Andreas Addison stated that he is working on a draft review of public private partnership needs for workforce development and job training.*

*Chair Lynch requested Member Addison to share his review prior to the next meeting. She stated that Council and the School Board could meet to discuss the Altria Career and Tech Center, vacant properties, and shared resources.*

*Chair Lynch stated she would like to add as future agenda items out of school time, universal Pre-K efforts, and Head Start initiatives within Richmond Public Schools.*

## Staff Report

Council Policy Analyst Joyce Davis provided the committee with a staff report.

[CD.2023.078](#) March 2, 2023 - Education and Human Services Staff Report

Attachments: [20230302 EHS Staff Report](#)

## Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, February 9, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.064](#) February 9, 2023 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230209 - EHS Minutes](#)

## Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:16 p.m.