



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, May 11, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Vice Chair (Early Departure)
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Paul Van Lenten, Council Budget Analyst
Nahdiyah Muhammad, Assistant City Clerk
Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst
Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney
Candice Reid, City Clerk
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

Call to Order

Chair Stephanie Lynch called the meeting to order at 2:09 p.m., and presided.

Chamber Emergency Evacuation Plan Announcement and Citizen Speaker Guidelines

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Nahdiyah Muhammad 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.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of the Thursday, April 13, 2023 committee meeting, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.176](#) April 13, 2023 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230413- EHS Minutes](#)

Presentation(s)

Update on Inclement Weather Shelter

Sherrill Hampton, Director of Housing and Community Development, provided the committee with an update on the city's inclement weather shelter.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille asked when the June reports for the inclement weather shelter would be available.

Sherrill Hampton stated final reports will not be completed until the end of May, once all invoices are processed.

Vice Chair Newbille inquired about potential locations for inclement weather and emergency shelters.

Sherrill Hampton stated that Stephen Harms, Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, is currently scouting for potential locations for inclement weather and year-round shelters.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the most recent update provided noted that 28 families are still in need of housing assistance following the closure of the inclement weather shelter. Ms. Lynch inquired if there will be temporary housing provided while the families are searching for permanent housing.

Vice Chair Newbille requested additional information regarding the 28 families in need of housing assistance.

Sherrill Hampton stated the families that are in need of housing assistance will be reviewed and an update will be provided. Ms. Hampton had further discussion with the committee regarding housing homeless families and individuals.

Update on RPS Head Start Initiatives

Jason Kamras, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools (RPS), provided the committee with an update on Richmond Public Schools and William Fox Elementary School renovations.

Superintendent Kamras reported that RPS is in the process of hiring for the upcoming school year. Mr. Kamras stated that up to a \$12,000 sign on bonus for varying skill levels will be provided to new educators. Mr. Kamras also stated that current RPS educators will receive a 1.17 percent step increase in addition to a 6 percent increase, bringing the total pay increase to over 7 percent. Mr. Kamras further stated the pay increase will bring the average salary from \$52,000 to \$64,000 per year.

Dr. Leslie Wiggins, RPS Chief Academic Officer for Elementary Education, provided the committee with an update on the Head Start grant. Dr. Wiggins stated there is an upcoming meeting with the regional Head Start office to discuss technical assistance and aspects of the grant. Dr. Wiggins also stated that job postings for Director of Head Start and Physical Accountant positions will be available pending approval from the Virginia Department of Education. Dr. Wiggins further stated that there will still be the same number of available spots in Head Start and Early Head Start with the new grant. Dr. Wiggins had continued discussion with committee members regarding the number of available spots in Head Start and Early Head Start.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille asked for an update regarding the servicing of homeless children and families.

Dr. Wiggins stated continued assistance will be needed from the city to ensure that the proper connections and services are given to homeless families and children. Dr. Wiggins had continued discussion with the committee regarding services to homeless families.

Vice Chair Newbille inquired about the current status of the Parent Policy Council.

Dr. Wiggins stated that the Parent Policy Council currently has twelve members. Dr. Wiggins provided additional information regarding Parent Policy Council meetings.

Chair Stephanie Lynch asked for the number of available spots for early Head Start. Ms. Lynch also asked about potentially expanding the age range to accommodate the need for child care.

Dr. Wiggins stated that the available spots for Early Head Start are for ages six weeks through two and a half years. Dr. Wiggins also stated that there is a need for licensure to be able to expand the age range, and that not all Head Start locations have the required licensure.

Superintendent Kamras stated RPS has Pre-School and Head Start classrooms within the school divisions five Pre-School centers. Mr. Kamras also stated that a majority of the Head Start children served in Richmond are in other community partner organizations. Mr. Kamras further stated that due to the cost to maintain the proper care for younger children, RPS does not currently have the spots available to meet the needs of the community.

Vice Chair Newbille inquired about Head Start working with other organizations that serve pregnant mothers to assist with prenatal care.

Dr. Wiggins stated that RPS is not currently working with other organizations that assist with prenatal care due to not having the necessary connections. Dr. Wiggins also stated RPS does have community events, but the outreach needs to be more extensive. Dr. Wiggins had further discussion with the committee regarding community outreach.

Chair Lynch inquired about developing a marketing strategy to leverage the full weight and resources of the city.

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, stated that the Office of Children and Families supports agencies internally and externally that provide prenatal, infant, and toddler health, wellness, and stability, along with early childhood development, youth development, and post secondary school success. Ms. Colen also stated that the Richmond School Board has directed RPS administration to continue its work without the support of the city. Ms. Colen further stated that there are still funds available from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), and the funds can be allocated towards stabilization and expansion grants to meet federal standards for expanding Head Start.

Chair Lynch inquired about RPS being directed by the school board to continue its work without the support of the city. Chair Lynch also inquired about attending future meetings of the Parent Policy Council and the makeup of the members that serve on the council.

Dr. Wiggins stated that the Parent Policy Council conducts meetings on a monthly basis and all members of City Council are invited to attend. Dr. Wiggins provided more information and had further discussion with the committee regarding the Parent Policy Council.

Chair Lynch requested the dates of the next school board and Parent Policy Council meetings.

Richmond School Board Update

Cheryl Burke, Richmond School Board Vice Chair, provided the committee with an update regarding the Richmond School Board.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about recommendations from the state to help address absenteeism.

Jason Kamras, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools, stated that there will be a presentation given to the Richmond School Board regarding attendance.

Discussion Item(s)

Fiscal Mapping Project

Tom Devaney, Chief Administrative Officer of Children's Funding Project and Kiley Bednar, Co-Director for the University of Missouri-Saint Louis Community Innovation and Action Center, provided the committee with an introduction to the fiscal mapping project. Mr. Devaney stated that the fiscal mapping project will analyze how federal, state, local, philanthropic, and school district funding streams come into the city.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille departed the meeting at 3:37 p.m.

Chair Stephanie Lynch stated that the committee would be assisted by Children's Funding Project in drafting a memorandum addressing fiscal mapping.

Pathways for Careers and Education

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with an introduction regarding pathways for careers and education.

Paper(s) for Consideration

The following ordinance was considered:

[ORD. 2023-148](#) To amend ch. 2, art. V of the City Code by adding therein a new div. 4.1, consisting of §§ 2-850-2-852, for the purpose of establishing a Future of Workforce Commission.

Patrons: Mr. Addison and Ms. Lynch

Attachments: [Ord. No. 2023-148](#)

Member Andreas Addison provided the committee with an introduction regarding ORD. 2023-148. Member Addison stated it was important to provide career training for high school graduates entering the work force after graduation.

Reggie Gordan, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer of Human Services, Steve King, Workforce Administrator, and Caprichia Spellman, Director, Office of Community Wealth Building, all stated their support and interest in working with the Future of Workforce Commission.

Public Hearing

There were no public hearing speakers.

There were no further comments or discussions and Member Andreas Addison moved to forward ORD. 2023-148 to Council with the recommendation to approve, which was seconded and was approved: Ayes 2, Addison, Lynch. Noes 0.

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

[CD.2023.174](#) May 11, 2023 Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [20230511 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Chair Stephanie Lynch moved to continue consideration of the Social Services Advisory Board appointment vacancy to the July 13, 2023 Education and Human Services meeting which was seconded and approved: Ayes 2, Addison, Lynch. Noes 0.

Staff Report

Council Budget Analyst Paul Van Lenten provided the committee with the meeting staff report.

[CD.2023.192](#) May 11, 2023 - Education and Human Services Staff Report

Attachments: [20230511 EHS Staff Report](#)

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.