



## City of Richmond

900 East Broad Street  
Richmond, VA 23219  
[www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk](http://www.richmondgov.com/cityclerk)

### Minutes

## Education and Human Services Standing Committee

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Thursday, July 2, 2020

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor – Virtual Meeting

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### Committee Members and Staff in Attendance

The Honorable Kristen Larson – Chair  
The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Committee Member  
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Alternate Member (*early departure*)  
The Honorable Michael Jones – Council Member  
Lawrence Anderson, Council Chief of Staff  
Lisa Braxton, Council Administrative Project Analyst  
Meghan Brown, Deputy Council Chief of Staff  
Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst  
Jamie Isley, Assistant City Clerk  
Allison Miessler, Boards and Commissions Administrator  
M. Janet Palmer, Deputy City Attorney  
Candice Reid, City Clerk  
RJ Warren, Deputy City Clerk

### Absent

The Honorable Chris Hilbert – Vice Chair

### Call to Order

Chair Kristen Larson called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., and presided.

### Electronic Participation

Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, in accordance with Ordinance No. 2020-093, adopted April 9, 2020, announced the meeting would be held through electronic communication means. Assistant City Clerk Isley stated notice of the meeting was provided to the public through a public information advisory issued on June 26, 2020, 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, July 2, 2020, were provided to committee members. Ms. Isley 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

Upon the Chair's request, Assistant City Clerk Jamie Isley, provided citizen speaker guidelines.

**Public Comment**

There were no public comments.

**Approval of Minutes**

There were no amendments or corrections to the meeting minutes of Thursday, June 4, 2020, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

**Board Vacancies**

Allison Miessler, boards and commissions administrator, reviewed board applications for consideration by the committee.

*Chair Kristen Larson reviewed the committee’s options regarding appointment recommendations.*

*Member Stephanie Lynch requested the committee to continue consideration of applicants to the Social Services Advisory Board to the next committee meeting.*

**Alternate Member Andreas Addison moved to forward the following appointments and reappointments, to Council with the recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the applicants to the Social Services Advisory Board to the August 6, 2020, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting, which was seconded and unanimously approved:**

<b>Board Name</b>	<b>Criteria for Appointment</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>
<b>Advisory Board Recreation and Parks</b> (9 members)	3 <sup>rd</sup> District Representative  (1 vacancy)	Elaine Summerfield (3 <sup>rd</sup> District Resident) (reappointment)
	8 <sup>th</sup> District Representative  (1 vacancy)	Tia Palmer (8 <sup>th</sup> District Resident) (reappointment)
<b>Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board</b> (9 members)	Person with a disability *  (1 vacancy)	Gabriel Bibb (4 <sup>th</sup> District Resident)
	Senior Citizen*  (1 vacancy)	Mark Bouziane (4 <sup>th</sup> District Resident)
<b>J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College Board</b> (5 members)	Must be residents of the region that is served by the community college and should include residents from various businesses, industries, and professions being served by the community college  (3 vacancies)	Shawn Nicholson (6 <sup>th</sup> District Resident)
<b>Richmond Behavioral Health Authority</b> (15 members)	*	Irvin Dallas (7 <sup>th</sup> District Resident) (reappointment)
		Colleen Howarth (1 <sup>st</sup> District Resident)

*\*Applicant must work or reside in the city*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

**Presentation(s)**

There were no presentations.

*It was the consensus of the committee to consider discussion items prior to the papers for consideration.*

## **Discussion Items**

### **Richmond Public Schools Reopening Plan and Implementation**

Richmond Public Schools (RPS) Superintendent Jason Kamras provided an overview of potential RPS reopening procedures, costs and challenges. He shared information gathered via survey regarding employee and family readiness. Superintendent Kamras informed the committee of the reopening scenarios for RPS which included staggered scheduling formats: AM/PM format, alternating days, alternating days including Saturdays, alternating weeks, a fully virtual format, and a 5 days a week in-person plan for smaller subgroups. Superintendent Kamras also informed the committee that more information would be provided at the July 9, 2020, RPS School Board meeting and that a vote to formally adopt a reopening plan would likely occur the following week.

*Member Stephanie Lynch inquired about whether RPS has prepared a Plan B, regarding all students returning to school and employee readiness to reopen. She also inquired about childcare for parents and caregivers who must return to work.*

*Superintendent Kamras stated that the greatest challenge to reopening is physical distancing, and that it is impossible to bring all students back and maintain current physical distancing guidelines due to overcrowding. He informed the committee of responses received regarding teacher readiness, and further stated that there will have to be guidelines to differentiate between general discomfort and medical necessity for employees returning to RPS. Superintendent Kamras also stated that RPS will have to rely on the YMCA and other local partners to assist working families with childcare, as RPS does not have capacity to provide for additional childcare with current physical distancing guidelines. Superintendent Kamras assured the committee that RPS would continue to provide meals on the days that students are attending virtually.*

*Alternate Member Andreas Addison departed the meeting at 2:35 p.m.*

*Member Lynch inquired about funding from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, and if it could be utilized to assist with childcare needs for working families.*

*Superintendent Kamras detailed how the CARES Act funding would be allocated to cover costs regarding disposable masks, sanitation stations, cleaning supplies, custodial overtime, nursing supplies, etc., leaving no money from the CARES Act to allocate to childcare.*

*Chair Kristen Larson inquired about funding to extend the school year, Virginia Department of Education subject hour requirements, confidence in the provided technology and student ability to utilize it, and the teacher evaluation process under the proposed reopening options.*

*Superintendent Kamras stated that the RPS budget does not allow for extending the school year, and that the VDOE is not waiving the minimum required number of hours per subject. He informed the committee that students would utilize virtual resources on their off days to contribute to the minimum hours required per subject. Superintendent Kamras also noted that teachers would receive personal development training to prepare for reopening.*

*Richmond School Board Chair Linda Owen expressed the importance of creating the best possible experience for students despite the current circumstances.*

*Chair Larson invited Superintendent Kamras to return to the next Education and Human Service Standing Committee meeting to provide an update following the Richmond School Board's reopening vote.*

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## **Richmond Public Schools Surplus of Facilities/Inventory of Schools Report**

Chair Kristen Larson inquired about updates regarding the Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplus Property Committee meetings and projects.

*Superintendent Jason Kamras informed the committee that the Vacant/Non-Instructional/Surplus Property Committee meetings have been on hold since the onset of COVID-19. He also stated that the Thirteen Acres School building has been secured and painted.*

### **Paper for Consideration**

**The following resolution was considered:**

#### **RES. 2020-R045**

To request that the Chief Administrative Officer cause to be established a work group including certain employees of the City and a member of the City Council to develop a plan and recommendations for the implementation of a "Marcus Alert" program by October 1, 2020.

**Patrons:** Mr. Jones, Ms. Lynch and President Newbille

*Member Stephanie Lynch introduced RES. 2020-R045, stating that the proposed resolution would start the process of identifying how to establish a high functioning mental health crisis system, and to allow experts to examine best practices for crisis response.*

*It was the consensus of the committee to allow members of the public that did not register to provide comment prior to the meeting, to participate in the public hearing.*

#### **Support**

**John Hamilton** spoke in support of RES. 2020-R045.

*Chair Kristen Larson expressed support for RES. 2020-R045.*

*Councilor Michael Jones requested RES. 2020-R045 be placed on the July 27, 2020, City Council meeting regular agenda pending approval from the Council President Cynthia Newbille, to provide opportunities for Council and public engagement.*

*Chair Larson articulated the importance of providing accessible and digestible information to the public regarding Council's legislative agenda and schedule going forward.*

*Councilor Jones highlighted the importance of sharing information regarding the drafting of legislation prior to introduction, and improving communication amongst councilors, and between Council and the public.*

*Chair Larson reminded the committee of a previously recommended check box addition to the CART (Council Action Request Tracker) request form, to allow the patron to choose whether legislation is communicated to the public prior to introduction.*

There were no further comments or discussions and **Member Stephanie Lynch moved to forward RES. 2020-R045 to the July 27, 2020, City Council meeting with recommendation to approve, which was seconded and approved.** Ayes 2, Larson, Lynch. Noes, None. Addison departed the meeting.

### **Staff Report**

Joyce Davis, Council policy analyst, provided the committee with the July staff report. Ms. Davis also provided an update from the previous committee meeting regarding a Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (JLARC) study examining third grade literacy and the school to prison pipeline.

*A copy of the material provided has been filed.*

## **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:08 p.m.