



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, April 13, 2023

2:00 PM

Council Chamber, 2nd Floor - City Hall

DRAFT

Committee Members and Others in Attendance

The Honorable Stephanie Lynch – Chair
The Honorable Cynthia Newbille – Vice Chair
The Honorable Andreas Addison – Member

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst
Laura Drewry, City Attorney
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 2:06 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.

Presentation(s)

Homeless Shelter Update and Plans Going Forward

[CD.2023.133](#) Inclement Weather Shelter FY23 Update

Attachments: [Homeless Shelter Update and Plans Going Forward Education & Human Services Standing Committee Meeting April 13 2023](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Sherrill Hampton, Director of Housing and Community Development and Stephen Harms, Senior Policy Advisor, Office of the Chief Administrative Officer, provided the committee with an update on the inclement weather shelter and plans going forward.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille inquired about regional outreach to assist individuals that are homeless and require housing assistance.

Stephen Harms stated the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) has met with the county administrators from surrounding counties regarding the issue.

Sherrill Hampton stated on March 27, 2023, Council approved the Home American Rescue Plan (HOME - ARP), and that the Home - ARP is an example of a regional approach to homelessness.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about how much of the Home - ARP funds invested by the city will go towards permanent supportive housing.

Sherrill Hampton stated that all of the Home - ARP funds pledged by the city would go toward permanent supportive housing.

Stephen Harms stated there will be a meeting between regional teams to discuss best practices. Mr. Harms also stated contact will be made with D.C. and Portland entities to look at their models for best practices.

Chair Lynch stated groups from the Virginia Beach Housing Resource Center presented before the committee previously. Chair Lynch also stated a resolution was passed on December 14, 2020, calling for a year-round shelter for all types of weather that could impact individuals experiencing homelessness.

The committee had further discussion with Sherrill Hampton and Stephen Harms regarding funding, emergency shelter, and action taken by other localities.

Head Start Update

Jason Kamras, Superintendent of Richmond Public Schools (RPS), provided the committee with an update on Head Start.

Jason Kamras stated that RPS is in the process of hiring for the upcoming school year. Mr. Kamras also stated that up to a \$12,000 sign on bonus for varying skill levels will be provided to new educators. Mr. Kamras further stated there are multiple ways that the information will be advertised to the public. Mr. Kamras noted that a 6% salary increase, with a one-step increase will be given to RPS educators, and that the upcoming salary increase will bring a total salary increase of over 30% over the last five years, bringing the average salary from \$52,000 to \$64,000 per year.

Jason Kamras stated that some RPS educators will have an abbreviated summer due to the implementation of an all-year school schedule. Mr. Kamras also stated that the schools to see the changes are Fairfield Court Elementary School and Cardinal Elementary School. Mr. Kamras further stated the start date for the schools will be July 24th until the end of the school year, for a total of 200 instructional days.

Jason Kamras stated the Head Start grant will be presented to the Richmond School Board on Monday, April 17, 2023 for first review.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille inquired if the applications for enrollment in Head Start and early Head Start will still be the same as previous years and if there is still a center based Head Start program.

Jason Kamras stated there has been an update to the community needs assessments, which reflects the latest data for the communities, and that there will still be a center based Head Start program.

Vice Chair Newbille inquired about the recent number of homeless families that have been served by the Head Start program.

Jason Kamras stated the current number of homeless families served by the Head Start program is 10.

Vice Chair Newbille stated how critical the Head Start program is in Richmond, and that she would like for Mr. Kamras to return to the committee with a full presentation on the program at a later date.

Richmond School Board Update

Cheryl Burke, Vice Chair of the Richmond School Board, provided the committee with updates on the behalf of the board.

Chair Stephanie Lynch inquired about updates from the revisited Dreams for RPS Strategic Plan.

Jason Kamras provided the committee with an update on the Dreams for RPS Strategic Plan. Mr. Kamras stated that the process for reviewing the strategic plan will begin in the summer and continue until the fall, with the opportunity to eventually collaborate with the community and Council.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille stated that there have been some concerns from members of the community regarding if the surrounding violence in Ethel Fleming Park and a request for additional safety measures such as lighting. Vice Chair Newbille also stated there are members of the community that would like to see additional activities in the park.

Member Andreas Addison stated that Council approved an ordinance on Monday, March 27, 2023, approving the funds for the Pathways Scholarship to help RPS graduates with future educational endeavors.

Cheryl Burke had additional discussion with committee members regarding work force development.

Discussion Item(s)

Joyce Davis, Council Policy Analyst, provided the committee with an update regarding a request for proposals (RFP) for fiscal mapping to analyze funding streams to support children and youth. Joyce Davis stated that three vendors have been identified with the desire and specialized skills necessary, and that one of the three vendors submitted a proposal. Ms. Davis also stated the next step is to make sure that all the requirements are completed with the procurement department, with hopes to finalize a agreement with the vendor.

Paper(s) for Consideration

None

Board Vacancies

Pamela Nichols, Council Management Analyst, provided the committee with the current board vacancies and applications.

[CD.2023.113](#) April 13, 2023 Quarterly Board Vacancy Report - Education and Human Services Standing Committee

Attachments: [20230413 EHS Board Vacancy Report](#)

A copy of the material provided has been filed.

Vice Chair Newbille moved to forward the following applications for appointment and reappointment to Council with a recommendation to approve, and to continue consideration of the remaining vacancy to the Social Services Advisory Board, to the May 11, 2023, Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting:

Advisory Board of Recreation and Parks:
Charlie Williams

Aging and Disabilities Advisory Board:
Gabriel Bibb (reappointment)
Mark Bouziane (reappointment)
Conway Hubard, Sr.
Mary Mason
Ingrid Harding

Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People, Inc.:
Malcolm Moody

Richmond Behavioral Health Authority:
Irvin Dallas (reappointment)
Ashley Young

Social Services Advisory Board:
Sherrell Thompson

The motion was seconded and unanimously approved.

Staff Report

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

[CD.2023.143](#) April 13th Education and Human Services Staff Report

Attachments: [20230413 EHS Staff Report](#)

A copy of the staff report has been filed.

Chair Stephanie Lynch requested a presentation from the Diamond District partners in regards to a proposal for the Altria site for the purpose of a Career Technical center. Chair Lynch stated that the committee will address universal Pre-K at the June Education and Human Services Standing Committee meeting. Chair Lynch also requested information regarding budget funding for the city's homeless shelters.

Vice Chair Cynthia Newbille requested information regarding the Great Aspirations Scholarship program (GRASP), technical training, and opportunities available for RPS students.

Eva Colen, Manager of the Office of Children and Families, stated they will provide the committee with the requested information.

Approval of Minutes

There were no corrections or amendments to the meeting minutes of Thursday, March 2, 2023, and the committee approved the minutes as presented.

[CD.2023.111](#) March 2, 2023 - Education and Human Services Standing Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [20230302 - EHS Minutes](#)

Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.