

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
March 12, 2019

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, March 12, 2019, at 5:00 p.m., in the County Manager's Conference Room, Administration Building, Henrico County Government Center, Parham and Hungary Spring Roads, Henrico, Virginia.

**Members of the Board Present:**

Tyrone E. Nelson, Chairman, Varina District  
Thomas M. Branin, Vice Chairman, Three Chopt District  
Patricia S. O'Bannon, Tuckahoe District  
Daniel J. Schmitt, Brookland District (*arrived at 5:34 p.m.*)  
Frank J. Thornton, Fairfield District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoulkas, County Manager  
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., County Attorney  
J. T. (Tom) Tokarz, Deputy County Attorney  
Barry R. Lawrence, CMC, Assistant to the County Manager/Clerk to the Board  
Tanya B. Harding, CMC, Deputy Clerk/Administrative Assistant  
Timothy A. Foster, P.E., Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Administration  
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development  
C. Michael Schnurman, Legislative Liaison  
Benjamin A. Sheppard, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 5:11 p.m.

**Housing Families First Update**

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Beth Vann-Turnbull, Executive Director of Housing Families First, who invited the Board and other County officials to tour the Housing Families First shelter and offices. Ms. Vann-Turnbull narrated a slide presentation on this item. She began by showing photographs of a few of the persons whose lives her agency is working to improve. Ms. Vann-Turnbull identified the mission of Housing Families First as providing families experiencing homelessness with the tools to achieve housing stability. She distributed cards with contact information for the Homeless Crisis line, which was established to divert persons from entering the crisis management system and is staffed by a multi-agency collaboration. Ms. Van-Turnbull then explained how families use her agency's supportive shelter and if in need of more help obtain re-housing services, short- and long-term financial assistance, and connection to other services. The shelter has grown to nearly 40 percent of the family shelter beds in the greater Richmond area. In 2018, 186 children and adults in 153 families made the shelter their temporary home. Ms. Vann-Turnbull confirmed for Mrs. O'Bannon that the shelter screens for sex offenders but will work with persons who have alcohol and substance use disorders if they are not disruptive. She advised the Board that

she expects the shelter to house 225 children and adults during the coming year. The average length of stay in the shelter in 2018 was 59 days, and housing assistance can be provided up to six months.

Ms. Vann-Turnbull next reviewed her agency's partnerships and provided statistics regarding how the shelter has helped families obtain permanent housing. Housing Families First is one of three primary providers of rapid-rehousing in the greater Richmond area. Of the 287 children and adults in 97 households receiving re-housing assistance in 2018, 83 percent moved to housing and of those 80 percent maintained the housing for at least one year. Ms. Vann-Turnbull elaborated on a special grant her agency secured this past year that will enable it to serve an additional 500 children and adults over the next four years; expand emergency shelter beds from 30 to 40, allowing the agency to keep its one bedroom per family model; provide mental health assessments and short-term subsidies for childcare; and make much-needed capital improvements to the shelter and agency's office facility. She confirmed for Mr. Nelson that the term of the grant is four years, and an outside consulting firm will help the agency invest the funds. Ms. Vann-Turnbull concluded her presentation by noting her agency has undertaken a \$5 million capital campaign and sharing a photograph of a recent rapid re-housing program participant who is now employed at the Wal-Mart on Nine Mile Road.

In response to questions from Mr. Thornton following her presentation, Ms. Vann-Turnbull commented on the causes of homelessness, the typical profile of a homeless client, and the importance of local companies paying their workers a living wage in addressing homelessness. Mr. Nelson asked Ms. Vann-Turnbull to pass along the Board's appreciation to her staff for all that they do in assisting the homeless.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:39 p.m. and reconvened at 5:47 p.m.

### **Special Education Initiatives Update**

Mr. Vithoulkas recognized Amy Cashwell, Superintendent of Schools, who noted there is a collaborative effort underway between the Board of Supervisors and School Board to fund and implement new special education initiatives. Dr. Cashwell introduced Nyah Hamlett, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Support, who narrated a slide presentation titled *A Review of Equity and Parent Engagement in Special Education: Program Improvement Update*. Dr. Hamlett pointed out an outside group led by former Secretary of Education Anne Holton assisted with this effort. Dr. Hamlett began her presentation by identifying the School Board's ongoing budget priorities for additional staffing in the area of special education. She, Assistant Superintendent for Administration and Finance Chris Sorensen, and Mr. Vithoulkas responded to questions from Mr. Nelson pertaining to how these priorities are being funded in the Henrico County Public Schools' financial plans for Fiscal Years (FY) 2019 and 2020. Dr. Hamlett advised the Board that a review of HCPS' special education program was conducted in early 2018 and a report was made to the School Board in fall 2018. The review examined racial disproportionality in the placement and identification practices of racial minority students in Henrico's special education programs, disproportionality in the schools' discipline of racial minority students and all students in special education, and the accessibility and usability of Henrico's special education programs to families/guardians and students. Dr. Hamlett then spoke to report methodology, recommendations, and collaboration. She pointed out there are 27 recommendations in the report relating to staffing, placement and identification, discipline, and engagement. Five

subcommittees were formed from a workgroup, each of which were led by a HCPS division leader and a community member and/or parent.

Dr. Hamlett responded to questions from the Board while citing a summary of the recommendations from each of the five subcommittees. Mr. Branin asked for a definition of a building administrator. Mr. Nelson asked what HCPS will be doing differently to recruit and retain a diverse instructional staff and require professional learning for all HCPS staff with a focus on new teachers. He also asked for clarification as to the composition of the subcommittees and the role of the Virginia Randolph subcommittee in making recommendations for facility modifications and physical improvements to the school. Mr. Vithoulkas, Assistant Superintendent for Operations Al Ciarochi, and Dr. Cashwell elaborated on how recommended capital improvements to Virginia Randolph will be integrated into the County's five-year Capital Improvements Plan. Dr. Hamlett concluded her presentation by explaining the next steps in the program review and improvement process. These will include presenting recommendations and priorities to the School Board by the end of March 2019 and reconvening subcommittee leaders between April and August 2019 to streamline recommendations and priorities identifying no/low cost quick "wins," engaging in strategic program improvement planning aligned with *Amy's Passport* and the *HCPS Strategic Plan*; maintaining a focus on program improvement; considering implications for the Virginia Randolph facility, including preserving the historic landmark and name; and developing a long-term budget planning proposal for the FY 2021 budget and beyond.

Following Dr. Hamlett's presentation, she and Mr. Ciarochi responded to questions and comments by the Board. Mr. Thornton stressed the importance of making persons of color feel better about Henrico's public schools. He suggested HCPS use retired educators to help HCPS meet its special education mission and goals and that it find ways to attract younger teachers who look like the students in their classrooms. Mr. Thornton further suggested the School Board and Board of Supervisors work together on these issues and in ensuring Henrico's students are prepared for the 21<sup>st</sup> century and the future workforce. Dr. Hamlett explained for Mr. Branin the value of having persons outside HCPS serve on subcommittees to look at special education and the advantages of mediation over litigation in resolving special education cases initiated by parents and student advocates. Dr. Hamlett noted for Mr. Nelson the size of the subcommittees and the status of efforts to replace litigation with mediation wherever possible. Mr. Ciarochi and Dr. Cashwell addressed concerns voiced by Mrs. O'Bannon regarding the need to construct new facilities at Virginia Randolph despite an interest in preserving the site's historical significance.

On motion of Mr. Thornton, seconded by Mrs. O'Bannon, the Board approved going into a Closed Meeting at 6:29 p.m. for Consultation with Legal Counsel Regarding Specific Matters Requiring Provision of Legal Advice by Such Counsel Pertaining to a Worker's Compensation Claim, Pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A)(8) of the Code of Virginia, as Amended.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

On motion of Mrs. O'Bannon, seconded by Mr. Branin, the Board approved going out of the Closed Meeting at 6:37 p.m.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

On motion of Mrs. O'Bannon, seconded by Mr. Branin, the Board approved the attached Certificate of Closed Meeting.

The vote of the Board was as follows:

Aye

Nay

Tyrone E. Nelson  
Thomas M. Branin  
Patricia S. O'Bannon  
Daniel J. Schmitt  
Frank J. Thornton

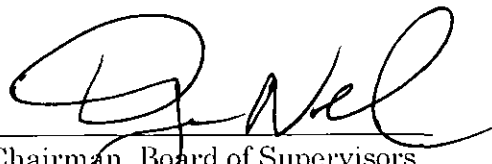
### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vithoulkas reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. regular meeting. He informed the Board he would be recognizing Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator Anna McRay and presenting a special plaque to her during the Manager's Comments portion of the meeting. Mrs. McRay has accepted the position of Assistant Director of Emergency Management for New Hanover County, North Carolina. In reviewing the seven land use cases on the agenda, Mr. Vithoulkas noted there were two sets of companion cases involving rezoning and provisional use permit requests by CA Senior Living Holdings and the City of Richmond. He advised the Board that he expected there would be proponents and opponents speaking during the public hearing for the CA Senior Living Holdings companion cases. Mr. Vithoulkas and Mr. Silber responded to questions from Mr. Nelson pertaining to the status of the Richmond City Council's action on a project associated with the City of Richmond companion cases. With regard to the Innsbrook Foundation's request for a provisional use permit to continue operation of an outside concert pavilion, Mr. Vithoulkas advised the Board that Highwoods Properties is looking at developing the site where the pavilion is located.

There was discussion by Mr. Vithoukas, Mr. Branin, and Mr. Schmitt of the anticipated timing of this development and the likelihood of the pavilion and concerts moving in the near future to a site in Goochland County.

Mr. Vithoukas next addressed two other public hearing items that were on the agenda. Mr. Rapisarda advised the Board that a representative of Henrico Arms Apartments and an attorney would be present at the 7:00 p.m. meeting to respond to any questions concerning Agenda Item No. 75-19, which would approve an issuance of bonds for the apartments. In response to a question from Mr. Branin, Mr. Vithoukas noted a citizen from the Three Chopt District had signed up in advance to speak during the public comment period on an undisclosed topic. Mr. Nelson asked that any speakers addressing the School Board's defunding of the Math/Science Innovation Center be informed in advance that their comments should be directed to the School Board. Mr. Vithoukas briefly referred to the five items on the general agenda. Mr. Foster responded to a question from Mr. Nelson pertaining to the anticipated completion date of Dorey Park roadway improvements in light of the resolution on the agenda to award a contract for these improvements.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Nelson", is written over a horizontal line.

Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia