

**MINUTES**  
**JAMES CITY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**JOINT MEETING WITH WILLIAMSBURG CITY COUNCIL AND WJCC SCHOOL BOARD**  
**JAMES CITY COUNTY RECREATION CENTER**  
**5301 LONGHILL ROAD, WILLIAMSBURG, VA 23188**

**December 6, 2024**

**8:30 AM**

**ADOPTED**

**JAN 28 2025**

**Board of Supervisors  
James City County, VA**

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Mrs. Ortego Calls the Joint Meeting to Order for the School Board - The meeting was called to order at 8:34 a.m.

Ms. Larson Calls the Joint Meeting to Order for the Board of Supervisors - The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

Mayor Pons Calls the Joint Meeting to Order for City Council - The meeting was called to order at 8:35 a.m.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**School Board:** Present were Dr. Daniel Cavazos, Ms. Amy Chen, Mrs. Andrea Donnor, Mrs. Kimberley Hundley, Mr. Randy Riffle, and Mrs. Sarah Ortego (Chair). Also present were Olwen E. Herron, Ed.D., superintendent; Ms. Beth Allar, clerk of the board, staff, press and the public. Mr. Michael Hosang was absent.

**Board of Supervisors:** Present were Mr. Michael Hipple, Mr. James Icenhour, Mr. John McGlennon, Ms. Barbara Null, and Ms. Ruth Larson (Chair). Also present was Mr. Scott Stevens, County Administrator.

**City Council:** Present were Mr. W. Pat Dent, Ms. Stacy Kern-Scheerer, Ms. Barbara Ramsey, Mr. Caleb Rogers, and Mr. Douglas Pons (Mayor). Also present were Mr. Andrew Trivette, City Manager; and, Ms. Dustie McCay, clerk of council.

**C. PRESENTATION(S)**

1. Presentation of Superintendent's Proposed FY26 - FY35 Capital Improvement Plan

Highlights from the Presentation included:

- CIP Focus/Information - All projects presented include:
  - anticipated A&E costs (10%), if applicable
  - contingency funding (5%) and
  - cost escalation across the 5 years at rate of 6%
- FY25 Projected Enrollment vs Actual
  - 9/30/2024 Actual Enrollment 11,379
- High School - 3,774
- Middle School - 2,681

- Elementary School - 4,924
- Reviewed Projected Enrollment vs. Capacity for All Levels at the Low Projection
  - Elementary was shown with and without PreK (low and moderate projections) for comparison
- FY25 Removed & Not Funded CIP Projects Reviewed - Total \$3,420,000
- Additions to Plan Reviewed (Projects removed during FY25 budget process) - \$4,153,000
- Modifications to FY26 - Cost Changes - Total Cost Change: \$864,000
- Modifications to FY25 - Additional Request Pre-K Centers Construction/FFE Funds
  - Updated Cost Estimate - \$47,825,055
  - Approved Funding Amount - \$35,249,055
  - Additional Funds Needed - \$12,576,000
  - FY24 Reversion Funds (90%) - (8,775,988)
  - Net Additional Funds Needed - \$3,800,012
- Modifications to 10-Year Plan
- Totals by Project Type
- Financial Totals (Total Recommended CIP Projects)
  - FY26 - \$26,487,000\*
  - FY27 - \$10,682,000
  - FY28 - \$20,400,000
  - FY29 - \$13,457,000
  - FY30 - \$18,467,000
  - Total - \$89,493,000

*\*Includes \$12.6 million for PreK Construction/FEE; FY24 Reversion funds totaled \$8.8 million*

Due to technical issues with audio on the live stream, a recess was called at 8:51 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:59 a.m.

Discussion from board and council members included:

- Appreciation for breaking ground on the Pre-K Centers in the spring
  - free up space in the schools
  - seen a real level of communication and partnership among the 3 partners at the table
- Cooley Field Turf and the over \$600,000 increase from projected number in 2025
- Addition of lights to the Stonehouse athletic fields - clarified that the fields are also for community use
- Mobile cottages - first installed in 2015 at Matthew Whaley Elementary School; since they are temporary they are not included in capacity
- Architectural review for Matthew Whaley windows - inquired if an appeal was made due to the high cost; the process for review and evaluation of the application was explained
- Redistricting to resolve the capacity issues after the PreK Centers open
- State standards for capacity
- Cost changes for PreK
- Including PreK funding on the City and County Legislative Agendas

## 2. School Year 2023-2024 Academic Outcomes Update

Mrs. Ortego gave an introduction to the presentation, during which she explained that one of the biggest changes made to the updated Strategic Plan was the realignment of the division's priorities, and that the main priority is the academic achievement of students with measurable goals.

Assistant Superintendents Dr. Cathy Worley (Secondary) and Mr. Sean Walker (Elementary) presented data relating to academic performance, accreditation status, achievement on standardized tests, college entrance exams, and graduation data.

Discussion and comments from board and council members included:

- The School Liaison Committee felt it was important to more broadly educate the community and the boards about what is happening in the schools - appreciation expressed for the presentation
- Awed at ability to bounce back after Covid, and in some cases exceed pre-Covid numbers
- Can see the powerful impact that reducing absenteeism has had - continue to target efforts to address those concerns
- Made phenomenal progress
- Clarified the state-set standard definitions "At or Above", "Near" and "Below" and how each level is determined/how a school can go from yellow to red
- Confirmed that the WJCC rate of economically disadvantaged sits around 36% compared to 29-30% in York County, and the English Learner population in WJCC is at 8-9%, right there with Newport News
- Appreciate the main priority of academic achievement
- Clarified that the standard regarding the college career and civic readiness index involves CTE courses and job shadowing opportunities
- Changing state standards - the division is working on understanding the expectations and educating teachers and principals; how the data is calculated and reported out to the public will change and look very different next fall
- Changing Positive progress - setting the benchmark even higher for next year
- School Improvement Plans/sharing success stories with each other
- Subgroups - made great strides, not back to where the division was in 2018-2019; how to make sure these groups do not fall through the cracks; discussed individualized instruction
- Raises - deal with different departments separately and balance to move teachers forward; comparing WJCC to communities of similar wealth with more resources
- Newport News and Hampton receive more state and federal money - noted that in some ways they have more resources than WJCC
- WJCC is undergoing a significant compensation study
- Impact of the new reading curriculum
- The importance of instructional assistants
- Changing the state funding formula - a legislative priority for VACo (Virginia Association of Counties) and the VSBA (Virginia School Board Association); board members discussed advocating together in Richmond for more funding
- JLARC (Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission) recommendations

Mrs. Ortego thanked both governing bodies for their interest and desire to hear the success stories, and reiterated that the school board is interested in offering any additional information with both bodies, with the understanding that it is hard to make funding choices and they should know where every dollar is going and what it is producing.

Dr. Herron was recognized and thanked her for her service to the school division.

Councilman Rogers was also recognized for his work; it was noted that this was his last meeting as a member of Williamsburg City Council.

Ms. Larson commented on the discussions between the city and county regarding the future of a joint school division. She noted that on both sides, there has been 110% support for public education in the community and wanting all students to succeed no matter if they live in James City County or the City of Williamsburg.

Mayor Pons agreed and commented that the conversations they are having at this municipal level are not a reflection of, or negative thoughts about the quality of public education that they are being able to deliver the community through WJCC. He applauded the hard work being done.

Dr. Herron thanked the city and county for their incredible support over the years. She shared her sentiment that the school division is better together and stronger together, and that it is a wonderful school division that serves a wonderful community.

**D. BOARD DISCUSSIONS / GUIDANCE**

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

1. Adjourn until 2 pm on December 10, 2024 for the Business Meeting

**School Board Adjourns** - The Williamsburg-James City County School Board adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

**Board of Supervisors Adjourns** - At 10:32 a.m., Mr. McGlennon made a motion to adjourn. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 5:0.

**City Council Adjourns** - At 10:33 a.m., Ms. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 5:0.

*Teresa J. Saeed*

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Deputy Clerk