

THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION OF VIRGINIA COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 64, CASS COUNTY, WHICH WAS HELD ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2025, IN THE VIRGINIA CUSD 64 MEDIA CENTER.

PRESIDENT CASEY FRENCH OPENED THE FY 26 BUDGET HEARING MEETING AT 7:00 PM.

MRS. NEATHERY PRESENTED THE FY26 BUDGET INCLUDING CURRENT FUNDS AND INVESTMENTS THAT THE DISTRICT HAS AT THE TIME OF THE HEARING. AFTER DISCUSSING THE ITEMS ON THE BUDGET, PRESIDENT FRENCH ASKED THE BOARD AND GUESTS IF THERE WERE ANY QUESTIONS. BEING NONE, PRESIDENT FRENCH MOVED TO CLOSE THE BUDGET HEARING.

A MOTION WAS MADE MRS. FOSTER AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO ADJOURN THE BUDGET HEARING AT 7:06 PM. ROLL CALL:

FOSTER,	YES	GIOVANNINI,	YES
MYERS,	YES	BELL,	YES
BROCKHOUSE,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT CASEY FRENCH AT 7:06 PM WITH THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS ANSWERING PRESENT: MARC GIOVANNINI, GARY BELL, SARAH BROCKHOUSE, AUTUMN FOSTER, KYLE MYERS, DUSTIN FRITSCHÉ, AND CASEY FRENCH.

ALSO, PRESENT WERE SUPERINTENDENT MEKELLE NEATHERY, PRINCIPALS MATT OWENS AND PAULA STEWART, MELISSA HARDWICK, STEVE HORTON, RECORDING CLERK JENNY PETEFISH AND NEWS MEDIA MICHELLE CARTY WITH THE STAR GAZETTE.

DURING PUBLIC COMMENT/RECEPTION OF VISITORS MR. HORTON SPOKE TO THE BOARD ABOUT HIS CONCERNS WITH LUNCH ISSUES, GEOMETRY CLASS AND THE YEARBOOK.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHÉ AND SECONDED BY MRS. FOSTER TO APPROVE THE AGENDA REMOVING ACTION ITEM G. ROLL CALL:

MYERS,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	BELL,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. GIOVANNINI AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA, THE BILLS, PAYROLL REPORT, FINANCIAL REPORTS AND THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING OF AUGUST 18, 2025, AND THE EXECUTIVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 18, 2025, MEETING. ROLL CALL:

GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHÉ,	YES
BROCKHOUSE,	YES	BELL,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	FRENCH,	YES
MYERS,	YES		

DURING COMMITTEE REPORTS, KYLE MYERS SHARED THAT THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HAD RECENTLY MET AND REVIEWED THE PROJECTED BUDGET, ESTABLISHED UPCOMING MEETINGS AND ADDRESSED CD'S COMING TO MATURITY. THE COMMITTEE WILL MEET AGAIN IN NOVEMBER.

ITEMS DISCUSSED WITH THE PRINCIPAL REPORTS INCLUDED MRS. STEWART PROVIDING AN UPDATE ON HER FIRST FEW WEEKS AND WORKING WITH ROUTINES, SYSTEMS AND PROCEDURES THAT WE HAVE IN PLACE THAT MAY NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT. SHE ALSO SHARED INFORMATION ABOUT RECENT MEETINGS WITH THE SST TEAM AND PARENT COMMUNICATION.

MR. OWENS HIGHLIGHTED TRAININGS THE LIGHTHOUSE TEAM HAS DONE AND THE FARM PROGRESS SHOW JUNIORS AND SENIORS ATTENDED. HE ALSO SHARED DETAILS ABOUT HOMECOMING WEEK.

MRS. NEATHERY UPDATED THE BOARD ON THE OCTOBER 15TH HEALTH DOCUMENTS COMPLIANCE DEADLINE, THE WEIGHT ROOM RENOVATIONS, TRAINING FOR THE NEW HVAC SYSTEM, THE PERA COMMITTEE TEACHER EVALUATION PROCESS AND THE POSITIVE FEEDBACK ON THE DISTRICT NEWSLETTER THAT WAS LAUNCHED. MRS. NEATHERY ALSO HONORED JOHN “GIBBY” GEBHARDT BY MENTIONING ALL HE HAS DONE OVER THE YEARS FOR THE SCHOOL DISTRICT AND COMMUNITY.

THE FOIA REPORT WAS PROVIDED TO THE BOARD, NOTING 3 REQUESTS FULFILLED FOR THE MONTH.

IN DISCUSSION ITEMS, THE BOARD DISCUSSED A REQUEST FROM AC CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT REGARDING INTEREST IN EXPLORING REORGANIZATION OPTIONS. AFTER DISCUSSION FROM THE BOARD, THE BOARD REQUESTED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO BE GATHERED FOR THE BOARD SO THAT THEY CAN MAKE AN INFORMED DECISION ABOUT WHAT IS BEST FOR THE VIRGINIA SCHOOL DISTRICT.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHKE AND SECONDED BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION [ILCS 120/2 (C)]1) TO CONSIDER EMPLOYMENT COMPENSATION, DISCIPLINE, PERFORMANCE OR DISMISSAL OF CERTIFIED AND NON-CERTIFIED EMPLOYEES AT 7:36 PM. ROLL CALL:

FOSTER,	YES	GIOVANNINI,	YES
FRITSCHKE,	YES	MYERS,	YES
BROCKHOUSE,	YES	BELL,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. MYERS AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO RETURN TO OPEN SESSION AT 8:04 PM. ROLL CALL:

BROCKHOUSE,	YES	BELL,	YES
MYERS,	YES	FOSTER,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. GIOVANNINI AND SECONDED BY MRS. FOSTER TO APPROVE THE FY 2026 BUDGET. ROLL CALL:

MYERS,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	BELL,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. FRITSCHKE AND SECONDED BY MR. BELL TO APPROVE THE HAZOURDOUS BUS ROUTES. ROLL CALL:

MYERS,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	BELL,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE AND SECONDED BY MRS. FOSTER TO APPROVE THE FFA TRIP TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION IN INDIANAPOLIS, IN. ROLL CALL:

FRITSCHKE,	YES		
BELL,	YES	FOSTER,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES	MYERS,	YES

A MOTION WAS BY MRS. FOSTER AND SECONDED BY MR. MYERS TO APPROVE THE 8TH GRADE TRIP TO CHICAGO ON APRIL 10, 2026. ROLL CALL:

MYERS,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	BELL,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE AND SECONDED BY MR. FRITSCHKE TO APPROVE THE SCHOOL MAINTENANCE GRANT APPLICATION WITH APPROVAL OF USING LOCAL FUNDS TO COVER THE MATCHED DISTRICT'S PORTION (\$50,000). ROLL CALL:

BROCKHOUSE,	YES	BELL,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	MYERS,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MR. BELL AND SECONDED BY MRS. FOSTER TO APPROVE THE PERSONNEL REPORT AS PRESENTED ACCEPTING THE RESIGNATIONS OF GENE BRUNK AS DISTRICT CUSTODIAN EFFECTIVE 09/26/2025 AND ETHAN CARPENTER AS ESPORTS SPONSOR EFFECTIVE 09/22/2025. ROLL CALL:

MYERS,	YES	BROCKHOUSE,	YES
FOSTER,	YES	BELL,	YES
GIOVANNINI,	YES	FRITSCHKE,	YES
FRENCH,	YES		

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MRS. BROCKHOUSE AND SECONDED BY MRS. FOSTER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:09 PM WITH ALL SAYING AYE.

CASEY FRENCH, PRESIDENT

DUSTIN FRITSCH, SECRETARY

