



# VIRGINIA BEACH CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS CHARTING THE COURSE

## School Board Services

Based upon recommendations made by medical experts, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as well as the responses from the VBCPS Parent and Staff questionnaires, we believe there should be a choice for full time in-person learning starting at the beginning of the 2020-21 School year for all students. We also advocate for meaningful virtual learning for those who choose that option.

*VBCPS Parent and Staff Questionnaires indicate: 75% of teachers either preferred in person teaching or had no preference between in-person or virtual teaching and 62% of parents prefer in-person learning for their children.*

*The CDC and the AAP both favor in-person learning for students. The CDC made the following statements: “The harms attributed to closed schools on the social, emotional, and behavioral health, economic well-being, and academic achievement of children, in both the short- and long-term, are well-known and significant. Further, the lack of in-person educational options disproportionately harms low-income and minority children and those living with disabilities.” The CDC further states that the available evidence provides reason to believe that in-person schooling is in the best interest of students, particularly in the context of appropriate mitigation measures similar to those implemented at essential workplaces. The AAP “...strongly advocates that all policy considerations for the coming school year should start with a goal of having students physically present in school.”*

Based upon the questionnaire results, we believe that fewer students will be in the classrooms; therefore, social distancing can be appropriately maintained. Since a high percentage of teachers have indicated support for in-person learning, there will be an adequate number of teachers to provide this essential service for parents who make that choice.

Further, we support appropriate social distancing and mitigation strategies mentioned in the Superintendent’s recommendations document “Fall 2020 Plan” under “VBCPS Planned Safety and Health Mitigation Strategies”. We believe that staff who have documented health issues or have health concerns of a family member that lives in their household or for whom they are the primary caregiver, should have priority of working with and supporting the VLC.

We further support the “Reopening Plan for VBCPS Employees” document as a guide for decisions related to employment concerns. Proper PPE should be provided to all staff that will not be able to maintain social distancing. If masks are required for students, the district should provide for those who need these supplies.

The undersigned School Board members support this plan for parental choice for either full-time in person learning or meaningful virtual learning from home.

***Carolyn Weems, Bayside District***  
***Victoria Manning, At-Large***

***Laura Hughes, At-Large***

*Put Students First • Seek Growth • Be Open to Change • Do Great Work Together • Value Differences*