

COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
SPECIAL MEETING  
April 25, 2017

The Henrico County Board of Supervisors convened a special meeting on Tuesday, April 25, 2017, at 5:30 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:**

Patricia S. O'Bannon, Chairman, Tuckahoe District  
Frank J. Thornton, Vice Chairman, Fairfield District  
Thomas M. Branin, Three Chopt District  
Harvey L. Hinson, Brookland District  
Tyrone E. Nelson, Varina District

**Other Officials Present:**

John A. Vithoulikas, County Manager  
Joseph P. Rapisarda, Jr., 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, Deputy County Manager for Community Operations  
W. Brandon Hinton, Deputy County Manager for Community Services  
Douglas A. Middleton, Deputy County Manager for Public Safety  
Anthony J. Romanello, Deputy County Manager for Public Administration  
Randall R. Silber, Deputy County Manager for Community Development  
C. Michael Schnurman, Legislative Liaison  
Tamra R. McKinney, Director of Public Relations & Media Services

Mrs. O'Bannon called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

Mr. Vithoulikas briefly referred to the items on this special meeting agenda.

**Excel to Excellence Learning Center - Use of Former Varina Library Site**

Mr. Vithoulikas noted Mr. Romanello worked with Mr. Foster and Mr. Silber on this project, which was previously under the tutelage of former Deputy County Manager for Administration Joe Casey.

Mr. Romanello introduced Jonathan Mayo and Tammy Hobson, team leaders for Excel to Excellence. Mr. Mayo narrated the first portion of a slide presentation on this item by offering a brief historical perspective and details on the Excel to Excellence program. He began by providing biographical information on Michael Robinson, the program's founder, who was unable to be at this meeting. Mr. Robinson attended John Rolfe Middle School and graduated from Varina High School. He played football for Pennsylvania State University and two teams in the National Football League (NFL), the San Francisco 49ers and the Seattle Seahawks, and won a Super Bowl while with the Seahawks. Mr. Robinson is now retired from the NFL and

works as an analyst with the NFL Network. Mr. Mayo referred to a trifold brochure he distributed to the Board at the beginning of the meeting that highlights Team Excel, which is a "reverse" Fantasy Football concept where students become the fantasy athletes and professional athletes and community mentors serve as team coaches. Teams compete for weekly prizes based on their team averages, with grand prizes awarded at the end of marking periods and the end of the year or "season." Individual prizes are also awarded to students who excel throughout the year. Students receive individual and team scores based on their grades, attendance, and community service. Team Excel initially started as a pilot program with 30 ninth grade students at Varina High School and now serves about 200 students from grades 7 through 12 at Wilder and John Rolfe Middle Schools as well as Varina. Mr. Robinson and Team Excel have been in discussions with Mr. Nelson and County staff on finding a permanent facility where the team's learning center can be stationed.

Mr. Mayo recognized Ms. Hobson, a Henrico resident and former Chesterfield County teacher and school principal, who continued the slide presentation. Ms. Hobson noted the creed for the Excel to Excellence Learning Center is create, serve, and lead. She reviewed the proposed use of the former Varina Library facility to house the learning center and Team Excel's values in creating the community's next servant leaders and showed several design layouts that are being considered for the facility.

Mr. Romanello concluded the presentation by discussing the project's land transfer details, which will include a Board public hearing its May 9 regular meeting on a resolution authorizing Mr. Vithoukias and Mrs. O'Bannon to execute documents conveying the former library site to Excel to Excellence, Inc. by deed of gift. Excel to Excellence is a Section 501(c)(3) organization and will invest a minimum of \$700,000 in the 2.2-acre site. The property is assessed at \$608,000. Use of the facility will also require a provisional use permit, which will be considered by the Planning Commission on June 15 and the Board on July 11.

Mr. Vithoukias recommended to the Board that the name of the site's access road be changed from Library Road to Michael Robinson Way. Mr. Foster and Traffic Engineer John Cejka displayed a street sign with the new name. Mr. Vithoukias informed the Board that Team Excel has the backing of the National Football League and the program can be replicated in other localities. Mr. Nelson reflected on his conversations with Mr. Robinson pertaining to the program and joined Mr. Vithoukias in thanking County staff and Team Excel for their work on this project. He pointed out Mr. Robinson is a legend in the Varina community and has previously contributed thousands of dollars to Varina High School.

The Board recessed for dinner at 5:57 p.m. and reconvened at 6:05 p.m.

### **Citizens' Communication Survey**

Mr. Vithoukias advised the Board that the County is updating a citizens' communication survey that was conducted in 2004. He recognized Mrs. McKinney, who noted a sample of Henrico residents were surveyed by telephone in March and April 2017 by the County's consultants, Responsive Management out of Blacksburg, to see how they get their information from the County. She introduced the firm's Executive Director, Mark Duda, and Senior Research Associate, Andrea Criscione.

Mr. Duda narrated a slide presentation on this item. He began by highlighting his firm's experience in 50 states and 15 countries, the study methodology, and an overview of the

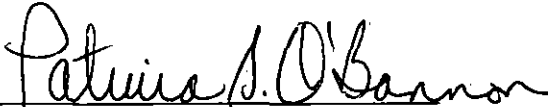
categories of survey questions, which were as follows: awareness of Henrico County's actions and services, sources of information about the County's actions and services, awareness and watching of HCTV, *Henrico Today* newspaper, the County website, opinions on communications from the County, contact with County government offices or employees, Board of Supervisors meetings, information on the County's 2016 bond referendum, the potential use of County services, and issues of importance to County residents. Mr. Duda also provided statistics on the respondent demographics. He concluded that although the County received a great report card there is still some work to be done. During his presentation, Mr. Duda responded to several questions from the Board. Mrs. McKinney clarified for Mr. Hinson that the survey did not include Henrico County Public Schools.

At the conclusion of his presentation, Mr. Duda informed Mr. Hinson that it would not be ethical for his firm to make follow-up contact with survey respondents. Mrs. McKinney announced that printed copies of the full 171-page survey report prepared by the consultants, which includes survey response details for each of the questions, will be distributed to the Board and Mr. Vithoukias. She also encouraged the Board to let her know if they have further questions after reviewing the report.

### **Regular Meeting Agenda Items**

Mr. Vithoukias reviewed the agenda for the 7:00 p.m. meeting, which included three Manager's Comments, five proclamations, two appointment papers, six public hearing items, and seven general agenda items. He clarified for Mrs. O'Bannon that three individuals had contacted staff and indicated they planned to speak during the public comment period on the following topics: school budget, mental health and developmental services, and real estate assessments.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

  
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Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
Henrico County, Virginia