

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PLAN FOR SCHOOL CLOSURES, CONSOLIDATIONS, AND THE REDISTRICTING OF SCHOOL BOUNDARIES OR THE ADOPTION OF NEW PUPIL ASSIGNMENT PLANS PURSUANT TO THE CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA.

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WHEREAS, Article VIII, Section 7 of the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Virginia, as amended, vests the supervision of the public schools of the Commonwealth in the local school boards, and Section 22.1-79 of the Code of Virginia (in its subsections 4 and 8), as amended, requires local school boards to act to close and consolidate schools, redistrict school boundaries or adopt pupil assignment plans whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division; and

WHEREAS, Norfolk Public Schools has for many years suffered declines in enrollment, and expects to suffer further declines in enrollment as long as can rationally be projected into the future, resulting in the division's operating and maintaining, at great unnecessary cost, more school buildings than the division needs given the number of students in the division's average daily membership; and

WHEREAS, the Board has after many months of effort and review, including holding many public meetings of the Board and its advisory committee, consulting with experts, and consulting with the citizens of Norfolk prepared the attached Plan to guide the Board in its future actions to close and consolidate schools and change school boundaries or pupil assignment plans, so as to fulfill its duty to make such changes whenever such procedure will contribute to the efficiency of the school division; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the School Board of the City of Norfolk:

Section 1: - That the School Board hereby adopts the attached Plan with its schedule for school closures, consolidations, and new school districts or pupil assignment plans for the purpose of guiding it in acting to reduce the number of the division's school buildings until that number is consistent with the division's average daily membership, a process projected to be completed no later than School Year 2034-35;

Section 2: - That this Plan is merely intended as a general guide to the Board going forward, and before any action is taken to close or consolidate specific schools, or to redistrict specific school boundaries or adopt specific new assignment plans, the Board will hold further advertised public hearings and publicly vote on all such specific actions, as required by Section 22.1-79 (subsection 8) of the Code of Virginia, as amended.

Section 3: - That the superintendent is directed to do all things necessary to accomplish this plan within the schedule it establishes.

Section 4: - That this resolution shall be effective from and after its adoption.

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Sara DiCalogero, Chair, Norfolk School Board

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Dr. James M. Pohl, Interim Superintendent, Norfolk Public Schools