VIRGINIA: At a regular meeting of the Tazewell County School Board held at the Student Center of the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center on February 9, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Erik Robinson, School Board Chair
Irene Mullins, School Board Vice-Chair
Brannon Breeding, Board Member
Donna Culbertson, Board Member
David Woodard, Board Member
Dr. Chris Stacy, Division Superintendent
Deidra Hill, Deputy Superintendent
Vicki Bailey, Clerk

Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Unscheduled Agenda Items

Mr. Woodard made a motion to add Extension of School Day as letter A under New Business. Mrs. Culbertson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chair Mullins made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Culbertson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Closed Session

Pursuant to section 2.2-3711 of the Code of Virginia, a motion was made by Vice-Chair Mullins, seconded by Mrs. Culbertson, and passed to convene to a closed session for the purpose of discussing the following specific matters:

Personnel – Discussion, consideration, or interviews of prospective candidates for employment; assignment, appointment, promotion, performance, demotion, salaries, disciplining or resignation of employees as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 1 of the Code of Virginia.
Contracts – Discussion of the award of a public contract involving the expenditure of public funds as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 29 of the Code of Virginia.
Legal - Consultation with legal counsel and briefings by staff members or consultants or attorneys, pertaining to actual or probable litigation, or other specific legal matters requiring the provision of legal advice by counsel as authorized by § 2.2-3711 A 7 of the Code of Virginia.
Property – Discussion or consideration of the acquisition of real property for a public purpose, or of the disposition of publicly held real property as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 3 of the Code of Virginia.
Students – Discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters concerning students as authorized by Section 2.2-3711 A 2 of the Code of Virginia.

Regular Session

The Board returned to open session. Chair Robinson called the open session portion of the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

Certification from Closed Session

In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act, a roll call vote was taken in which all members affirmed that only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meetings, as identified in the motion for closed session, were heard, discussed, or considered by the Board.

Moment of Silence and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Robinson called for a moment of silence. Vice-Chair Mullins led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Consent Agenda

Vice-Chair Mullins made a motion to approve items A, B, and C of the consent agenda. Mrs. Culbertson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Vice-Chair Mullins made a motion to approve the minutes from the January Student Disciplinary Committee meeting. Mr. Woodard seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Recognitions and Instructional Focus

A. School Board Appreciation Month, *Dr. Chris Stacy, Division Superintendent*

Dr. Stacy shared that throughout February, Tazewell County Public Schools joined with communities across Virginia in celebrating School Board Appreciation Month. The theme, "From Strong Roots Come Endless Possibilities", highlights the vital role school board members play in planting the seeds for student success - ensuring every student has the resources needed to grow, thrive, and reach their full potential. Dr. Stacy thanked the Tazewell County School Board for providing the guidance and governance that shape every aspect of the student experience. Each Board member was given a certificate of recognition from the Virginia School Boards Association.

B. TCCTC SkillsUSA District Winners, *Lee Salyers, Principal of TCCTC/Director of Career and Technical Education* (SEE ATTACHED)

Due to school being closed on February 9, 2026, this item was moved to the April 2026 School Board meeting.

C. Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, *Lee Salyers, Principal of TCCTC/Director of Career and Technical Education* (SEE ATTACHED)

Mr. Salyers shared a presentation with many updates and highlights of the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center.

Chair Robinson told Mr. Salyers he would love to see the GO TEC Program started at Richlands Middle School and Tazewell Middle School. Mr. Salyers indicated when funding became available, he wanted to add the program to those two schools.

Mr. Woodard expressed appreciation to Mr. Salyers for all he was doing to increase the programs at the Career and Technical Center. He asked for a full report within the next six months on what it would take to add a full scale agriculture program. Mr. Salyers advised he had already started working on a committee to look into this.

Mrs. Culbertson suggested looking into adding plumbing and electrical programs.

Dr. Stacy told Board members new programs usually take a year or so before they can be started.

Hearing of Citizens

None

Hearing of Employees

None

Unfinished Business

New Business

A. Extension of the School Day, *David Woodard, School Board Member*

Mr. Woodard stated that adding time to the school day was not popular. He shared that approximately five weeks of instruction had been lost, and extending the school day would help make up the lost time.

Dr. Stacy shared the school division had to certify 180 days in session or 990 hours. He advised the first five closed days had to be made up, and after that it was basically make up one day for every two missed. Dr. Stacy shared the school division also needed a six week window for summer school. He advised the missed instruction time would either have to be made up by adding days or adding time to the day. He added he had hoped to discuss this with principals at the upcoming meeting.

Mr. Woodard made a motion to give the superintendent the authority to extend the school day for instruction.

Mrs. Mullins stated she was against adding minutes to the school day. She shared that when she was a principal, she did not like the extended day. Mrs. Mullins said students were worn out on the longer days. She also explained that students in sports still left early for games and missed the extra instruction. Teachers either did not cover new material or did double work in catching up those who were in sports. Mrs. Mullins suggested Dr. Stacy seek input from principals. She indicated if principals were for it, she would change her mind.

Mrs. Culbertson seconded the motion, in order for Dr. Stacy to be able to discuss this with principals at the next administration meeting. The Board approved the motion four to one, with Vice-Chair Mullins voting against the motion.

Mr. Woodard stated if principals were in favor of adding minutes to the school day after Dr. Stacy spoke with them, he would like Dr. Stacy to poll the Board. If they were not in favor of adding time to the day, there would be no need for a poll vote.

Superintendent's Report

A. Testing Update, *Chandra Ashby, Supervisor of Testing*

Mrs. Ashby gave a testing update, some of which included:

- Fall testing began December 1st, but had not been completed because of the days school was closed. An extension was granted to allow testing through February 27th.
- Richlands Middle School (eighth grade) was selected for NAEP Testing (National Assessment of Educational Progress) on March 17th.
- WIDA testing schedule - February 16 through March 6

B. Budget Update, *Gary Matney, Director of Budget and Finance*

Mr. Matney told Board members budget surveys from the community, teachers, principals and central office administrators had been received and budget meetings with instructional administrators and non-instructional

administrators had taken place. He stated the public hearing for the 2026-2027 budget would be at the March 9th School Board meeting. Mr. Matney shared that everything was on schedule for the budget. Dr. Stacy questioned if everything had been supplied to the auditors, and Mr. Matney indicated all information had been given to the auditors.

C. Superintendent's Update, *Dr. Chris Stacy, Division Superintendent*

Dr. Stacy shared various updates with the Board members, some of which included the following:

- To date, the school division had been closed 13 days and on virtual/remote learning for 10 days due to inclement weather.
- The 2026-2027 school calendar drafts had been sent to all employees. The calendar that receives the most votes will be on the March School Board agenda for School Board approval.
- The Board of Supervisors will elect two new members for the School Construction Committee, since both members who were serving are no longer on the Board. Vice-Chair Mullins and Mr. Woodard will continue to serve on the School Construction Committee for the School Board. The Committee will meet soon to work on finding a site for the new school to be constructed in the Richlands area.
- The Governor Spanberger's budget was scheduled to be out February 22nd. Dr. Stacy advised he had heard Governor Spanberger may not keep the two percent bonus for employees for the end of the 2025-2026 school year (originally proposed by Governor Youngkin). On the other hand, he heard the she would most likely keep the two percent raise for SOQ positions in the 2026-2027 budget. Dr. Stacy said any raise for SOQ employees put in the budget by the governor would be given to all employees of Tazewell County Public Schools.
- Justin Gilbert, new assistant principal at Graham High School, was introduced.
- Dr. Stacy recently attended a Jefferson Health meeting, where he learned this had been a good year for the school division, so he was hopeful insurance increases will be minimal.

Board Member Comments

Mr. Woodard expressed appreciation to Mr. Parkhurst and his staff, as well as Ms. Keene, during all of the inclement weather.

Mrs. Culbertson thanked all the ones at the schools for keeping everything going during all the bad weather. She stated she was impressed with everything going on at the Tazewell County Career and Technical Center and excited to recognize all of the SkillsUSA student winners.

Mr. Breeding thanked everyone for the gifts for School Board Appreciation Month. He expressed appreciation to Mr. Salyers for all his work at the Career and Technical Center.

Vice-Chair Mullins thanked everyone for the School Board Appreciation Month gifts. She thanked Mr. Parkhurst and his staff, as well as the cafeteria staff, for their work during the virtual days.

Chair Robinson thanked Mr. Salyers for all he had done and is still doing for the Career and Technical Center. He welcomed Mr. Gilbert, new assistant principal at Graham High School. Chair Robinson expressed appreciation for principals for all they do for the students of Tazewell County.

Vice-Chair Mullins made a motion to adjourn at 7:19 p.m. Mrs. Culbertson seconded the motion, and the Board unanimously approved.

Approved by the School Board: March 9, 2026

Sydney	Roberts	Sarah Cooke	Barbering	1st	2/district	RHS	yes
Daniel	Gross	Robert Steele	Bricklayer	1st	2/district	RHS	yes
Eme	Corell	Shawn Roberts	Cabinetmaking	1st	2/district	THS	yes
Raleigh	Bryant	Sarah Cooke	Cosmetology	1st	3/district	RHS	yes
Hailey	Harless	Robert Steele	CTE Educator	1st	1/school	GHS	yes
Levi	Ruble	Reese Corell	Diesel	1st	3/district	THS	yes
Jillian	Crisp	Sarah Cooke	Esthetics 1	1st	2/district	THS	yes
Alexis	Woodall	Sarah Cooke	Esthetics 1 model	1st	2/district	THS	yes
Hailey	Stanford	Matt Stiltner	First Aid-CPR	1st	no restriction	RHS	yes
Matthew	Osborne	James Parnell	Job Skill Demo A	1st	1/school	THS	yes
Lillian	Wimmer	Matt Stiltner	Job Skill open	1st	1/school	GHS	yes
Raina	Johnson	Matt Stiltner	Job Skill Open model	1st	1/school	BCHS	yes
Logan	Boone	Mike Howington	Marine	1st	5/school	GHS	yes
Tobias	Smith	Robert Steele	Masonry	1st	2/district	BCHS	yes
Riley	Butcher	Ryan Lewis	Mechatronics team A	1st	3/school	THS	yes
Calvin	Dowell	Ryan Lewis	Mechatronics team A	1st	3/school	THS	yes
Ethan	Leedy	Mike Howington	Motorcycle	1st	3/district	GHS	yes
Elijah	Rose	Mike Howington	power equip	1st	3/district	GHS	yes
Gabriel	Grose	Ryan Lewis	Robotics and Automation Technology B	1st	2/school	THS	yes
Brady	Keen	Ryan Lewis	Robotics and Automation Technology B	1st	2/school	THS	yes
Isaiah	Stanford	Shawn Roberts	Cabinetmaking	2nd	2/district	RHS	yes

Annabella	Honaker	Sarah Cooke	Cosmetology	2nd	3/district	RHS	yes
Aiden	Cornwell	Reese Corell	Diesel	2nd	3/district	THS	yes
Chloe	Anders	Sarah Cooke	Esthetics 2	2nd	2/district	RHS	yes
Krista	Ray	Annie Hill	Esthetics 2 model	2nd	2/district	THS	yes
Ashton	Phillips	Mike Howington	Motorcycle	2nd	3/district	GHS	yes
Kylee	Akers	Sarah Cooke	Nail 2	2nd	2/district	THS	yes
Brooklynn	Roberts	Sarah Cooke	Nail 2 model	2nd	2/district	THS	yes
Donovan	Trivitt	Mike Howington	power equip	2nd	3/district	GHS	yes
Tyler	Shortt	Katie Lindsey	Welding	2nd	2/district	RHS	yes
Evan	Sarver	Reese Corell	Diesel	3rd	3/district	THS	yes

TCCTC
Tazewell Co. Career & Technical Center

TCPS
Rigor
Relevance
Relationships

Career & Technical Education Month

College and Career Ready!

- Each year, the Governor recognizes the Month of February as Career & Technical Education Month.
- Career and technical education (CTE) programs in Virginia public schools serve more than 690,000 students in CTE courses in grades 6-12. These programs are designed to prepare young people for productive futures while meeting the commonwealth's need for well-trained and industry-certified technical workers.
- The 3E Readiness Framework focuses on students graduating high school ready for employment, enlistment, and/or enrollment.
- Employment - Earning High Demand Industry Credentials
- Enlistment - Scores on a Military Assessment
- Enrollment - Earning Dual Credit or College Bearing Coursework

New Classes Coming to Career Center

- Medical Terminology (S1)Dual Credit w/SWCC, Home Health Aide (S2)
- Nurse Aide (S1) State Licensure, Patient Care Technician (S2)

- Will be adding Nail Technician I & II to course offerings next school year. This is another state licensure option for our students.
- Looking to add Criminal Justice & Welding as Dual Credit Options.

TCPS - Currently working with/and is on the waiting list w/EO, who is awaiting grant funding to start GOTEC programs at TMS & RMS.

Fork Farms - Will be adding Flex Farms or vertical hydroponics growing stations at THS & RHS Agriculture Classes, GMS & RMS Independent Living Classrooms, TMS, RHS & THS Work & Family Studies Classrooms.

GROW WITH THE

FLEX FARM™

The Flex Farm is the most efficient, scalable and transformative indoor, vertical hydroponic technology on the planet. By carefully controlling everything plants need to thrive, each Flex Farm can grow more than 394 pounds of produce annually. They're portable and only require a standard electrical outlet and less than 10 square feet of space. Every Flex Farm has 288 plant spaces and comes with a fully self-contained water system, energy efficient LED light tower, submersible pump, Grower Toolkit and starter Supply Box.



FARM FEATURES

- Indoor Growing
- Made in USA
- 25+ lbs per 4 week harvest
- Grow for $1 per lb
- Free Access to Farmative
- Expert Growing Support

OPEN WIDTH: 60 in



HEIGHT: 69.16 in



LENGTH: 39.16 in



WIDTH: 37.76 in



FLEX FARM SPECS

- Weight (no water): 115 lbs
- Weight (with water): 325 lbs
- 288 plant spaces
- Caster unit
- Dishwasher safe panels

REQUIREMENTS

- At least 3 ft x 6 ft clearance (91.5 cm x 183 cm)
- Temperature-controlled 68°F to 75°F (20°C to 24°C)
- Standard ceiling at least 7 ft (at least 213.5 cm)
- Accessible water source (e.g. sink)
- Floor that supports at least 325 pounds (145 kg)
- Direct access to grounded electrical outlet



FLEX FARM VS Traditional Agriculture



ZERO FOOD MILES | 98% LESS LAND | 98% LESS WATER

FLEX FARM VS Hydroponic Competitors



40% MORE ENERGY EFFICIENT

FLEX CONNECT™

Connect four or more Flex Farms with one centralized water system to maximize the benefits of vertical hydroponic farming.

Contact us to learn more.

FORK FARMS
FOOD ACCESS TECHNOLOGY

K–12

Supporting Virginia Standards of Learning

Note: This document provides a high-level exploration of how Flex Farm lessons may relate to Virginia SOLs. It is not an official crosswalk, and Flex Farm lessons have not been formally adopted or certified as aligned with VA SOLs.

Empowered Educators | Engaging Curriculum | Sustained Partnership

Lesson 1: The Food We Eat
K.5 – Human senses (bodily structure and daily use)
1.5 – The basic needs of animals

Lesson 2: What Is Hydroponics?
K.1/1.1/2.1/3.1/4.1/5.1/6.1/LS.1/BIO.1 – Scientific/engineering practices

Lesson 3: From Seed to Plant
K.6 – Differences between living organisms and nonliving objects
K.7 – The basic needs of plants and animals
1.4 – The basic needs of plants
2.4 – How plants and animals grow and develop
2.7 – Impact of weather on plants and animals
2.8 – The importance of plants as natural processes
4.2 – Structural differences between plants and animals
LS.2 – Cell theory, plants vs. animals, and life processes
BIO.3 – Cell structures and functions

Lesson 4: The pH of Water
K.4 – The importance of water
3.3 – How materials interact with water
3.7 – The importance of the water cycle
6.6 – The properties and roles of water
ES.8 – The use and availability of freshwater

Lesson 5: Growing In the Flex Farm
K.1/1.1/2.1/3.1/4.1/5.1/6.1/LS.1/BIO.1 – Scientific/engineering practices
K.4 – The importance of water
K.7 – The basic needs of plants
K.8 – The impact of light and the sun
1.4 – The basic needs of plants
1.6 – The relationship between the sun and Earth
2.4 – How plants and animals grow and develop
2.7 – Impact of weather on plants and animals
3.4 – How organisms adapt to the environment to satisfy life needs
6.6 – The properties and roles of water
LS.2 – Photosynthesis and energy transfer
BIO.2 – Chemical and biochemical processes for life

Lesson 6: How to Feed 7-8 Billion People
K.11 – Human needs and resources
1.5 – The basic needs of animals
2.8 – The importance of plants as natural resources
3.8 – How human activity influences ecosystems
4.8 – The natural resources of Virginia
5.9 – Earth resources and the conservation of energy
6.9 – Human impacts on the environment
ES.6 – The use and availability of resources
LS.9 – Ecosystem dynamics and human activity

Lesson 7: The Plant and the Life Cycle
K.10 – Changes over time (including living organisms)
1.4 – The basic needs of plants
1.6 – The relationship between the sun and Earth
2.4 – How plants and animals grow and develop
2.5 – The interdependence of living things
LS.2 – Cell theory, plants vs. animals, and life processes
LS.4 – Photosynthesis and energy transfer
BIO.2 – Chemical and biochemical processes for life

Lesson 8: What Is Harvesting?
6.9 – Human impacts on the environment
ES.1 – Scientific and engineering practices
BIO.8 – The dynamic equilibria of populations and ecosystems
LS.9 – Ecosystem dynamics and human activity

Lesson 9: Completing the Life Cycle with Composting
K.6 – Differences between living organisms and nonliving objects
K.10 – Changes over time (including living organisms)
2.5 – The interdependence of living things
3.4 – How organisms adapt to the environment to satisfy life needs
3.6 – The importance of soil to ecosystems
LS.5 – Biotic and abiotic factors of ecosystems
LS.9 – Ecosystem dynamics and human activity
BIO.8 – The dynamic equilibria of populations and ecosystems

Lesson 10: Sustainability
K.9 – Patterns in nature (weather, seasonality, etc.)
1.7 – Weather and seasonal changes
1.8 – Responsible use of natural resources
2.5 – The interdependence of living things
3.5 – How ecosystems support a diversity of organisms
4.3 – How organisms interact within an ecosystem
5.9 – Earth resources and the conservation of energy
LS.5 – Biotic and abiotic factors of ecosystems
LS.8 – The dynamics of ecosystems

Lesson 11: How Is our Food Packaged?
K.11 – Human needs and resources
1.8 – Responsible use of natural resources
3.8 – How human activity influences ecosystems
4.8 – The natural resources of Virginia
6.9 – Human impacts on the environment
ES.6 – The use and availability of resources
LS.9 – Ecosystem dynamics and human activity


FRESH FOOD
FOR OUR KIDS

TCCTC Class Enrollment 20/40 MAX

Course	2024 #'s	2025 #'s
Criminal Justice	9	15
Mechatronics	12	11
Masonry	9	11
Carpentry/Cabinetmaking	29	26
Cosmetology (Cooke)	34	38
Cosmetology (Hill)	35	28
Auto Service	33	25
Auto Body	33	21
Diesel Tech.	30	26
Small Engine	33	26
Welding	35	33
Health Sciences	8	14
Nurse Aide	5	7 (Instructor Can Only Have 10 Students Per Class Due to VA Board of Nursing)

TCCTC Enrollment

2024 = 305

2025 = 281

(-24 Students)

TCCTC Enrollment By School

Bland Co. - 20 (2024 = 40) Co-Op

GHS - 78

RHS - 83

THS - 100

Total = 281

TCPS High School Enrollment
2024 - 1539
2025 - 1499
(-40 Students)

Student & School CTE/Total Enrollment Comparison 2024 to 2025

	24/25	TOTAL SCHOOL ENROLLMENT	
❖	Graham High School - CTE/398 (372)	Enrollment 2024 = 488	(2025 = 462)
❖	Tazewell High School - CTE/546 (635)	Enrollment 2024 = 501	(2025 = 486)
❖	Richlands High School - CTE/598 (574)	Enrollment 2024 = 550	(2025 = 551)
❖	Graham Middle School - CTE/202 (230)	Enrollment 2024 = 339	(2025 = 347)
❖	Tazewell Middle School - CTE/135 (128)	Enrollment 2024 = 378	(2025 = 376)
❖	Richlands Middle School - CTE/222 (292)	Enrollment 2024 = 447	(2025 = 429)

Total = 2024/2100 students in a CTE course (Enrollment In 2025 = 2231)

Courses Offered At Our High & Middle Schools

- Digital Applications
- Principles of Business and Marketing
- Business Law
- Business Management
- Economic and Personal Finance
- Entrepreneurship, Adv. Entrepreneurship
- Programming
- C.O.E - Cooperative Office Education
- Accounting, Adv. Accounting
- Computer Information Systems, Adv. Computer Information Systems
- Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies, Adv. Design, Multimedia, and Web Technologies
- Office Specialist I, II, and III
- Medical Administration
- Cybersecurity Fundamentals, Cybersecurity Operations, Adv. Cybersecurity Operations
- Agriculture/Tech, Small Animal Care I, II, Air Force JROTC
- Introduction of Culinary Arts, Independent Living, Career Explorations
- GOTEC - GMS Only

2025 - 2026 Highlights Coming Soon!

