MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA AND THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA

Ms. Williams convened the meeting at 8:00 a.m. on March 19, 2026, at the Maritime Engineering and Environmental Studies Academy at 813 Diligence Drive, Suite 100, Newport News, Virginia.

Those members present were:

Cathy T. Williams, Chair
R.C. Miller, Vice Chair
Nicole R. Guajardo, Ph.D.

Absent:

Xavier Beale, excused
Daniel Chenoweth, excused
Faye P. Gargiulo, excused
George "Hank" Hankins, excused

Staff:

Jessica Jacobs, Recording Secretary
Derek Perry, Assistant Director of Development

Also present:

Dr. Michele Mitchell, Superintendent, Newport News Public Schools
Dr. Kipp Rogers, Chief Academic Officer, Newport News Public Schools

Meeting Convened

At 8:00 a.m., Board Members met with Newport News Public Schools (NNPS) personnel at the Maritime Engineering and Environmental Studies Academy (MEESA) at 813 Diligence Drive, Suite 100, Newport News, Virginia. MEESA is a 2-year Magnet Program offered to 10th graders who are interested in exploring maritime engineering and environmental science. Board Members were escorted on tours of the MEESA's Collaboration Lab, the Starboard Studio, Creator Studio, and the Port Studio as well as the Marine and Fabrication Labs.

Next, Board Members reconvened at the Denbigh High School's Aviation Academy, located at 259 Denbigh Boulevard. The Aviation Academy is another NNPS magnet program offered to rising 9th grade students who make a commitment to the Academy's rigorous academic and technological programs. The Aviation Academy is a nationally-recognized STEM site with a focus on piloting, aircraft maintenance and engineering. Board Members were shown through the facility's Aviation Simulation Lab, the Wind Tunnel, the Aviation Maintenance Lab, and the Drone/3D Printing Lab.

Board Members and staff were exceptionally impressed with both facilities and educational programs and acknowledged that the dynamic and challenging coursework would serve graduates well in their future careers. The Board Members also acknowledged the strategic value of these programs in strengthening the regional workforce pipeline and enhancing the City's business retention and attraction efforts.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Ms. Williams adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Florence G. Kingston
Secretary/Treasurer