



**Week of the Young Child**  
**School Board Meeting: March 5, 2020**

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**WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS (Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.):**

- **This evening**, we are thrilled to have with us some of our preschoolers, their teachers, and their families as we prepare to celebrate the upcoming **Week of the Young Child, April 11-17, 2020**. This year, we are celebrating a bit early to encourage the planning of events for that week. I know this evening is one of the highlights of the school board!
- This annual celebration, sponsored by the **National Association for the Education of Young Children**, celebrates early learning, young children, their teachers, and families. The purpose of this is to focus public attention on the needs of young children and their families, and to recognize the early childhood programs and services that meet those needs.
- The Week of the Young Child is a time to recognize that children’s opportunities are our responsibilities, and to recommit ourselves to ensuring that every child experiences the type of early environment – at home, at child care, at school, and in the community – that will promote early learning.
- **I would now like to introduce Jane Richardson, Coordinator of the Early Childhood Special Education Program.**

**INTRODUCTION (Jane Richardson):**

- **ACPS is committed to meeting the needs of the city’s preschoolers and their families** by collaborating with the city, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and others to offer high-quality early childhood options.
- Currently, we have over **500 students** receiving quality education in **Virginia Preschool Initiative (VPI)** classrooms through ACPS and our partner organizations, and in our Early Childhood Special Education classes.
- This year, the Early Childhood Center students will be celebrating their accomplishments with us. Since pictures and music are a great way to learn, they have composed their presentation using these tools. **Let’s welcome the Titans of 2034!**
- **We will now enjoy a song performed by the Early Childhood Center students as we celebrate the upcoming “Week of the Young Child.”**

**CONCLUDING REMARKS (Dr. Gregory C. Hutchings, Jr.):**

- **Please join me in recognizing the amazing teachers and paraprofessionals** who work hard every day, and are committed to the success of our youngest learners. And a **special thank you to our teachers who are here this evening** with their extraordinary students.
- Our wonderful families share their children with us each day, and I want to thank them for being such an integral part of our school family and coming out tonight.
- I would also like to recognize our Early Childhood Center Principal, **Heidi Haggerty Wagner**, Assistant Principal, **Dr. Alicia Kingcade**, and **Jane Richardson** from our Early Childhood Leadership team, all who are committed to improving the outcomes for our preschoolers.
- **Thank you!**