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WJCC SCHOOL BOARD APPOINTS JAMES L. KELLY TO JAMESTOWN DISTRICT SEAT

Williamsburg, VA, Feb. 2 – James L. Kelly, a 22-year resident of James City County with a background in engineering, three children in the WJCC school system, and two years of prior experience on the School Board, has been appointed to be the Board’s Jamestown District representative, Chair Ruth Larson has announced.

Kelly served as the School Board’s Berkeley representative from January, 2010, through Dec. 31, 2011, completing a term vacated by former Board Member Mary Ann Maimone. Due to recent redistricting in James City County, Ms. Larson ran for and won the Berkeley seat, leaving the Jamestown seat vacant. Kelly, meanwhile, became a Jamestown District resident.

To find a replacement, the Board invited applications from Jamestown District residents who were interested in being considered; three citizens, including Kelly, applied. A public hearing was held Jan. 17 at which the candidates spoke to the Board members about their qualifications to serve.

“On behalf of the WJCC School Board, I would like to express our appreciation to the three Jamestown citizens who came forward to offer to serve on the school board for the 10-month appointment,” said WJCC School Board Chair Ruth Larson. “Any one of these citizens would bring expertise to the school board, but it was determined that with a \$7.5 million budget shortfall, Mr. Kelly’s two years of service would prove most valuable to us at this critical juncture.”

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Mr. Kelly has been an employee of Newport News Shipbuilding in Newport News since 2002, where he is responsible for responding to facility technical issues throughout the shipbuilding plant, including plant casualties, maintenance support, and project implementation. He is married to Kelly Ann Kelly, an instructor at J. Blaine Blayton Elementary School who was named the WJCC Elementary Teacher of the Year in 2008. The couple have three children: two sons attending high school, and a daughter attending middle school.

Kelly earned his bachelor's degree in marine engineering systems from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1987, and a master's degree in engineering management from the Florida Institute of Technology in 2008. He is a registered professional engineer in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and has a total of 25 years of experience as a marine engineer. Before joining Newport News Shipbuilding, Kelly served stints at Phoenix International, Craft Engineering, Phillips Cartner & Co. Inc., and Designers and Planners Inc.

He has been involved in numerous professional and civic organizations, including the Virginia Society of Professional Engineers (president, 2004-05), the Engineers Club of the Virginia Peninsula, the Peninsula Engineers Council, the Powhatan Community Services Association, the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the National Society of Professional Engineers, the National Eagle Scout Association, and the PTAs of Matoaka Elementary and Berkeley Middle schools.

Kelly also works extensively with the Apprentice School at the Newport News shipyard to provide athletic facilities. His work with the school has allowed him to "develop a deep understanding of the opportunities available with a quality trades education," he wrote in his initial letter of interest to the Board. "A solid trades education can provide a foundation and a future, and should be nourished in those who choose this life path."

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Kelly will serve as the Board's Jamestown representative until the voters fill the vacancy by election, and the person elected has qualified for the office.

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