



Lynchburg City Schools • 915 Court Street • Lynchburg, Virginia 24504

Lynchburg City School Board

Sharon Y. Carter
School Board District 2

James E. Coleman
School Board District 3

Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
School Board District 1

Mary Ann Hoss
School Board District 1

Michael J. Nilles
School Board District 3

Derek L. Polley
School Board District 1

Jennifer R. Poore
School Board District 2

Katie Snyder
School Board District 3

J. Marie Waller
School Board District 2

School Administration

Scott S. Brabrand
Superintendent

John C. McClain
Assistant Superintendent of
Student Learning and Success

Ben W. Copeland
Assistant Superintendent of
Operations and Administration

Anthony E. Beckles, Sr.
Chief Financial Officer

Wendie L. Sullivan
Clerk

SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
November 2, 2015 4:45 p.m.
GLTC Transfer Station – 800 Kemper Street
Third Street Conference Room

A. OPENING COMMENTS

B. CONSENT AGENDA

1. School Board Meeting Minutes: October 5, 2015 (Regular Meeting)
October 15, 2015 (School Board Retreat)
October 20, 2015 (Regular Meeting)
2. Personnel Report
Marie F. Gee.Page 1
Discussion/Action
3. Religious Exemption
Scott S. Brabrand.Page 3
Discussion/Action

C. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Legislative Positions: 2015-16
Scott S. Brabrand.Page 6
Discussion/Action
2. Lynchburg City School Board Policy Updates
Ben W. Copeland.Page 11
Discussion/Action

D. NEW BUSINESS

1. Special Education Advisory Committee: 2015-16
John C. McClain.Page 15
Discussion

E. SUPERINTENDENT’S COMMENTS

F. BOARD COMMENTS

G. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Lynchburg City School Board/Lynchburg City Council Joint Meeting:
Tuesday, November 2, 2015, 5:30 p.m., GLTC Transfer Station,
800 Kemper Street, Third Floor Conference Room

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 17, 2015, 5:30 p.m., Board
Room, School Administration Building

H. ADJOURNMENT

Agenda Report

Date: 11/02/15

Agenda Number: B-3

Attachments: Yes

From: Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent

Subject: Religious Exemption

Summary/Description:

The school board, pursuant to the Code of Virginia 22.1-254 (B) (1) “shall excuse from attendance at school any pupil who, together with his parents, by reason of bona fide religious training or belief is conscientiously opposed to attendance at school.”

The Statement of Religious Beliefs is confidential and is shared with members of the school board only.

Disposition: **Action**
 Information
 Action at Meeting on:

Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the school board excuse the student(s) from public school attendance by reason of bona fide religious training or belief of both the parent(s) and the student(s).

NAME	COLLEGE	DEGREE/ EXPERIENCE	SCHOOL/ ASSIGNMENT	EFFECTIVE DATE
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NOMINATIONS, INSTRUCTIONAL PERSONNEL, 2015-2016:

Mangano, Anthony	Randolph College	M.A./ 0 yrs. (Lv. 0 4)	Dunbar Middle Physical Education	10-28-15
Thigpen, Margaret	Liberty University	B.A./ 0 yrs. (Lv. 0 3)	Heritage Elementary Strings	11-4-15

Agenda Report

Date: 11/02/15

Agenda Number: C-1

Attachments: Yes

From: Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Success

Subject: Legislative Positions: 2015-16

Summary/Description:

Annually, the Lynchburg City School Board considers legislative positions to present to its state representatives. Attached are position statements for the school board to consider.

Disposition: **Action**
 Information
 Action at Meeting on:

Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the school board approve the legislative positions for 2015-16.

Lynchburg City Schools
2014-15 2015-16 Legislative Positions

Compensation and Employee Relations

- **The Lynchburg City School Board opposes legislation that would provide for binding arbitration, meet-and-confer requirements, and imposed grievance procedures thus restricting the authority of school boards.**

{Virginia High School League

Acknowledging that less than two percent of the General Assembly members reviewed an agreement that affects 100 percent of Virginia's public school students, the school division requests that the General Assembly authorize the formation of a statewide advisory panel that will formally review the May 27, 2015, VHSL and LCS settlement agreement. The panel's mission will be to verify that this agreement advances the interests of Virginia public education and to recommend any changes in state law necessary to ensure these interests are upheld.}

Instruction

- **The Lynchburg City School Board continues to urge legislators to request that the United States Department of Education allow the Commonwealth of Virginia to use the state's standards of accreditation system as the sole accountability system for public schools.**
 - The school board appreciates flexibility from provisions of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA); however, Virginia Standards of Accreditation were in place before ESEA legislation was enacted and before the ESEA Flexibility Waiver was granted. Therefore, the school board supports that Virginia's Standards of Accreditation be the sole accountability system for Virginia's public schools. The school board also supports revising the Virginia Standards of Accreditation to align with the ESEA Flexibility principles to include provisions for monitoring the achievement of major subgroups of students and establishing annual benchmarks for student growth.
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports passage of legislation to permit each local school board to set the school calendar and determine the opening of the school year.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports modifications to the requirements for the General Achievement Diploma.**
 - The current requirements include actually withdrawing the student from school after completing the 20 required credits. The requirement that the student drop

out of school may push the student further from needed resources and support. That requirement should be removed.

- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports continued priority funding for Career and Technical Education classroom lab equipment, course opportunities, instructional resources, and program improvement in order to prepare students for a competitive workforce and further education.**
 - **Under the Virginia Standards of Accreditation, high schools are expected to offer a minimum of three career and technical programs to meet students' needs. Most high schools in the state have multiple labs that must be updated with new technology on a regular basis. Under the present funding level, local and federal funds support the largest percentages of CTE equipment resources.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports increased funding to modernize and expand capacity of Career and Technical Education equipment and to teach and apply STEM initiatives and performances-based, problem-solving processes for all students. Funding is also sought to expand and enhance the instructional resources and opportunities in these programs.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation to increase the number and grade levels of students approved for access to expedited retakes of SOL exams.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation that would allow school divisions the flexibility to choose the best e-learning device for students that could be used for instruction and for online testing.**

Funding

- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation that would provide the necessary state funding for increased compensation for its teachers.**
 - Teachers throughout the Commonwealth deserve salaries commensurate with their duties and the average national salary for teachers.
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation establishing incentives to encourage students to consider teaching as a career and to keep teachers trained in Virginia colleges in the Commonwealth.**
 - As the pool of qualified teacher candidates decreases, teacher recruitment becomes increasingly challenging. Incentives such as those offered in North Carolina (see <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/scholarships/>) may encourage students to consider teaching as a career and may also encourage veteran teachers to remain in the profession and stay in Virginia. Efforts to increase the pool of qualified teachers would benefit all school divisions in the state.

- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation which requires both public and private pre-kindergarten programs that use public tax dollars meet the same standards required of local school boards and school divisions.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board urges the General Assembly to eliminate the Federal Revenue Deduction from the Basic Aid formula.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board is appreciative of the Virginia General Assembly's support for many of the Standards of Quality (SOQ). The school board understands and is aware of the present financial downturn, but still believes that the SOQ are needed in order to meet the prescribed requirements for a quality education for each student in the school division. Thus the school board supports the legislation that funds the following:**
 - one principal at every elementary school,
 - an assistant principal for every 400 students in grades K-12
 - reduced caseloads for speech-language pathologist (from 68 to 60 students)
 - one full-time instructional position for each 1,000 students to serve as a reading specialist
 - one full-time counselor for each 250 students as prescribed by the American School Counselor Association National Model
 - In addition to supporting funding for these modifications, the Lynchburg City School Board requests funding for one testing coordinator for every 1,000 students.
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation that fully funds the educational costs of students with disabilities.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation to provide additional funds to maintain alternative education opportunities for students at all levels who would benefit from non-traditional programs housed in smaller, highly structured environments.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports the Virginia General Assembly's effort to provide funding for the improvement of aging schools through *School Construction Grants* thereby allowing for the implementation of instructional improvements. The School Board also supports legislation which would increase the level of support provided through consistent funding sources.**
- **The Lynchburg City School Board supports legislation that would maintain the level of funding provided through the *Literary Fund* for the renovation and construction of public school buildings. The current funding application process must be shortened so that funds are available to localities more quickly.**

- **The Lynchburg City School Board opposes federal or state legislation that would create or expand private school voucher programs.**
 - Private school vouchers and tuition tax credits undermine public education by diverting dwindling education tax dollars from public schools to subsidize the tuition of private school students. There is no reliable data to suggest that private schools outperform public schools when adjusting for differences in student populations. Additionally, Virginia public schools are required to meet accountability measured under the state's accreditation system through the Standards of Learning and the federal Adequate Yearly Progress under the *No Child Left Behind Act*, now known as the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*. In using public funds, private school voucher programs do not use public accountability standards, do not make achievement and budget information public, and do not have to meet the standards of equity and special services provided in public schools.

Lynchburg City School Board

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J. Marie Waller, Vice Chairman
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Marie F. Gee, Director of Personnel

Agenda Report

Date: 11/02/15

Agenda Number: C-2

Attachments: Yes

From: Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration

Subject: Lynchburg City School Board Policy Updates

Summary/Description:

The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) sent new policy revisions for September 2015. The attached policy BDD – Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations has been reviewed by legal counsel and reflects the latest changes in state and federal laws and regulations.

Disposition: **Action**
 Information
 Action at Meeting on:

Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the school board approve the changes to Policy BDD Electronic Participation in Meetings from Remote Locations.

ELECTRONIC PARTICIPATION IN MEETINGS
FROM REMOTE LOCATIONS

Except as provided hereafter, the School Board ~~shall~~ *{does}* not conduct any meeting wherein the public business is discussed or transacted through telephonic, video, electronic or other communication means where the members are not physically assembled.

I. Quorum Physically Assembled

A School Board member may participate in a meeting through electronic communication means from a remote location that is not open to the public:

1. if, on or before the day of a meeting, the School Board member notifies the chair of the School Board that he or she is unable to attend the meeting due to an emergency or personal matter and identifies with specificity the nature of the emergency or personal matter, and the School Board
 - a. approves the member's participation by a majority vote of the members present at a meeting and
 - b. records in its minutes the specific nature of the emergency or personal matter and the remote location from which the member participated.

In deciding whether or not to approve a Board member's request to participate from a remote location, the Board shall not consider the identity of the member making the request or the matters that will be considered or voted on at the meeting.

If a Board member's participation from a remote location is disapproved, such disapproval will be recorded in the minutes with specificity.

Such participation by a School Board member shall be limited each calendar year to two meetings or 25 percent of the meetings of the School Board, whichever is fewer; or

2. if a School Board member notifies the School Board chair that he or she is unable to attend a meeting due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents the member's physical attendance and the School Board records this fact and the remote location from which the member participated in its minutes.

A School Board member may participate in a meeting by electronic means pursuant to this section only when:

- a quorum of the School Board is physically assembled at the primary or central meeting location; and

- the School Board makes arrangements for the voice of the remote participant to be heard by all persons at the primary or central meeting location.

II. Quorum Not Physically Assembled

The School Board may meet by electronic communication means without a quorum physically assembled at one location when the Governor has declared a state of emergency in accordance with Va. Code § 44-146.17, provided

- the catastrophic nature of the declared emergency makes it impracticable or unsafe to assemble a quorum in a single location, and
- the purpose of the meeting is to address the emergency.

If it holds a meeting pursuant to this section, the School Board shall

- give public notice using the best available method given the nature of the emergency contemporaneously with the notice provided members of the School Board;
- make arrangements for public access to the meeting;
- make available to the public, at the time of the meeting, agenda packets and all materials, unless exempt, that will be distributed to members of the School Board and that have been made available to the School Board's staff in sufficient time for duplication and forwarding to all locations at which public access will be provided;
- record minutes of the meeting in accordance with Policy BDDG Minutes; and
- record in the minutes votes taken by name in roll-call fashion.

The ***{For any meeting conducted pursuant to this section, the}*** nature of the emergency, the fact that the meeting was held by electronic communication means and the type of electronic communication means by which the meeting was held shall be stated in the minutes of the meeting. ***{In addition, at such meetings the School Board will make available to the public a public comment form prepared by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council.}***

III. Reporting

4. If the School Board meets by electronic means, it shall make a written report of the following to the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council and the Joint Commission on Technology and Science by December 15 of each year:

- the total number of electronic communication meetings held that year
- the dates and purposes of the meetings
- a copy of the agenda for each meeting

- the number of sites for each meeting
- the types of electronic communication means by which the meetings were held
- the number of participants, including members of the public, at each meeting location
- the identity of the members of the School Board recorded as absent and those recorded as present at each meeting location
- a summary of any public comment received about the electronic communication meetings
- a summary of the School Board's experience using electronic communication meetings, including its logistical and technical experience

~~2. At any meeting at which any member of the School Board participates electronically, the School Board will make copies of the public comment form prepared by the Virginia Freedom of Information Advisory Council available to the public.~~

Adopted: June 4, 2013

Revised: May 6, 2014

Revised: September 16, 2014

Legal Ref.: Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §§ 2.2-3708, 2.2-3708.1, 2.2-3710.

Cross Ref.: BDDG Minutes

Agenda Report

Date: 11/02/15

Agenda Number: D-1

Attachments: Yes

From: Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Success

Subject: Special Education Advisory Committee: 2015 - 16

Summary/Description:

State regulations governing the education of students with disabilities require the Lynchburg City School Board to appoint a Special Education Advisory Committee annually. This committee meets a minimum of four times per year. Members serve two-year terms.

The Virginia Department of Education guidelines define the role of the Special Education Advisory Committee as follows:

- To advise the school division of unmet needs in the education of students with disabilities,
- To assist the school division in the formulation and development of long range plans designed to provide needed educational services for students with disabilities,
- To participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of students with disabilities,
- To submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of students with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the school board, and
- To assist the school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of students with disabilities.

The proposed membership appears as an attachment to this agenda report. New members are noted in bold.

Disposition: Action
 Information
 Action at Meeting on: 11/17/15

Recommendation:

The superintendent recommends that the school board receive this agenda report as an informational item and consider action at the school board meeting on November 17, 2015.

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

School Representatives:

School	Representative	Ending Year
William Marvin Bass Elementary School	Phillip Langhorne	2016
Bedford Hills Elementary School	Tiffany Ellis (co-chair of SEAC)	2016
Dearington Elementary School for Innovation	Catherine Adams	2017
Heritage Elementary School	Ted Jennings	2017
Linkhorne Elementary School	Kenia Lopez	2017
Paul Monroe Elementary School	Nicole Byrd	2017
Perrymont Elementary School	Kenya Jefferson	2017
Robert S. Payne Elementary School	Latisha Smith	2017
Sandusky Elementary School	Tammy Porter	2016
Sheffield Elementary School	Marisa Briggs	2017
Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation	Michelle Duncan	2016
Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation	Karen Bucklew	2017
Linkhorne Middle School	Renee Maca	2017
Sandusky Middle School	Stacie Tyree	2017
Carl B. Hutcherson Building	Kim Hibbard	2016
LAUREL Regional School	Shakima Thomas	2016
E.C. Glass High School	Ceceilia Reid-Perry	2017
Heritage High School	Alma Thomas	2016

Additional Roles:

Past Chair	Suzanne Conway
Community Representative	Danielle Englund
Special Education Teacher Representative	Elaine Gaston
Co-Chair Person	Sydney Gunn
Co-Chair Person	Tiffany Ellis

Lynchburg City Schools Consultants:

Wyllys D. VanDerwerker	Director for Exceptional Learners
Amanda Myers-Ramirez	Coordinator for Special Education Instruction
Janenne Daniels-Bosher	Coordinator for Special Education Instruction

SEAC Public Meetings Dates for the 2015-2016 School Year

Meeting Location: Lynchburg Public Library, 2315 Memorial Ave.

Meeting Time: 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm (unless noted)

Tuesday, September 29, 2015

Monday, October 26, 2015

Tuesday, March 29, 2016

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Tuesday, May 17, 2016