



## SUPERINTENDENT'S PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

February 24, 2011

Minutes

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### Present:

Nels Erickson, Perrymont Elementary School; Jim Gallagher, Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation; Cindy Morse, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; Tina Cox, Linkhorne Elementary School; Tara Morgan, William Marvin Bass Elementary School; Cecil Jackson, E. C. Glass High School; Malia King, Sheffield Elementary School; Michelle White, Heritage Elementary School; Ada Everhart, Sheffield Elementary School; Lisa Hames, Linkhorne Middle School; Margaret Vaughn, E. C. Glass High School; Jim Martin, Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; Bill Burruss, Paul Munro Elementary School; Mary Driskill, Paul Munro Elementary School; Paul McKendrick, Superintendent; Wendie Sullivan, Recording Secretary

The Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council met in the Board Room at the School Administration Building beginning at 7:02 p.m.

The following questions and topics were discussed during the meeting.

- 1. Are there any written reports for Paul Munro School that reveal the condition of its structural, electrical, and mechanical systems or its grounds and playground equipment? Can these reports be reviewed by its PTA?**

The electrical and mechanical systems as well as the insulation, windows, and lighting at Paul Munro Elementary School are currently being reviewed by four energy saving companies (ESCOs). The idea is to pay for building upgrades through energy savings. Usually reports obtained under these circumstances are proprietary until (if) the school division enters into a contract with one of the firms.

- 2. Regarding the fixtures and structural components that make up a school, both attached and unattached – examples being heating systems, playground equipment, desks, library books, smart boards, kitchen equipment...; can you differentiate what the city is financially responsible for from organizations like the local PTA?**

The Lynchburg City Schools is financially responsible for all aspects of the school plant. Often PTA/PTOs will provide funds for items that the school division has deferred. Examples would be playground equipment, garden spots, and the like. Sometimes PTAs/PTOs will partner with local businesses for costly projects. Examples of these are the play structures at Linkhorne Elementary School and Heritage Elementary School.

Additional questions were asked about supplies purchased by the PTA/PTO of certain schools, i.e., thermometer covers and ice machines. At some schools, PTAs/PTOs have purchased instant read thermometers, and the school division does not support supplies for those. The school division does supply 9-second digital thermometers made by MABIS Healthcare, and it also supplies covers for those thermometers. Further, over the past two years, capital budgets for schools have been eliminated, and therefore, have no money for small capital purchases. Any assistance that PTAs/PTOs can offer with those purchases has been appreciated.

- 3. When will money be asked for redistricting?**
  - a. When will the study be conducted?**
  - b. When will the redistricting be implemented?**

Funding to pay for the consultant services provided by Eperitus, LLP, will be provided through stimulus funds or the school division's fund balance. The consultant will gather and analyze the information and is scheduled to present information to the school board in fall 2011. Following that presentation, the school administration will evaluate the information given to the school board and provide recommendations to the school board in January 2012. The school board will consider those recommendations and conduct public hearings and community meetings prior to finalizing its decision.

- 4. I am hearing from more people about the need for a 10 point grading scale. Many of the school districts in Virginia are using that scale, which could great impact the GPA of students, especially in the high schools. When will we be moving toward this?**

The school board discussed this topic during its 2009 Annual Retreat, but no decisions were made to change the school division's current grading practices.

**The next Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council meeting will occur on April 28, 2011, at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building.**