

Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
January 14, 2020

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Robert O. Brennan
Sharon Y. Carter
James E. Coleman, Jr.
Belle H. Evans
Atual Gupta
Gary E. Harvey
Susan D. Morrison
Michael J. Nilles
Kimberly A. Sinha

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Crystal M. Edwards, Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Deputy Superintendent
Kimberly D. Lukanich, Chief Financial Officer
Amy T. Pugh, Director of Information Technology
R. Tommy Coleman, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities, Building Maintenance
Angel Garcia-Ablanque, Director of Transportation
Marie F. Gee, Director of Personnel
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director of Special Education
Ethel E. Reeves, Director of Equity, Engagement, and Opportunity
Janenne S. Daniels-Bosher, Supervisor of Special Education
LaTonya Brown, Director of Student Services
Anne Bond-Gentry, Coordinator of Student Services
Chuck D. Yarbrough, Supervisor of Instructional Technology
Hope Townes, City Attorney
Christi Meservy, Clerk

**STUDENT
REPRESENTATIVES
PRESENT:**

Chris Marotta, ECG
Ian Garland, HHS

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

News and Advance

Agenda Items:

- A-1. Agenda Approval
- B-1. Closed Meeting
- B-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

- C. Public Comments
- D. Finance Report
- E. Consent Agenda
- F. Student Representative Comments
- G. School Board Committee Report
- H. Comprehensive Strategic Plan Discussion
- I-1. Middle School Program of Studies: 2020-21
- I-2. LCS Board Instruction and Program Policies and Regulations
- I-3. Lynchburg city School Board Instruction & Program Policy Review
- J-1. Lynchburg City School Board Personnel Policies
- J-2. School Calendar: 2020-2021
- K. Superintendent's Comments
- L. Board Comments
- M. Informational Items
- N. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular business meeting at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Mrs. Morrison opened the meeting and asked those in attendance to rise and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

A-1 Agenda Approval

Upon MOTION Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved the January 14, 2020 board meeting agenda.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION Dr. Nilles SECONDED by Mr. Harvey, the school board approved an addendum to item E-2 Personnel Report.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Mr. Harvey, the school board approved moving Section 3 only of I-2 to the January Work Session.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION Mr. Harvey, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:05 p.m. to discuss matters as permitted by the Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7), consultation with legal counsel.

B-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Harvey, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:21 p.m.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Dr. Brennan, the school board approved by roll call vote the following Certification of Closed Meeting:

The Lynchburg City School Board certifies that, in the closed meeting just concluded, nothing was discussed except the matters specifically identified in the motion to convene in a closed meeting and lawfully permitted to be so discussed under the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act cited in that motion.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None.

C. Public Comments

In accordance with Policy BDDH Public Participation, the school board welcomes requests and comments as established in the guidelines within that policy. Individuals who wish to speak before the school board shall have an opportunity to do so at this time.

Jennifer Williams spoke against the venue for graduation due to safety.

Jessica Williams spoke against the venue for graduation due to safety.

Kate Staton spoke against the venue for graduation due to lack of inclusion.

Aaron Traphagen spoke against the venue for graduation because you can't take the religion out of the site.

Katie Syder spoke against the graduation survey and communication.

Jen Staton expressed disappointment in moving graduation. She would like a new survey.

Robin MCGivern spoke against the venue for graduation stating if one person's kind is not accepted on that campus then the graduation should not be held there.

Consuela Mosley submitted a written statement regarding the importance of walking across the stage where you spent 4 years of your life preparing to graduate.

D. Finance Report

The school administration, in accordance with the FY2019-20 school's operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through November 30, 2019. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The operating fund expenditure report summarizes the payments made through November 30, 2019 for the operating fund.

Total Operating Fund Budget	\$ 98,752,961.00
Prior Year Encumbrances/Open Purchase Orders	<u>\$ 850,804.44</u>
	\$ 99,603,765.44

Through November 30, 2019	
Actual Revenue Received	\$ 26,475,209.66
Actual Expenditures	\$ 34,659,807.95
Actual Encumbered	\$ 52,174,981.36

Percent of Budget Received	26.58%
Percent of Budget Used, excluding encumbrances	34.80%

As of 11/30/19 – 5 months	41.67%
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November Health Insurance Payments (Four payments):	
Administrative Fees	\$ 81,724.54
Medical and Pharmacy Claims	\$ 1,016,731.08
Health Insurance Payable Balance at November 30, 2019	\$ 118,335.15

The revenue and expenditure reports detail the transactions recorded through November 30, 2019. All reports appear as attachments to the agenda report.

E. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Dr. Brennan, the school board approved the minutes for December 3, 2019 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report and addendum for December 3, 2019 through January 14, 2020.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

E. Student Representative Comments

Mr. Ian Garland, student representative for Heritage High School, and Mr. Chris Marotta, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, shared comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

G. School Board Committee Report

- School Board Committees:
 - Finance Committee* – Dr. Gupta mentioned Employee & Employer contribution for health insurance.
 - Governor’s School Committee* – Mr. Harvey said he received a very favorable report.
 - LAUREL Regional School Committee* – No meeting.
 - XLR8 STEM Academy Committee* – No meeting.
 - Legislative Advocacy Committee* – Dr. Brennan plans to attend the Capital Conference and mentioned the 2020 Legislative Breakfast.

2. Advisory Committees to the School Board

General Career Technical Advisory Committee – No meeting.

Equity Task Force Committee – No meeting.

Health Advisory Board Committee – No meeting.

Special Education Advisory Committee – No meeting.

H. Comprehensive Strategic Plan Discussion

The Lynchburg City School Board is committed to an ongoing review of the 5 –Year Comprehensive Strategic Plan. The focus of tonight’s discussion will be:

Goal 1: Student Growth, Development and Success

- Objective 1.2.2 – Reduce the achievement gap by increasing the percentage of targeted subgroup populations (Black, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities), passing the reading/English SOL assessment to equal or exceed the state average.
- Objective 1.3.2 - Reduce the achievement gap by increasing the percentage of targeted subgroup populations (Black, Economically Disadvantaged, Students with Disabilities), passing the math SOL assessment to equal or exceed the state average.

I-1. Middle School Program of Studies: 2020-21

Each year the school board reviews and approves the Middle School Program of Studies for the next school year. A team made up of middle school administrators, counseling directors, and various members of the departments of special education, student services, and curriculum and instruction have met over the past two months to update this handbook.

The team worked to ensure this handbook includes information consistent with current Virginia Department of Education requirements. The updates made to the 2020-21 Middle School Program of Studies provide a better understanding of courses for parents and students

Middle school counseling departments will use the 2020-21 Program of Studies to begin meeting with parents and scheduling students in January.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Harvey, SECONDED by Dr. Sinha, the school board approved the Middle School Program of Studies: 2020-21.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2019, FOR A COPY OF THE AGENDA AND ALL ATTACHMENTS.)

I-2. Lynchburg City School Board Instruction and Program Policies and Regulations.

On November 18, 2019, the Instruction and Program Policy Workgroup reviewed the policies and regulations listed below. All policies being presented have been reviewed by legal counsel. The group recommends adopting the following policies as written.

IA	Instructional Goals and Objectives
IAA	Notification of Learning Objectives
IKH	Retaking SOL Assessments
IL	Testing Programs
LI	Relations with Educational Accreditation Agencies

The workgroup recommends the addition of proposed language to the following:

AD	Educational Philosophy (<i>adding Mission Statement</i>)
IKC	Grading and Student Evaluation (<i>appealing an assigned grade</i>)
JNZ-R	Student Fees, Fines, Charges, and Tuition (<i>removal of specific fees and direction to division website</i>)

In addition, current outdated LCS policies and regulations were discussed by the workgroup for deletion. These policies are being presented for School Board review.

P 6-1	Mission Statement
P 6-1.1	Objectives
P 6-1.2	Accreditation
P 6-2	Grade Level Organization P 6-2.1 Kindergarten
P 6-3	Title IX Policy
P 6-20	Evaluation of Curriculum and Instructional Program
R 6-38	Scheduling Students for More than One Required Course in the Same Subject Area
P 6-58	Student Evaluation and Grading P 6-59 Tests
P 6-60.1	State Testing Program

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Dr. Nilles, the school board approved the Lynchburg City School Board Instruction and program Policies and Regulations.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mr. Harvey, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha.

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2019, FOR A COPY OF THE AGENDA AND ALL ATTACHMENTS.)

I-3. Lynchburg City School Board Instruction & program Policy Review

At the December 17, 2019 work session, the school board provided guidance to modify the volunteer policy/regulation based on the recommendations presented by the Equity Task Force during the August 19, 2019 work session. A volunteer review committee has been formed and the following policy/regulation language changes and protocols are being reviewed and developed.

Option 2: Modify the existing language in regulation IICB-R/IICC-R

~~“Anyone convicted of a felony offense will be disqualified from volunteer activity. Anyone convicted of~~ **or** ~~a misdemeanor may be disqualified depending upon the nature of the offense and/or volunteer activity.”~~ **Details and protocols would need to be outlined and approved prior to policy adoption and implementation.**

J-1. Lynchburg City School Board Personnel Policies

The Personnel Policy Workgroup met on December 16, 2019. The group recommends for approval the following changes as noted to the policies and regulations listed below:

CBE	Severance Benefits (<i>no change</i>)
CF	School Building Administration (<i>no change</i>)
GBEF	Lactation Support (<i>no change</i>)
GCBD-RZ	Sick Leave (<i>changes as noted</i>)
GCI	Professional Staff Assignments and Transfers (<i>changes as noted</i>)

J-2. School Calendar: 2020-21

The proposed school calendar for the 2020-21 school year contains many of the features that were included in the school calendar for 2019-20. During this presentation, members of the calendar committee listed below will review the proposed calendar with the school board.

Rose Flaughner
Ron Proffitt
Matt Mason
Sharon Anderson
Renee Anderson
Angel Garcia-Ablanque
Chuck Yarbrough
Ben Copeland

K. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Edwards mentioned that both the Parent & Personnel Advisory Council met in December. They have changed the structure of their meetings to be part think tank and part concerns. They spent considerable time on the budget collecting input from both the staff and parents. They have also been thinking about emergency response, in terms of how we communicate. We have an internal team looking into emergency management and communications strategy software.

Dr. Edwards attended an African American History Commission meeting. The focus of their charge was to identify good PD and to answer the statement, 'Virginia educators are culturally competent if? What do we need to do to ensure our staff is culturally competent, from pre service to in service?'

Dr. Edwards met with other region 5 superintendents. The topic was money. We looked at the salary scale, benefits, and perks.

Dr. Edwards reminded the board member of the BoardDocs training during the January Work Session. She reminded the members to bring their devices and to be prepared for an hour long training.

Dr. Edwards gave kudos to the Sandusky Middle School and Heritage High for their music performances. She was able to attend choral and band concerts. She mentioned we have some amazingly talented students and seriously enthusiastic staff members. That is what makes these concerts so fun.

L. Board Comments

Mrs. Morrison wished Dr. Edwards a Happy Birthday. She also wanted to acknowledge the contributions of Olivia Johnson, the News & Advance reporter who tragically lost her life recently in a car accident. She was a very special young lady who did a lot for us in a short time. She was very much appreciated.

Mr. Harvey met with the Partners in Education. He is excited about the upcoming PIE Celebration and will keep the board posted about the date. Partners in Education would like to encourage businesses to partner with LCS. Mr. Harvey also wanted to give tribute to Wyllys VanDerwerker who has served LCS with excellent service over his tenure.

Dr. Sinha thanked everyone especially the students who spoke during public comments. It is very difficult to speak about such a highly charged and emotional topic. They did very well. She was very impressed.

Dr. Nilles visited Turning Point and was pleased that the students are going to their classes and are being held accountable. He also attended a fundraiser swim meet. He was very impressed with the comradery. It was a real coming together of the area swim teams for a great cause and it was fun. He also mentioned the write up in the News & Advance was great.

Dr. Coleman mentioned how thankful he is for Men to School. He is also encouraged by the decrease in the achievement gap but reminds us to keep a careful eye on African American children to make sure they are able to be successful.

M. Informational Items

The next School Board Work Session is scheduled for January 28, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room at the Administration Building.

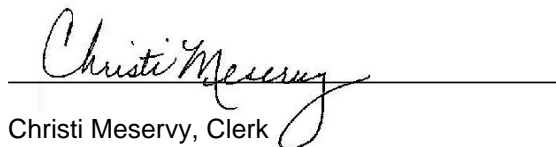
The next School Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room at the Administration Building.

N. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.



Susan D. Morrison, Chair



Christi Meservy, Clerk