

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
June 15, 2010**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman  
Thomas H. Webb, Vice Chairman  
Keith R. Anderson  
Albert L. Billingsly  
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell  
Darin L. Gerdes  
Ingrid M. Hamlett  
Trenay L. Tweedy  
Charles B. White

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent  
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration  
Beverly A. Padgett, Chief Financial Officer  
William A. Coleman, Jr., Director of Secondary Education  
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer  
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Transportation  
Gloria C. Preston, Director of Student Services  
Greg P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology  
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education  
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel  
Pamela D. Smith-Turner, Assistant Director of Personnel  
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comment
- B-1. Resolutions of Recognition
- C-1. Finance Report
- D. Consent Agenda
- E-1. Local Consolidated Application: 2010-11
- E-2. Pregnant Teen Program
- F-1. Dunbar High School Reunion: Resolution
- F-2. Virginia Retirement System: Resolution
- F-3. Authorization of Signature
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- J. Informational Items
- K. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Mrs. Barker opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

**A-1. Public Comments**

In accordance with School Board Policy 1-41: 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.

Ms. Kris Lloyd, PTO fundraising chairman for Linkhorne Middle School, offered comments regarding the school board's fundraising policy.

**B-1. Resolutions of Recognition**

During this presentation, the school board recognized Darin L. Gerdes, Robert W. Jones, and Joshua K. Graham for their service as members of the Lynchburg City School Board. Dr. Gerdes has served as a school board member for the past three years. He recently indicated that he would like to spend more time with his family, and therefore, decided not to seek reappointment for another term. Joshua and Robert were student representatives from E. C. Glass High and Heritage High School, respectively. Joshua, an underclassman, will return to E. C. Glass High School as a junior next year. Robert graduates and will be attending Washington and Lee in the fall.

The follow resolutions of recognition were presented to each member:

***A Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation***

**To  
DARIN L. GERDES  
Upon His Retirement As A  
Member of the Lynchburg City School Board  
Presented by the Lynchburg City School Board**

**DR. DARIN L. GERDES**, worked diligently as a member of the Lynchburg City School Board from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2010. His experience in dealing with people and issues helped his pragmatic approach in handling the business of Lynchburg City Schools. **DR. GERDES** helped forward the cause of public education, aiming to strengthen the values of our society. Throughout his service, he was mindful to the educational needs of all students and championed new and creative approaches. **DR. GERDES** represented the fiscally conservative community, bringing their voice and viewpoint to the forefront of school board discussions. With this resolution, the Lynchburg City School Board seeks to pay tribute to **DR. GERDES** who by effort and by example has made valuable and far-reaching contributions to public education in Lynchburg, Virginia.

WHEREAS, **DR. DARIN L. GERDES** served with distinction as a member of the Lynchburg City School Board for three years, from July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, his keen insight and vision were qualities of leadership that were appropriate to the needs of the Lynchburg City Schools during this period of change, challenge and growth; and

WHEREAS, **DR. DARIN L. GERDES** drew from his background and experiences as an associate professor of business to bring a mixture of professionalism and a unique fiscal approach to the school board; and

WHEREAS, his dedication to duty during this time contributed to the implementation of new programs, guidance through one of the most challenging budget years on record, the construction of Sandusky Middle School, and the renovation of an alternative education center, now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, takes pride in the excellent service that **DR. DARIN L. GERDES** rendered to the operation and successes of the public schools of this community; and

BE IT RESOLVED: That the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, hereby affirms its appreciation to **DR. GERDES** for three years of devoted service to public education during which he demonstrated courage and tenacity in the pursuit of educational excellence. His numerous contributions will affect generations to come. The Lynchburg City School Board wishes to commend **DR. GERDES** for the quality of leadership on behalf of the school division and its youth and for the quality of his stewardship on behalf of the City of Lynchburg.

**The Lynchburg City School Board**

**Paul McKendrick, Ed.D., Superintendent**      **Mrs. Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairperson**

**June 15, 2010**

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**A Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation**

**To**

**ROBERT W. JONES**

**Presented by the Lynchburg City School Board**

**ROBERT W. JONES** was selected by his peers to represent Heritage High School on the Lynchburg City School Board during the 2009-2010 school year. The Lynchburg City School Board views this desire to serve in public life as the worthiest of ambitions. With this resolution, the Lynchburg City School Board seeks to pay tribute to **ROBERT W. JONES**, an honor student who has conscientiously worked to keep the student body's viewpoint before the Lynchburg City School Board. In so doing, he fulfilled his responsibility and made a valuable contribution to public education in this community.

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES** is a committed athlete who, during his four years in high school, participated in soccer, baseball and football, excelling at football on the Varsity level during sophomore to senior years, furthermore leading the team as a captain as a senior, and;

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES** took his role as a leader on the football team a step further by becoming a Play It Smart academic tutor and captain, and;

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES** was a clear leader in the classroom as an Advanced Placement Scholar, Governor's Early College Scholar and National Honor Society member during his junior and senior years and;

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES** was an active member in school activities as the President of DECA, a marketing and business club that placed second in state competition during the 2009-2010 school year, and;

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES** was a trusted representative for the Lynchburg City School Division as a Youth Philanthropy Committee member and as a delegate at the 2009 Inaugural Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. ,and;

**WHEREAS, ROBERT W. JONES**, who will attend Washington and Lee University next year, made great use of his skills while serving the Lynchburg City Schools as the Heritage High School student representative to the Lynchburg City School Board from July 2009 until June 2010 and was a champion for the best possible educational experience for all students; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, commends **ROBERT W. JONES** for his excellent attendance and his many valuable contributions in providing the school board with yet another viewpoint for their consideration and guidance. Furthermore, the school board takes pride in this exceptional individual who so early in his life has already begun to make his mark by taking such an active role in public life in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**THE LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

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**Paul McKendrick, Ed.D., Superintendent**

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**Mrs. Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairperson**

**June 15, 2010**

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**A Resolution of Commendation and Appreciation**

**To**

**Joshua K. Graham**

**Presented by the Lynchburg City School Board**

**JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** was selected by his peers to represent E. C. Glass High School on the Lynchburg City School Board during the 2009-2010 school year. The Lynchburg City School Board views this desire to serve in public life as the worthiest of ambitions. With this resolution, the Lynchburg City School Board seeks to pay tribute to **JOSHUA K. GRAHAM**, who has conscientiously worked to keep the student body's viewpoint before the Lynchburg City School Board. In so doing, he fulfilled his responsibility and made a valuable contribution to public education in this community.

**WHEREAS, JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** is a talented entertainer who played in the *Pride of the Old Dominion* E.C. Glass Marching Band and participated in the drama program, and;

**WHEREAS, JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** is an accomplished athlete in track and field and a fierce competitor during both his freshman and sophomore seasons as a swimmer, competing at both the district and regional levels, and;

**WHEREAS, JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** is involved in other extracurricular activities that made him a well rounded addition to the class of 2012, and;

**WHEREAS, JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** is committed to academic excellence during the 2009-2010 school year by taking and completing all advanced and Advanced Placement classes, and;

**WHEREAS, JOSHUA K. GRAHAM**, has served the Lynchburg City Schools as the E. C. Glass High School student representative to the Lynchburg City School Board from July 2009 until June 2010 and is a champion for the best possible educational experience for all students; now therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, commends **JOSHUA K. GRAHAM** for his excellent attendance and his many valuable contributions in providing the school board with yet another viewpoint for their consideration and guidance. Furthermore, the school board of the City of Lynchburg takes pride in this exceptional individual who so early in his life has already begun to make his mark by taking such an active role in public life in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**THE LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOL BOARD**

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**Paul McKendrick, Ed.D., Superintendent**

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**Mrs. Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairperson**

**June 15, 2010**

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board adopted the resolutions of recognition for Darin L. Gerdes, Robert W. Jones, and Joshua K. Graham.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**C-1. Finance Report**

The school administration, in accordance with the 2009-10 school operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through May 31, 2010. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The operating fund expenditure report summarized the payments made through May 31, 2010, for the operating fund (unaudited) appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Total Operating Fund Budget	\$89,220,450.833
Expenditures through 05/31/10	(\$67,291,292.14)
Outstanding Encumbrances	(\$325,990.04)
Available Balance	\$21,603,168.65
Outstanding Payroll Encumbrances	(\$12,819,399.23)
Available Balance after Payroll	\$8,783,769.42
Percent of Budget Used as of 05/31/10 with payroll encumbrances	90.15%
Percent of Budget Used as of 05/31/10 without payroll encumbrances	75.79%
As of 05/31/10 – 11 months	91.67%

The operating fund revenue report detailed the revenue received through May 31, 2010. The expenditure summary report summarized the payments made through May 31, 2010, for all funds. Both reports appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2010, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

**D. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board approved school board meeting minutes for June 1, 2010 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report for the period June 1 – 15, 2010, the Carl Perkins Spending Plan for 2010-11, Administrative Regulation 5-10.1: Criminal History Record Information, School Board Policy 5-34.1: Travel Allowance, Administrative Regulation 5-38: Sick Leave, Administrative Regulation 7-33.3: Student Uniforms, and School Board Policy 7-55.2: Division-wide Crisis Plan.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2010, EXHIBIT “B,” FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

**E-1. Local Consolidated Application: 2010-11**

The No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) of 2001 was signed into law as P.L.107-110 on January 8, 2002. The Act establishes minimum standards for teachers and paraprofessionals in all public schools. Moreover, it sets a mandatory deadline for all public school students, particularly specifically identified subgroups, to be proficient in reading and mathematics achievement. Funding designed to ensure educational faculty and staff are “highly qualified” and to close the achievement gap between high- and low-performing children flows from the federal government to states’ educational agencies to eligible local school divisions in several program areas.

Both federal and state educational agencies encourage local school divisions to submit consolidated applications for funding for these programs. The consolidated application allows greater cross-program planning and coordination to improve teaching and learning. It also allows school divisions to complete one comprehensive needs assessment and to establish division goals and objectives supported by all programs. In addition, funds may be allocated between programs within a consolidated application more easily than if the grants were separate.

The Lynchburg City Schools’ Consolidated Application for 2010-2011 includes the budgets (projected at this time at level funding) for Title I Parts A and D, Title II Parts A and D, and Title III. Title I Part A allocates funds for teachers, teacher assistants, and materials for supplemental services in reading and math, extended day programs, and parental involvement. Further, required set-aside funds in Title I Part A are used for professional development and are projected for supplemental educational services and public school choice. Title I Part D provides funding for part of the truancy program and some alternative education programs. Title II Part A supports professional development, including partial funding for the instructional specialists’ positions. Title II Part D provides funding that supports professional development in the area of technology training. Title III funds support the Limited English Proficiency program.

The consolidated application is based on needs assessments for both the school division and individual schools, and it contains detailed measurable objectives and benchmarks, specific individual program services and activities, a staff and budget breakdown, and other information specific to individual programs.

School board approval is necessary prior to submitting the Local Consolidated Application for the 2010-2011 academic year to the Virginia Department of Education

Members of the school board have received a copy of the completed application.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the Local Consolidated Application for 2010-11.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**E-2. Pregnant Teen Program**

Since 1969 the Lynchburg City Schools has offered educational services to its pregnant students through the school division’s Pregnant Teen program. At its original location, the vocational building behind E. C. Glass High School, the program served 19 girls and operated from 4:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. In 1978, the school board approved a recommendation to move the program to the vacant Armstrong Elementary School.

In its present form, the program operates from approximately 9:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m., and is located at the LAUREL Regional Center. Students can take as many as four core subjects plus an elective. Furthermore, the program has always encouraged students to bring their babies with them so that the staff can watch parent-child interactions and so that staff can observe the child's development. Students may remain in the program at the site for one year; then, they must attend their regular school. Last year, as many as 15 girls were enrolled in the program.

The school administration approached the school board at least one year ago regarding concerns about the academic offerings at the school, believing that the schedules may be contributing to poor graduation and dropout rates of the students, mainly because the students could only take four core subjects. Thus they immediately fell behind, relative to earned credits for graduation, once they entered the program. In general, the program did not offer the students the same opportunities as found in their regular schools.

Therefore, during the development of the Lynchburg City Schools' (LCS) 2010-11 general operating budget, the Lynchburg City School Board approved the elimination and/or reduction of several programs, one of which was the Pregnant Teen program. The school administration then redesigned the program, starting with its new location: E. C. Glass High School. Thus, effective in the fall, pregnant students will enroll at one of our various schools, enroll at E. C. Glass High School and participate in a resource program/curriculum for pregnant students, or enroll in the school division's homebound instructional program during their pregnancy. Students who enroll in the homebound program may remain in the program for one year, unless medication concerns, as documented by a physician, dictated a longer participation. Students who enroll in the resource program at E. C. Glass High School will have a regular schedule plus a one period of resource class. The most significant change, however, is that the school division will no longer offer a childcare program for the students' babies.

The school administration, through conversations with the students and their parents, has informed them about the new model. Also, the school administration scheduled a parent/guardians meeting on the evening of May 24, 2010. However, no parent/guardian or student attended.

The school administration presented the school board with an overview of the program that will begin in the fall at E. C. Glass High School. Ms. Gloria C. Preston, director of student services, made the presentation.

**F-1. Dunbar High School Reunion: Resolution**

Each year teachers and members of the 1923 through 1970 classes gather for a three-day reunion. The following school board resolution recognizes the participants in that reunion.

TO  
DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL REUNION PARTICIPANTS

Classes of 1923 through 1970 – Students and Faculty

August 6-8, 2010

Presented by the Lynchburg City School Board

On the weekend of August 6, 7, and 8, 2010, members of the DUNBAR HIGH SCHOOL family will gather for a student and faculty reunion in Lynchburg, Virginia. To attend this event, teachers and members of the 1923 through 1970 classes will come from near and far. Among them will be individuals who have achieved prominence in a wide variety of career fields.

WHEREAS, Dunbar High School students and faculty members will come together in August 2010 as a community of individuals with a common cultural and historic heritage; and

WHEREAS, Dunbar High School students have distinguished themselves locally, statewide, and nationally in a variety of endeavors and have credited these achievements, in part or in whole, to a Dunbar-taught confidence in abilities and courage in difficulties, and

WHEREAS, the Dunbar High School Reunion Committee will present a program in the Carl Anderson Performance Auditorium at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, commends the Dunbar High School Reunion Committee for the hours of work and planning that have gone into making this effort a success; and,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Lynchburg City School Board of Lynchburg, Virginia, takes immense pride in the extraordinary honor which has been brought to the Lynchburg City Schools as a result of the accomplishments of Dunbar High School graduates; and

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BE IT RESOLVED that the Lynchburg City School Board expresses appreciation to all Dunbar High School reunion participants who have taken the time and have come so far to show gratitude for an education that laid a strong foundation for success in a complex and ever changing world.

THE LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOL BOARD

\_\_\_\_\_  
Paul McKendrick, Superintendent

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Mary Ann H. Barker, School Board Chairman

June 15, 2010

Upon MOTION by Mr. White, SECONDED by Dr. Gerdes, the school board approved the resolution of recognition of the Dunbar High School reunion participants.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. McKendrick encouraged school board members to attend at least one of the activities or events sponsored by the reunion committee, The reunion commemorates the inspiration given to them by their teachers and the community.

**F-2. Virginia Retirement System: Resolution**

The Virginia General Assembly, in its 2010 session, passed legislation implementing new plan provisions for employees hired or rehired on or after July 1, 2010, with no prior Virginia Retirement System (VRS) service. The new plan is called the VRS Plan 2. The legislation stipulates that Plan 2 employees will pay the five percent member contribution through salary reduction on a pre-tax basis according to Internal Revenue Code §414(h). However, employers may elect to pay some or all of the five percent member contribution on behalf of its Plan 2 employees. To do so, the employer must submit a resolution to VRS.

The Lynchburg City School Board elected with the 2010-2011 budget to pay five percent member contribution. The resolution, which appears as an attachment to this agenda report, must be duly authorized by the school board by June 30, 2010, and is due to the VRS no later than August 1, 2010. VRS informed the school division of the requirement via a letter dated June 1, 2010.

Dr. Gerdes left at 6:24 p.m.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, the school board approved the resolution of Authorization to Pick-up the Employee's Contribution to VRS Under §414 (h) of the Internal Revenue Code for Plan 2 Employees.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2010, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE RESOLUTION.)

Dr. Gerdes returned at 6:27 p.m.

**F-3. Authorization of Signature**

The Virginia Department of Education requires that the school division identify an individual, who, in the absence of the superintendent, has authorization to sign all Virginia Department of Education correspondence, reports, documents, requisitions, and other official correspondence. The superintendent recommends that the school board authorize Mrs. Wendie L. Sullivan, school board clerk, to fulfill the necessary signature obligations in the absence of the superintendent. Many of the matters associated with the delegation of this authority tend to be financial and operational in nature.

Upon MOTION by Ms. Hamlett, SECONDED by Dr. Gerdes, the school board authorized Mrs. Wendie L. Sullivan, school board clerk, to sign Virginia Department of Education correspondence in the absence of the superintendent.

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Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF JUNE 15, 2010, EXHIBIT “D,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

**G. Superintendent’s Comments**

Dr. McKendrick extended his appreciation to staff at both high schools for their efforts associated with the graduation ceremonies. Both ceremonies were very well done, students were orderly, and programs were very efficiently executed.

Dr. McKendrick thanked Mr. Witt, Mr. Gatzke, Mr. Ralph L. Hayes, field coordinator of environmental services, and the Department of Information Technology for their help in moving everything from the old Sandusky Middle School site to the new site.

Dr. McKendrick announced that channel 2 will be moving to channel 17.

Dr. McKendrick announced the retirement of Judy Harris, television production specialist. This will be the last school board meeting in which she will participate in the broadcast.

**H. Board Comments**

Mrs. Barker thanked everyone involved in making the move from the old Sandusky Middle School to the new site go so smoothly.

Mrs. Tweedy provided remarks about the Amelia Pride Center graduation stating that this is always an exciting event. She also congratulated Ms. Linda J. Cole, director of secondary alternative and adult education, upon her retirement.

Rev. Anderson attended the Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation band recital, which was the culmination of a year’s work for the band.

Mr. White thanked the Greater Lynchburg Community Trust for the \$9,500 grant that will be used to cover the cost of travel to college campuses, college applications, and SAT costs for underprivileged students.

Mr. Webb provided comments about the events and activities he attended during the past two weeks. Of note were the Senior Honors Banquet, the Lynchburg City Schools’ Education Foundation, Inc. grant awards program, the VSBA School Law Conference, and the Amelia Pride Center graduation ceremony.

Dr. Gerdes offered the following comments to members of the school board:

“Thank you for one last opportunity to speak.

“I realize that many of you may not have agreed with some of my past assessments – particularly related to the budget. Please indulge me in this for just a few minutes.

“I make these remarks because it is unlikely that my replacement will hold similar views. That is alright in itself, but I will remind you that a substantial portion of our city shares my perspective and these people will no longer have a sympathetic voice on this board.

“Weighing the needs of the students, teachers, and taxpayers of our city is a balancing act. I am afraid that sometimes, while attempting to do good, we may be myopic. It’s not enough to say “It’s for the children,” without considering the effect on the children’s parents and the broader community.

“My conviction about this was reaffirmed when, after taking a public position that I would vote against any proposal that would cause the city to increase taxes, I received calls from senior citizens who thanked me. One lady thanked me profusely, telling me that she lives on a fixed budget and that she did not know how she would pay additional bills if taxes went up.

“I tell you this because, as I look forward, I see another bleak budget year.

“On every level – federal, state, and local – resources have simply dried up during this recession.

“Federal – At the federal level, we are currently borrowing 40 cents of every federal dollar we are spending. This is simply unsustainable.



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“Though the Obama Administration has claimed that we are coming out of the recession, a number of economists are predicting a w-shaped recession and few if any outside the administration predict that we will be out of the woods next year.

“It seems unlikely as the Bush tax cuts will not be renewed in December, effectively creating a tax increase, and we will soon start paying back our short-term federal debt.

“State – The Commonwealth is not immune to this recession.

“Now, I read in this morning’s paper that Governor McDonnell projects a small surplus at the end of the year. I think we can all, in a moment of bi-partisan support, hope that this prediction comes true. However, the current administration will not likely prioritize spending on education. This is partly philosophical, and partly because the Commonwealth is constitutionally obligated not to deficit spend.

“Local – In contrast, our city council is philosophically inclined to spend more on public education, but there is little desire by the people within our city to increase their own taxes during a recession. Two years ago we increased taxes through the back door by increasing property assessments, but as property values have stagnated, the school system should not expect help from that quarter.

“Nor should it. According to the Commission on Local Government of the Department of Housing and Community Development, Lynchburg is (sic) 13<sup>th</sup> most fiscally stressed city in Virginia. That is 13<sup>th</sup> out of 134 municipalities – just behind cities like Norfolk (#7), Portsmouth (#9), and Danville (#11).

“Our current system is unsustainable in this economic environment.

“Further, from my viewpoint, the way we cut this past year will only exacerbate our difficulties next year. We can only defer maintenance for so long. We all agree that this system is as much like the system we had before the budget cuts were necessary, but that is precisely the problem. Teachers do not get their salary increases because we have too many employees as we try to be all things to all people.

“Moreover, the inevitable inflation that we will experience in the next few years will make everything will (sic) become more expensive, compounding our budget problems.

“It was a shame that we could not focus more on educational policy. But were consumed with the budget. We did not have to be.

“Before our annual retreat in October I suggested that we needed to leave the retreat with canned scenarios for the 5% and 10% cut. Then we would be prepared for what would come. As it turned out, we had to cut by roughly 10%.

“Please make this a priority this year. I would urge you to create such contingency plans by the retreat this year.

“Our income is shrinking, not because we have fewer needs, but because of economic realities. We simply have to do more with less.

“If I can help you in any way, please let me know. Call on me when you propose a conservative measure to obtain fiscal health and I will lend my support.

“If conservative measures are a bridge too far, and for some of you, I am sure that they are, how about efficiency?

“Last October I proposed an efficiency award so that we could harness the great minds of our people to generate internal efficiencies that leadership may not see.

“The proposal languished in some committee. It never saw the light of day. I would urge you all to re-evaluate this proposal.

“We need to get creative. And, I want to give credit where credit is due: I applaud innovative, cost effective programs. Charlie has championed Play it Smart, a program that provided a lot of return for a little investment.

“But when we propose a more effective initiative, we should also identify a less effective thing we ought to eliminate to maintain fiscal stability. Certainly not all programs are created equal. Likewise, Tom and I haven’t agreed on many things, but Tom pushed from the left and I pushed from the right for the Early Retirement Incentive program last year. While Tom was far more generous than I would have been, any success that we had was a result of a meeting of minds.

“Dr. McKendrick – While we have opposing views on a number of issues, such as how to reduce the size of the system, I want to complement you for your foresight in investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in online

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technology in the middle of what was perhaps the most difficult budget you have ever faced. I am convinced that online delivery is not only the wave of the future, but will result in significant efficiencies over time.

“Let me add, that you have a remarkable staff. Each week when I look out into the ranks of your administrative staff – Sonny, Al, Mike, Billie Kay, Greg – I see a great deal of talent and I am hopeful that we will find creative ways to solve our problems.

“Finally, Madam Chairman, I want to thank you for even-handedness in the way you have managed this board. I know that this last year was a trial by fire, and I wish you all the best.

“Fellow Board Members, while we may have vigorously disagreed at times – particularly over spending issues – I hope I have contributed to the overall health of our system. I pray that God will grant you all wisdom as you approach the new school year. – Darin Gerdes”

**I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board convened a closed meeting at 6:45 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss specific employee performance.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board reconvened in open session at 7:24 p.m.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Tweedy, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, 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: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**J. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Wednesday, July 21, 2010, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

**K. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

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Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

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Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

(SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILES ARE LOCATED IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR FINANCE AT THE SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING.)