

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
October 1, 2019**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

Kimberly A. Sinha

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Crystal M. Edwards, Superintendent  
Ben W. Copeland, Deputy Superintendent  
Kimberly Lukanich, Chief Financial Officer  
Amy Pugh, Director of Information Technology  
Christi Meservy, Clerk

**STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES  
PRESENT:**

Chris Marotta  
Ian Garland

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

News & Advance

**Agenda Items:**

- A-1. Agenda Approval
- B-1. Closed Meeting
- B-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- C-1. Special Presentation
- D-1. Public Comments

- E-1. Finance Report
- F-1. Consent Agenda
- F-2. Personnel Report
- F-3. Religious Exemption
- G-1. Student Representative Comments
- H-1. School Board Committee Reports
- H-2. Advisory Committees to the School Board
- I-1. Strategic Plan Discussion
- J-1. Lynchburg City School Board Governance Policy Review
- J-2. Lynchburg City School Board Policy Updates
- K-1. Health Advisory Board Committee
- K-2. Capital Improvement Program Update
- K-3. Lynchburg City School Board Section 4-Finance
- L. Superintendent's Comments
- M. Board Comments
- N. Information Items
- O. Adjournment
- P-1. Closed Meeting
- P-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

### **A-1 Agenda Approval**

Upon MOTION Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Dr. Nilles, the school board approved the October 1, 2019 Board Meeting Agenda.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Mr. Harvey, the school board approved the Amended Agenda to include the F-2 Personnel Report, the P-1 Closed Meeting, and P-2 Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

### **B-1. Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:08 p.m. as permitted by the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711(A)(1), for consultation with legal counsel about the pending case of Travell Massie, et al. v. Lynchburg City School Board, et al., because consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the School Board:

As permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with legal counsel about the pending case of Twanna Hancock v. Lynchburg city Schools and Lynchburg City School Board, because consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the School Board; and

As permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(7), for consultation with legal counsel about the pending case of John McClain v. Lynchburg City Schools and Lynchburg City School Board, because consultation in an open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the School Board.

## **B-2 Certification of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Brennan, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:23 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, 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 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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

## **C-1 Special Presentation**

Paul Munro Elementary School in Lynchburg City Public Schools District has been recognized as an Exemplary High Performing Schools National Blue Ribbon School for 2019 by U.S. Secretary of Education, Betsy DeVos.

The National Blue Ribbon Schools Program award recognized public and private elementary, middle, and high schools where students either achieve very high learning standards or are making notable improvements in closing the achievement gap. Since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out and celebrated great American schools. The National communities in creating safe and welcoming schools where students master challenging content.

Two representatives from Paul Munro Elementary School are invited to Washington, DC for the

November recognition ceremony where they will be presented with a National Blue Ribbon School plaque and flag as symbols of the school's achievements.

The Paul Munro Principal and several staff members came to show the board members there items of recognition. Principal Baer spoke to the board about the staff and student commitment. She said that there is a real sense of family and community at Paul Munro. It takes a team to have a Blue Ribbon School.

### **D-1. 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.

Reason Chandler spoke about the 'Do Not Sleep On'. He has a student with a disability. Students that struggle with attendance need help. They need a plan.

Richard Edward Davis spoke on behalf of First Christian Church regarding the meeting for a 2<sup>nd</sup> chance.

Tyler Milton and Jesse Winn represented Virginia Organizing and spoke about the Non-Discrimination Policy. Specifically, that the LGBTQ school population needs protection. No child should be the target of hostility.

Dan Harrison spoke about the Non-Discrimination Policy.

Joe Marrachinni represented the E.C. Glass Athletic Boosters. He wanted the board to be aware of the need for a practice field at E.C. Glass.

David Ahrens and Jason Landes both spoke about the need for a practice field at E.C. Glass.

### **E-1. Finance Report**

The school administration, in accordance with the FY2019-20 school's operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through August 31, 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 August 31, 2019 for the operating fund.

Total Operating Fund Budget	\$ 98,752,961.00
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Through August 31, 2019

Actual Revenue Received	\$ 6,590,325.14
Actual Expenditures	\$ 11,079,134.68
Actual Encumbered	\$ 70,775,185.82

Percent of Budget Received	6.67%
Percent of Budget Used, excluding encumbrances	11.22%

As of 08/31/19 – 2 months		16.67%
August Health Insurance Payments (Four payments):		
Administrative Fees	\$	108,287.89
Medical and Pharmacy Claims	\$	818,374.36
Health Insurance Payable Balance at August 31, 2019	\$	421,532.08

The revenue and expenditure reports detail the transactions recorded through August 31, 2019. All reports appear as attachments to the agenda report.

### **F. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board moved the minutes for September 3, 2019 (Regular Meeting), work session minutes from August 20, 2019, Student Discipline Committee Meeting minutes from September 5, 2019, the personnel recommendations for September 3, 2019 to October 1, 2019 and the religious exemption were approved.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

### **G. Student Representative Comments**

Chris Marotta presented a video of all the activities going on at E. C. Glass since school started.

Ian Garland presented a video of all the activities going on at Heritage High School since school started.

All board members were in agreement that the student comments really adds to the board meetings and encouraged them both to keep up the good work. Mrs. Morrison challenged them to encourage their fellow students of voting age to register.

### **H. School Board Committee Report**

1. School Board Committees:

*Finance Committee*-Chair, Dr. Gupta handed out the Finance Committee Agenda and all the attachments from the committee meeting.

*Governor's School Committee*-Mr. Harvey is the Chair of the Governor's School Committee. He mentioned that there are 138 students enrolled. There are two spaces available. LCS has 42 students who attend. He also mentioned the meeting schedule will be changing.

*Laurel Regional School Committee*-No meeting.

*XLR8 STEM Academy Committee*-No meeting.

*Legislative Advocacy Committee*-Dr. Brennan reported that the committee is working on the legislative agenda for the November board meeting. Dr. Brennan also mentioned the "Adopt a School" pilot program will be starting soon.

2. Advisory Committees to the School Board:

*General Career Technical Advisory Committee*-There is a meeting scheduled for October 22, 2019.

*Equity Task Force Committee*-No information to report at this time.

Health Advisory Board Committee-No information to report at this time.  
Special Education Advisory Committee-Mr. VanDerwerker reported that October is disability awareness month. The committee is hosting an event on 10/22 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Heritage HS called "Understanding Students with Mental Health Needs".

### **I-1. Strategic Plan Discussion**

The Lynchburg City School Board is committed to an ongoing review of student data and discussion regarding strategies to address and close the learning/achievement gaps. The focus of tonight's discussion was to review the objectives listed under Goal 4. Outlined in this rough draft are the strategies related to community engagement/involvement that support positive outcomes for student growth and development.

### **J-1. Lynchburg City School Board Governance Policy Review**

As a result of school board review at the August 6, 2019, school board meeting, the Governance Policy Workgroup met on August 8th to discuss policy BDDH/KD Public Participation at School Board Meetings that had been presented to the full board with additional recommended language. It was suggested that a line adding "Priority to be given to new speakers"

Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman the school board denied the inclusion of the additional statement.

Yes Votes: Dr. Coleman, Mr. Harvey, Dr. Nilles

No Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mrs. Morrison

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Dr. Brennan the school board approved the document and determined that the additional language was not needed at this time.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Mrs. Morrison

No Votes: Ms. Carter, Mr. Harvey, Dr. Nilles

Abstentions: None

### **J-2. Lynchburg City School Board Policy Updates**

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Evans, the school board accepted the policy revisions received from the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA).

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

These policies were reviewed by the Instruction and Program Work Group on August 15, 2019, and have been reviewed by legal counsel. They reflect the latest changes in state and federal law. These policy revisions from the VSBA May 2019 update appear as attachments to the agenda report.

JEB – Entrance Age/Admission of Persons Not of School Age  
JFCE – Gang Activity or Association  
JHH – Suicide Prevention

### **K-1. Health Advisory Board Committee 2019-2020**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Dr. Brennan approved the appointment of advisory councils or committees of citizens of the school division for consultation with reference to specific matters pertaining to local schools. These committees shall serve without compensation for one-year terms and report annually to the Board.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Membership: The School Health Advisory Board may have a maximum of 20 members including but not limited to, parents/guardians, students, health professionals, educators, and others. Members are appointed annually.

Purpose: The purpose of the School Health Advisory Board is to assist with the development of health policy in the school division and the evaluation of the status of school health, health education, the school environment, and health services.

Meeting: The School Health Advisory Board meets 4-5 times annually.

The proposed membership appears as an attachment to this agenda report.

### **K-2. Capital Improvement Program Update**

During this presentation, the school administration provided the school board with an update on the Capital Improvement Program and discussions with the City.

### **K-3. Lynchburg City School Board Section 4 – Finance**

Policies and regulations from Section 4 – Finance for conversion to the Virginia School Board Association (VSBA) formatted policies were reviewed on August 26, 2019, by the Finance policy workgroup. As a result of this review, some revisions have been made to the VSBA policies and regulations that conform to current state and federal laws and regulations. Legal counsel has also reviewed these policies and regulations. A copy of these policies and regulations has been provided to school board members. The school administration will provide an overview of those changes and respond to questions during this presentation.

### **L-1. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. Edwards ran the VA 10 Miler. She saw several familiar LCS faces.

Dr. Edwards participated in the Human Kind 'Over the Edge'. She commented on what a wonderful experience it was. She wanted to give a huge thank you to everyone that supported her.

She gave us a reminder of the October 8th celebration at Perrymont Elementary. The VA Secretary of Agriculture and Forestry will visit the school to see how students are enjoying the locally sourced milk from Homestead Creamery during lunch.

Dr. Edwards thanked the student representatives for participating. She loved the student voice.

She mentioned the 3<sup>rd</sup> graders are going to Point of Honor this month.

Dr. Edwards wants to tour the schools to learn what is being taught about African American History.

She mentioned Dunbar Middle School took part in a wonderful experience while on the James River. Anytime you can connect nature to curriculum it is a great thing.

October is national Bullying Prevention Month, Spanish Heritage Month, and October 2<sup>nd</sup> is Custodial Day.

### **M-1. Board Comments**

Dr. Brennan mentioned that there was a plaque presented to the LCS Transportation Department for their participation in the VA 10 Miler.

Mr. Harvey completed the New Board Member Orientation. He thought it was a great training. He admires the staff, he specifically mentioned the maintenance and grounds crew.

Dr. Coleman welcomed Hope Townes. She is a member of our legal counsel. She plans to attend as many board meetings as she can. Dr. Coleman also mentioned he thought the student representatives had a top notch presentation.

Mrs. Morrison wanted to draw attention to the newsletter put out by Cindy Babb and what a great job she is doing. The newsletter and Dr. Edwards' Goal Posts are great resources for all of us.

### **N-1. Information Items**

The School Board Retreat will be held on Friday, October 11, 2019 from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm at the University of Lynchburg.

A School Board Work Session will be held on Tuesday, October 15, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room at the Administration Building.

The next School Board Meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 6, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the board room at the Administration Building.



**O-1. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

**P-1 Notice of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by , the school board convened a closed meeting at 8:15 p.m. as permitted by Virginia Code §2.2-3711(A)(2), discussion or consideration of admission or disciplinary matters or any other matters that would involve the disclosure of information contained in a scholastic record concerning a student.

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

Not Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

Upon MOTION by Mr. Harvey, SECONDED by Mrs. Evans, the school board reconvened in open session at

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None


Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman, 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

Not Votes: None

Abstentions: None

  
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Susan D. Morrison, Chair

  
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Christi Meservy, Clerk