

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
November 3, 2009**

**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
Robert W. Jones, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Joshua K. Graham, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent
Stephen C. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
Beverly A. Padgett, Chief Financial Officer
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director of Special Education
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. American Education Week: November 15-19, 2009
- B-2. Virginia School Boards Association: Green School Challenge
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E. Unfinished Business
- F-1. Lynchburg City Schools' Comprehensive Plan
- F-2. Legislative Positions: 2009-10
- 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 5:30 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.

There were no individuals who wished to speak before the school board.

B-1. American Education Week: November 16-20, 2009

The National Education Foundation Association's 88th Annual American Education Week (AEW) spotlights the importance of providing every child in the United States with a quality public education from kindergarten through college and the need for everyone to do his or her part in making public schools great. This year, AEW will be celebrated November 16-20, 2009. The week-long celebration spotlights those who are critical in building great public schools for this nation's children. Activities for the week will include the following:

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|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Monday – November 16, 2009 | Open House Day |
| • Tuesday – November 17, 2009 | Parents Day |
| • Wednesday – November 18, 2009 | Education Support Professionals Day |
| • Thursday – November 19, 2009 | Educator for a Day |
| • Friday – November 20, 2009 | Substitute Educators Day |

This year's theme, "Great Public Schools: A Basic Right and Our Responsibility," reflects the National Education Association's calling upon America to provide children with quality public schools so that they can grow, prosper, and achieve in the 21st century.

Mrs. Farmer provided the school board with a brief review of the activities that will occur at each school. She also stated that Mr. Billingsly will participate in activities on November 19 as "Educator for a Day."

B-2. Virginia School Boards Association: Green School Challenge

School and central office administrators made extra effort last year to reduce the school division's utility costs. Thus, staff developed plans and more importantly, modified their behaviors relative to the use of electricity, heating and air conditioning, and water. As a result of these changes in behavior, almost all schools reduced their utility use. Moreover, as a school division, last year Lynchburg City Schools realized a reduction in kilowatt hours by more than 15 percent.

Because of these successes, the school administration nominated the school division in the Virginia School Boards Association's (VSBA) Green Schools Challenge. On October 26, 2009, VSBA informed the school administration that it had selected the school division as a winner in the Challenge. VSBA, will therefore, recognize the school division during the VSBA Conference's Opening General Session, at 2:00 p.m., on November 18, 2009. The school division was selected from its category of Virginia school divisions with 5,000-10,000 students.

During this special presentation, the school administration shared information about the program that it implemented last year as well as the successes experienced during that implementation. Among the various initiatives that the school division implemented were student energy clubs, conducting energy audits at schools, and establishing an energy committee. Those activities continue this year.

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Ms. Hamlett, SECONDED by Mr. White, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for October 20, 2009 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report for the period October 20 – November 3, 2009, the revised Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-through Budget and Section 619 Preschool Grant for 2009-10, the Pauline F. Maloney STEP with Links program 2009-10 budget, and a request for religious exemption from mandatory attendance at school.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Mr. 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 NOVEMBER 3, 2009, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

D. Student Representative Comments

Mr. Robert W. Jones, student representative for Heritage High School, and Mr. Joshua K. Graham, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided information about events and activities occurring at their schools.

E. Unfinished Business

None

F-1. Lynchburg City Schools' Comprehensive Plan: 2009-11

The *Standards of Quality* require local school boards to adopt a division-wide comprehensive plan to improve classroom instruction and student achievement. The Lynchburg City Schools' proposed comprehensive plan is built around the six school board *Vision for Education* foci: Academic Eminence; Sound, Honorable Character; Exemplary Personnel; Parental Involvement and Community Investment; Respect for Diversity; and Model Facilities. Each vision focus area includes goals followed by strategies for meeting the goals. Each strategy is followed by columns providing the titles of those responsible, the timeline for completion, and the method of evaluation or evidence of completion.

As required by the *Standards of Quality*, the proposed comprehensive plan also includes a description of regional services, a forecast of anticipated enrollment changes, a technology plan, and evidence of community involvement in the development of the plan.

Also as required by the *Standards of Quality*, the plan's draft will be posted on the Lynchburg City Schools' website (www.lcsedu.net) on November 4, 2009, and will be open to email comment from the public at comprehensiveplan@lcsedu.net. Citizens will also be able to provide feedback during the public comment portion of the November 17, 2009, school board meeting.

Dr. McKendrick stated that there are several areas within the document that need more specificity when explaining the activities and events that will occur in order to address focus areas within the document. The school administration will continue to make revisions to the document and bring it back to the school board for review. The plan evaluation for 2008-09 will be considered by the school board at the meeting on November 17, 2009.

F-2. Legislative Positions: 2009-10

During the school board retreat, school board members reviewed the adopted legislative positions for 2008-09 and proposed changes to those positions. Those changes appeared as an attachment to the agenda report. The school board reviewed these changes and Dr. Gerdes requested that the first two items under *Compensation and Employee Relations* be listed under *Funding* so that he could vote on funding positions separately.

This item will be considered at the school board meeting on November 17, 2009.

G. Superintendent's Comments

The Lynchburg City School Board and the Lynchburg City Council will meet for a joint study session on November 17, 2009, at 4:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. During that meeting, the city and schools administration will provide a review of the consolidation efforts of the two organizations. Further the city council and school board will receive a progress report on the Sandusky Middle School project, and they will discuss legislative positions for 2009-10.

H. Board Comments

Mrs. Barker made the following statement regarding the school board's priorities for 2009-10.

"The Lynchburg City School Board adopted the following priorities in November 2009. The board established these priorities with the commitment to utilizing a proactive budget development process to align available resources to meet our educational needs."

The priorities are: achievement gap; graduation rates; alternative education reorganization; developing a viable and responsible capital improvement plan; improving staff recruitment, retention, and development; and enhancing marketing and communications.

Mrs. Barker also noted that while the grading scale did not gain the interest of most members of the school board, it remains a high priority, and the school board still plans to meet with community members, guidance directors, and college admissions representatives regarding this topic.

Mr. Webb provided information about the events and activities in which he has participated during the past several weeks. Most noteworthy was the Mayor's Youth Council breakfast, a parent dinner at Hutcherson Early Learning Center, and an unofficial tour of the Fort Hill Community School.

I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Gerdes, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board convened a closed meeting at 6:35 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) (2) to discuss personnel matters and student discipline matters.

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Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Mr. 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 Mrs. Tweedy, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, the school board reconvened in open session at 7:24 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Dr. Gerdes, the school board approved by roll call vote the following Certificate 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, Mr. 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: Tuesday, November 17, 2009, 6:00 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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