

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
December 4, 2012**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Charles B. White, Chairman
Trenay L. Tweedy, Vice Chairman
Mary Ann H. Barker
Albert L. Billingsly
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Jennifer R. Poore
Katie K. Snyder
J. Marie Waller
Thomas H. Webb
Sara B. Natour, Student Representative for E. C. Glass High School
Tiani O. Pannell, Student Representative for Heritage High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
William A. Coleman, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
Anthony E. Beckles, Sr., Chief Financial Officer
Jason J. Ferguson, Director of Transportation
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Maintenance
Marie F. Gee, Director of Personnel
Kevin M. Latham, Director of Secondary Education
Gloria C. Preston, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary School
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director of Special Education
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. School Improvement Plan: Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E-1. Lynchburg City Schools Comprehensive Plan: Operations
- E-2. School Operating Budget: 2013-14
- F-1. High School Program of Studies: 2013-14
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I. Informational Item
- J. 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. Mr. White opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board added items C-1. Religious Exemption, C-2. Personnel Report, I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, and I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting to the school board meeting agenda.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Waller, Mr. Webb

No Votes: None

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Abstentions: None

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 appear before the school board.

B-1. School Improvement Plan: Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation

The superintendent has directed each school within the school division to form a School Improvement Planning Team that will develop school improvement plans that identify areas for growth and improvement specific to their students' academic, behavioral, and cultural needs. During this presentation, Mrs. Amy D. Huskin, principal at Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation, and members of her staff reviewed each section of the school improvement plan and outlined the various goals and strategies in place for achievement, behavior, and culture.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2012, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THOMAS C. MILLER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL FOR INNOVATION.)

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Mrs. Tweedy, the school board approved the request for religious exemption and the personnel report for the period November 27 – December 4, 2012.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Waller, Mr. Webb

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2012, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

D. Student Representative Comments

Miss, Sara B. Natour, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, and Miss Tiani O. Pannell, student representative for Heritage High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

E-1. Lynchburg City Schools Comprehensive Plan: Operations

Part of the Lynchburg City Schools Comprehensive Plan focuses on the operations of the school division. Excellence in the areas of operations includes "providing a school environment that is clean, safe, well maintained, efficient, and conducive to learning, for all students, staff, and guests." To ensure the facilities are well maintained and sanitary, strategies were established and key personnel were identified to conduct monthly custodial inspections.

During this presentation, Mr. Copeland provided the school board with a summary of how the school administration evaluates each school during inspections each month as well as a chart of progress custodians are making thus far this school year.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF DECEMBER 4, 2012, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.)

E-2. School Operating Budget: 2012-13

As part of the budget development process for FY2013-14, the school administration has conducted several community budget meetings in order to share information and receive comments about next year's budget. On November 27, 2012, that presentation was given to the school board. Following the presentation, school board members were able to provide comments about budget priorities and to discuss items that the school administration has suggested for possible inclusion for next year.

The school administration explained that one of the reasons the request for truancy clerks has been submitted is due to the number of duties for which elementary secretaries and guidance counselors are responsible. With the changes to the attendance policy, additional documentation is necessary to present during court

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appearances for truancy cases, and truancy clerks could take this burden away from guidance counselors, greet visitors so that elementary school secretaries would not have that responsibility, and serve in other capacities where necessary.

If the school division were to hire three social workers, this would help alleviate the current caseload from one social worker, who serves the entire school division, and distribute caseloads to a more manageable level. It was noted that all of the positions discussed would be recurring costs.

The school board will convene a work session to discuss priorities within the tiers prior to the next school board meeting.

F-1. High School Program of Studies: 2013-14

Each year modifications are made to the *High School Program of Studies* to reflect changes at the federal, state, and/or local level.

On June 8, 2012, the Virginia Department of Education approved the Emergency Amendments to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131) to Conform to HB 1061 and SB 489 (2012) and a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) for Permanent Amendments to the Regulations.

The emergency regulations expand opportunities to learn by setting forth the expectations for students to be prepared for college or a career upon graduation by requiring students pursuing a Standard Diploma to earn a career credential, and for students pursuing either a Standard or an Advanced Studies Diploma to have had the opportunity to take a virtual course in their high school career.

The following changes comport to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* with the legislation:

- Beginning with first-time ninth graders in the 2013-2014 school year, students must earn a career and technical education credential that has been approved by the Board in order to graduate with a Standard Diploma. This credential could include, but not be limited to, the successful completion of an industry certification, a state licensure examination, a national occupational competency assessment, or the Virginia workplace readiness skills assessment.
- The Modified Standard Diploma will be folded into the Standard Diploma, and the Board of Education will establish, through guidelines, credit accommodations for students with disabilities. Such credit accommodations for students with disabilities may include the following:
 - Approval of alternative courses to meet the standard credit requirements;
 - Modifications to the requirements for local school divisions to award locally awarded verified credits;
 - Approval of additional tests to earn a verified credit;
 - Adjusted cut scores required to earn verified credit; and
 - Allowance of work-based learning experiences.
- Students pursuing a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma will successfully complete one virtual course, which may be a noncredit-bearing course.
- The Standard Technical Diploma and the Advanced Technical Diploma will be eliminated.
- Consistent with the legislation, the regulations will specify that the Advanced Studies Diploma shall be the recommended diploma for students pursuing baccalaureate study. Both the Standard and the Advanced Studies Diploma shall prepare students for postsecondary education and the career readiness required by the Commonwealth's economy.

In addition, the following local changes are recommended:

- The addition of Criminal Justice 1: This career-technical education course presents an overview of the criminal justice system and introduces the major system components in law enforcement, judiciary, and corrections. (pg. 46)
- References to Early College and the Regional STEM Academy (pg. 2)
- The restructuring of physical education courses so that all students participate in comparable activities based on grade level (pg. 39)
- The elimination of the following courses: Advanced Economics and Personal Finance; Oral Expression; Arts Appreciation; Medical Assistant 2; Computer Mathematics; and Algebra1 Part 2
- Renaming of four career-technical education courses in the areas of Architecture and Construction and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (pgs. 40, 45-46)

The school board will consider this item for action at the next school board meeting

G. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Brabrand commended Heritage High School's football team for its efforts last Saturday. The team will compete for the state championship on December 8.

Dr. Brabrand commented that Mrs. Huskin had presented to the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce the new Partners In Education program. Mrs. Huskin, who has taken over the responsibilities of this program this year, will work with the Chamber and local businesses in an effort to engage them in the PIE program.

Dr. Brabrand announced that with the approval of the personnel report this evening, Ms. Susan Cash was appointed as the director of the Governor's STEM Academy, effective January 3, 2013. The STEM academy is a regional program in collaboration with Central Virginia Community College.

Beginning this Friday, the school division will begin providing digital devices to students at the schools for innovation who are in fourth and fifth grade. Students at William Marvin Bass Elementary School will receive tablets later this quarter.

H. Board Comments

Mr. Webb stated that he plans to have a busy Saturday, beginning with the City Market at 7:00 a.m. to support the E. C. Glass High School Chamber Orchestra, and then he will attend two football games; one for Brookville High School and the other for Heritage High School.

I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board convened a closed meeting at 7:48 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss personnel matters.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Waller, Mr. Webb

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:41 p.m.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Waller, Mr. Webb

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Ms. Poore, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, 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: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Ms. Snyder, Ms. Waller, Mr. Webb

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

J. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 18, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

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K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Charles B. White, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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