

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2017**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell, Vice Chairman
Sharon Y. Carter
James E. Coleman
Charleta F. Mason
Susan D. Morrison
Derek L. Polley
Kimberly A. Sinha
Katie K. Snyder
Indya M. Page, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Sidney M. Marshall, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning and Success
Anthony E. Beckles, Sr., Chief Financial Officer
April M. Bruce, Director for Data, Assessment, and Accountability
David A. Childress, Director for Information Technology
Steven L. Gatzke, Director for Facilities and Maintenance
Marie F. Gee, Director for Personnel
Ethel E. Reeves, Director for Engagement, Equity, and Opportunity
Michael K. Rudder, Director for School Improvement
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director for Exceptional Learners
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Josh Moody, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- B-1. Public Comments
- C-1. Update on Schools Denied Accreditation
- C-2. School Board Appreciation Month
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F. School Board Committee Report
- G. Unfinished Business
- H-1. School Culture Survey Results
- H-2. Middle School Program of Studies: 2017-18
- H-3. Policy EBCB Safety Drills
- I. Superintendent's Comments
- J. Board Comments
- K. Informational Items
- L. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:02 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Dr. Nilles opened the meeting.

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Mrs. Morrison, the school board convened a closed meeting pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) (29) for the purpose of considering employee performance and to

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receive a briefing regarding contract negotiations where discussion in an open session would adversely affect the position of the public body.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Ms. Mason arrived at 5:06 p.m.

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:31 p.m.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Morrison, 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 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. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Nilles asked those in attendance to rise and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board removed item H-4. Hearing Officers from its school board meeting agenda.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-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.

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

C-1. Update on Schools Denied Accreditation

Dr. Brabrand explained that at the last school board meeting, board members received copies of the Memorandum of Understand and the Corrective Action Plan for Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation and Linkhorne Middle School. Prior to the implementation of the Corrective Action Plan for these schools, a planning tool, called Indistar, provided by the Office of School Improvement at the Virginia Department of Education, had been used to monitor school improvement plans. This tool focused on generalized practices and processes rather than specific strategies to assess progress. This year, VDOE allowed the school division to explore other options for school improvement planning that would focus more on school needs. Since Dearington Elementary School for Innovation and Perrymont Elementary School have been working with the American Institute for Research, the lead turnaround provider for those schools, a school improvement theory model was developed, and training for all principals in the use of this model began this past summer.

Schools began developing individual school improvement plans based on the new model. The plans are built using goals from the Comprehensive Plan, essential actions from the Corrective Action Plan, and balanced school-initiated strategies with three core strategies at all schools, LOLET/COLET, PLCs, and PBIS. Each school within the school division is assigned a mentor, the mentor meets quarterly with the school improvement team, and then the mentor provides the principal with feedback regarding the school improvement plan implementation.

Documentation in support of the implementation of the Corrective Action is reviewed by the director for the office of school improvement and next steps and actions are identified as necessary. Triennial meetings occur with the principal, a representative from the VDOE office of school improvement, superintendent, and central office staff. The next triennial meeting will occur on March 14, 2017. Principals from Linkhorne Middle School and Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation will present highlights from the work this year as well as feedback received from the office of school improvement during the March 21, 2017, school board meeting.

C-2. School Board Appreciation Month

The month of February marks the annual observance of School Board Appreciation Month. The Virginia School Boards Association established this observance in 1989 to encourage public recognition of the roles and responsibilities of school board members and to highlight the importance of public education throughout the Commonwealth.

This year's theme is, "Lead to Inspire," which reflects the priority of local school boards as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders.

The Lynchburg City Schools is joining with other school divisions throughout the state to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities.

Members of the Lynchburg City School Board receive no financial compensation for their tireless efforts, and this school board is one of very few boards statewide that has student representatives. The nine members of the school board are appointed by Lynchburg City Council.

Even though this special event shows an appreciation of school board members, members of the community recognize that their contributions reflect a year-round commitment. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of the city's schools and students.

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for February 2, 2017 (Student Discipline Committee Meeting); February 7, 2017 (Regular Meeting); February 7, 2017 (Joint Meeting); and February 9, 2017 (Student Discipline Committee Meeting); and the personnel report for the period February 7 – 21, 2017.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

E. Student Representative Comments

Ms. Indya M. Page, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Sidney M. Marshall, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

F. School Board Committee Reports

Mr. Polley announced that the Finance Committee met on February 16, 2017. Items discussed during that meeting were revisions to Policy 4-10, the new policy for unpaid meal balances, a revised salary and wages pay table for school nutrition employees, and the reduction in state revenue for FY2017.

Dr. Coleman stated that the school division's website now has a page dedicated to the Equity Task Force where informational items relative to the task force can be found. There will be an Equity Task Force meeting on February 23, 2017.

Ms. Carter informed the board that the LAUREL Regional School Board met to discuss budget concerns and compensation for nurses. The Friends of EC Glass Art also met to begin preparations for the upcoming art show.

G. Unfinished Business

None

H-1. School Culture Survey Results

Each school year, and as part of Strategy Cluster 2 of the Promise Plan, Lynchburg City Schools administers a survey of students, parents, and staff regarding the climate and culture in the schools. This year's survey was conducted November 21 – December 13, 2016, using the same survey as last year. Surveys were administered to employees, parent/guardians, and students. Students in grades five, seven, eight, ten, eleven, and twelve were required to take the survey. Categories in which questions were asked were academic expectations, safety and respect, communication, engagement, attitude and culture, leadership, discipline, bullying, discrimination, harassment, and the reporting of such incidents.

Responses to statements such as "I treat my teachers with respect," and "My teachers care about me," were shared with the school board. Selected data from employee and parent responses was also shared. Comparison data relative to the Comprehensive Plan survey results for 2015-16 and 2016-17 showed a decrease in how middle school students felt about their interactions with teachers whereas there was a positive increase in how parents felt about interactions with school staff.

Recurring themes from the data gathered show that communication and respect for others are areas that continue to need improvement.

H-2. Middle School Program of Studies: 2017-18

The school board annually reviews and approves the Middle School Program of Studies for the next school year. The updated version for 2017-2018 is proposed, with the new version only modified slightly from the 2016-2017. The updates for 2017-2018 are to incorporate changes in the recently approved 2017-18 High School Program of Studies. Questions regarding this document should be directed to Dr. McClain.

This item will be considered for action at the next school board meeting.

H-3. Policy EBCB Safety Drills

Current updates to the Code of Virginia with regard to fire drills and lock-down drills require updates to Lynchburg City School Board Policy. VSBA Policy EBCB Safety Drills was presented to the school board. It was noted that this policy will replace the existing School Board Policy 6-9: Emergency Drills.

This item will be considered as a consent agenda item at the next school board meeting.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2017, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF POLICY EBCB SAFETY DRILLS.)

I. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Brabrand provided comments about intersession, which will occur next week. During that time, the department for information technology will offer a drone build opportunity for students.

Dr. Steven Staples, superintendent of public instruction, along with 15 superintendents from the Commonwealth, visited E. C. Glass High School and Dearington Elementary School for Innovation on February 10, 2017, to observe LOLET/COLET and how it is delivered in the classroom.

Generation Found, a movie about a true story involving one community coming together to ignite a peer-driven, youth addiction recovery revolution in their hometown, will be shown at the Miller Center on March 9, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. Parents, students, and community members are encouraged to attend.

Ted Dintersmith, author of the book and producer of the movie, *Most Likely to Succeed*, will be presenting at the Information Technology Center on March 16, 2017. A free screening of the movie will occur on March 13, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the Forum at Heritage High School.

J. Board Comments

The school board recognized Mrs. Sullivan as part of School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board adopted the following resolution:

The Lynchburg City School Board recognizes School Board Clerk
Wendie L. Sullivan

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WHEREAS, school board clerks in each locality throughout our great Commonwealth are appointed by law to fulfill their duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks are responsible for keeping accurate records of the meetings and proceedings of the school board, a record of all receipts and disbursements, and a record of all official acts; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks perform such other duties in connection with the school business of the city as may be required by the school board; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks maintain frequent contact with the public, including parents, employees and the media, on behalf of the school board and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks, in the performance of their duties, are often required to work extra hours attending school board meetings; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks join with school boards to help ensure that students achieve to their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks provide an invaluable service for school board members and superintendents, the VSBA Board of Directors does hereby recognize the third week of February as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg City School Board joins the VSBA in recognizing the many and varied contributions of school board clerks;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that at its meeting on the second day of February, the year 2017, the Lynchburg City School Board also recognizes this week of February as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman

February 21, 2017

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent

February 21, 2017

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Mrs. Snyder thanked all of the schools for providing all of the gifts for School Board Appreciation. She also thanked all of the volunteers who helped with a recent math challenge celebration that occurred at Robert S. Payne Elementary School. Many of the volunteers were homeschool parents, and she appreciated their time and their help during this celebration.

Mr. Polley was recently recruited to play in the Heritage High School student vs. staff basketball game. He also provided comments about the middle school all-star game, which included students from surrounding counties and private schools.

Dr. Coleman offered remarks about the wonderful job the E. C. Glass High School Jazz Band did while performing at a recent event hosted by Alpha Phi Alpha.

K. Informational Items

Closed Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 5:00 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

Public Budget Hearing: Tuesday, March 7, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 7, 2017, Immediately following the public budget hearing; Board Room, School Administration Building.

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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