

Lynchburg City School Board
Work Session
April 23, 2019

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Susan D. Morrison, Chairman
James E. Coleman, Vice Chairman (left at 5:48 p.m.)
Robert O. Brennan
Sharon Y. Carter
Belle H. Evans
Atul Gupta
Charleta F. Mason (arrived at 5:01 p.m.)
Michael J. Nilles
Kimberly A. Sinha (arrived at 5:02 p.m.)

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Crystal M. Edwards, Superintendent (arrived at 6:19 p.m.)
Ben W. Copeland, Deputy Superintendent
Marie F. Gee, Director of Personnel
April M. Bruce, Director of Curriculum and Instruction
LaTonya D. Brown, Director of Student Services
Ethel E. Reeves, Director of Engagement, Equity, and Opportunity
Barbara W. Saunders, Deputy Clerk

MEDIA PRESENT:

Liz Ramos. The News and Advance

The Lynchburg City School Board met for a work session at 5:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the School Administration Building. Mrs. Morrison opened the session. Upon MOTION by Dr. Gupta, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman, the school board approved the addition of an agenda item to the end of the agenda of Future Board Topics.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Dearington Academy
2. Graduation Survey
3. Attendance Policy - High Schools
4. Strategic Planning Language
5. Future Board Topics

1. Dearington Academy

The board held an in depth conversation about the formation of the Dearington Academy. Dr. Copeland and Mr. Rule addressed expanding services for non-traditional learners and purchasing adjacent property for the addition of two mobile units. Board members shared their concerns and requested additional information regarding the benefits of having traditional and non-traditional students together, along with projected costs of the project.

2. Graduation Survey

Mr. Beatty and Dr. Garrett discussed with the board the survey that was sent out to all high school juniors (and sophomores at Heritage), their parents, and school staff at the request of several students regarding the possibility of moving graduation ceremonies to an off-campus location to accommodate a larger crowd. Board members felt that a couple of public engagement sessions were needed before a decision was made.

3. Attendance Policy – High Schools

Mrs. Evans felt that the attendance policy should be reviewed and implemented consistently at all LCS schools. Mrs. Morrison spoke about “tweaking” the policy and having it ready by August for the 2019-2020 school year.

4. Strategic Planning Language

Dr. Nilles shared his suggestions for the wording of the Strategic Plan – Goal Statements. Dr. Brennan agreed and added additional wording. Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Ms. Mason the school board approved the adoption of these goals.

Yes Votes: Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Mrs. Evans, Dr. Gupta, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Dr. Sinha

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

5. Future Topics

- GO Center
- Volunteers
- Be Smart – Mom’s Demand Action
- Graduation

Adjourned

6:39 p.m.

Susan D. Morrison, Chairman

Barbara W. Saunders, Deputy Clerk