

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
August 1, 2017**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman
James E. Coleman, Vice Chairman
Robert O. Brennan
Sharon Y. Carter
Charleta F. Mason
Susan D. Morrison
Derek L. Polley
Kimberly A. Sinha
Katie K. Snyder
Manan A. Shah, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Kenadie D. Roberson, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Larry A. Massie, Acting Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administration
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Success
Anthony E. Beckles, Sr., Chief Financial Officer
LaTonya D. Brown, Director for Student Support, Behavior, and Alternative Education
April M. Bruce, Director for Data, Assessment, and Accountability
David A. Childress, Director for Information Technology
Steven L. Gatzke, Director for Facilities
Marie F. Gee, Director for Personnel
Michael K. Rudder, Director for School Improvement
Russell E. Stone, Director for Transportation
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director for Exceptional Learners
Dixie B. Sears, Supervisor for Language Arts, History, Library, and Foreign Language
Maria T. Jaeger, Supervisor for Math and Science
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. Paul Munro Elementary School
- C-2. Update on Schools Denied Accreditation
- C-3. Federally Calculated SOL Results
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F. School Board Committee Report
- G-1. Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers
- H-1. Hearing Officers
- H-2. Administrative Regulation 7-63: Fees/Deposits/Materials/Reimbursements
- H-3. Policy LBD Home Instruction
- I. Superintendent's Comments
- J. Board Comments
- K. Informational Items
- L. Adjournment

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

**Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 15, 2017
Page Two**

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:02 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (6) to discuss or consider the investment of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved, where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:30 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Dr. Sinha, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, 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. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Nilles announced that the school board had agreed upon a search firm to assist with the superintendent search.

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Snyder, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved Ray and Associates as the firm to assist the school board with the superintendent search activities.

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

No Votes: Mr. Polley

Abstentions: None

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

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board added item C-3. Federally Calculated SOL Results, an addendum to the personnel report, item G-1. Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers, and a revised item H-3. Policy LBD Home Instruction.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, 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 at School Board Meetings, 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.

Mr. Karl Loos offered comments to the school board about the school operating budget process for 2018-19 and employee compensation, particularly the teacher pay scale.

C-1. Paul Munro Elementary School

The Virginia Index of Performance program recognizes schools and school divisions for the achievement of excellence goals established by the governor and Board of Education and provides incentives for continuous improvement. Schools and school divisions earn one of the following three awards based on performance during the previous academic year:

- Governor's Award for Educational Excellence
- Board of Education's Excellence Award
- Board of Education's Distinguished Achievement Award

Paul Munro Elementary School has been selected to receive the 2016-17 Virginia Index Performance Board of Education Distinguished Achievement Award based upon data from school years 2014-15 and 2015-16. Schools that receive this award are fully accredited and have made significant progress toward educational goals as established by the governor and the Board of Education. Schools must also earn 75 VIP points (including bonus points) in each content area.

The Lynchburg City School Board and the Lynchburg City Schools applauds the efforts of the students and staff at Paul Munro Elementary School for their exemplary effort and achieving this recognition.

C-2. Update on Schools Denied Accreditation for 2016-17

The school administration provided information to the school board regarding the work in progress at Linkhorne Middle School and Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation, the two schools in the school division that were denied state accreditation for the 2016-17 school year.

Preliminary but still unofficial SOL results from VDOE have been released for review by school divisions only at this time. Official Accreditation ratings will not be released by VDOE until September 13, 2017. Based on these preliminary results, we are pleased to report that we are anticipating that Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation will not only meet, but exceed state benchmarks for English, math, science, and history and once again be fully accredited.

While the unofficial results do not indicate that Linkhorne Middle School will be fully accredited, the data does indicate that the school will meet the accreditation benchmarks for science and history and that English and math scores improved slightly from the previous year, placing the school back on a growth trajectory that will lead to being fully accredited.

As part of the requirements for schools denied accreditation in the Commonwealth, the Linkhorne Middle School administrators and central office staff, including the superintendent, met on June 24, 2017, with Mrs. Bev Rabil, director of the office of school improvement from VDOE. The T. C. Miller principal was not included as we anticipate that school being fully accredited for 2017-18. During this meeting, the new principal for Linkhorne Middle School, Karin Blay, and Ryan White, assistant principal at that school, provided Mrs. Rabil with evidence of the work that is being done during the summer in preparation for the 2017-18 school year. Teacher teams for English and math have been meeting to analyze data from 2016-17 in order to make decisions about what is working and what new initiatives and actions need to be implemented to further accelerate the growth in student achievement needed to return to full accreditation status.

With new leadership from Mrs. Blay and the work that we have already witnessed that she has accomplished since her official arrival on July 1, we are excited about the opportunity for sustained growth and the return of Linkhorne Middle School to fully accredited status.

C-3. Federally Calculated SOL Results

Each year since 1998, the school division has administered Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in grades three through eight as well as 12 high school end-of-course tests. On August 15, 2017, the Virginia Department of Education released official federally calculated SOL results based on Standards of Learning tests taken during the 2016-17 school year.

Dr. Bruce explained that there are currently two separate systems for school accountability in Virginia: the state accreditation system, and the federal system. Both of these systems are based on the results of Standards of Learning tests. The key differences between the two systems are that the state system required passing rates remain constant from year to year while federal calculation include subgroup scores.

The state accreditation system passing rates are 75 percent in English, 70 percent in math, 70 percent in social studies, and 70 percent in science.

**Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 15, 2017
Page Four**

The Every Student Succeeds Acts (ESSA) is the reauthorization of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, and it was signed by President Obama on December 20, 2015. The Virginia Department of Education is currently working with the United States Department of Education to merge the state's accreditation system with the federal system. There were no federal targets set for 2016-17 SOL test results. No new schools will be designated as priority or focus schools.

Federal calculations include subgroup scores:

- All Students
- Gap Group 1 (Students with Disabilities, Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learners)
- Gap Group 2 (Black)
- Gap Group 3 (Hispanic)
- Asian
- Economically Disadvantaged
- Students with Disabilities
- White

The subgroups appear on the VDOE School Quality Profiles

All students must be tested. This includes students who are in outplaced facilities, on homebound instruction, incarcerated, new to Virginia, new to the United States, and all other students in the Lynchburg City Schools. Any student who is not tested counts against the participation rate.

Dr. Bruce shared results for all schools for each area as well as comparison data for LCS versus state scores. State accreditation results will be released on September 13, 2017.

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for August 2, 2017 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report and addendum for the period August 1 – 15, 2017, and Regulation JFC-R Standards of Student Conduct.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

E. Student Representative Comments

Mr. Manan A. Shah, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Kenadie D. Roberson, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, introduced themselves as the representatives for the 2017-18 school year.

F. School Board Committee Reports

None

G-1. Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers

On April 18, 2017, the school board approved changes to Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons – School Volunteers. With the approval of that policy, the school administration was directed to work with legal counsel to develop guidelines that would assist the superintendent when considering exceptions for applications submitted by individuals with felony charges whose applications had been denied.

During the development of those guidelines, questions have been raised regarding the financial impact of and coverage for liability insurance. The school board leadership believes it prudent to remove the policy approved on April 18, 2017, and adopt the previous version of this policy. This matter will be reviewed within 90 days.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board adopted the August 18, 2015, version of Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 15, 2017
Page Five**

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, EXHIBIT “B,” FOR A COPY OF POLICY IICB-R/IICC-R GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS.)

H-1. Hearing Officers

In accordance with the *Code of Virginia §22.1-311 Hearing before a School Board or Hearing Officer*, and *Virginia Administrative Code 8VAC20-90-70 Procedure for Dismissals*, teachers may request a hearing as part of the grievance process. This hearing may be conducted by the school board, or if the school board chooses, it may be conducted by a hearing officer who is appointed by the school board.

Hearing Officers should be appointed prior to being asked to conduct a hearing. The school administration has contacted the individuals listed below who have agreed to act as hearing officers for the school board. Copies of the Codes appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

William Austin, Jr.	Roger L. Roberts
Linda J. Barnett	Mark R. Storm
Albert L. Billingsly	Diane S. Swain
Richard A. Burge	J. Marie Waller
Mary Ann Hoss	Charles B. White
Roger E. Jones	

Term limits have not been set for these individuals. This is the first list of hearing officers to be presented to the school board, and it can be updated at any time.

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

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, EXHIBIT “C,” FOR A COPY OF THE CODE OF VIRGINIA REGARDING HEARING OFFICERS.)

H-2. Administrative Regulation 7-63: Fees/Deposits/Materials/Reimbursements

On July 11, 2017, the school board approved Policy JN Student Fees, Fines, and Charges and Regulation JNZ-R Student Fees, Fines, and Charges. These replaced School Board Policy 7-63: Fees/Materials/Deposits/Reimbursements and School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees. Following the school board’s action, it was discovered that Administrative Regulation 7-63: Fees/Deposits/Materials/Reimbursements would be replaced by Policy JN and Regulation JNZ-R.

The school administration is requesting that Administrative Regulation 7-63: Fees/Deposits/Materials/Reimbursements be replaced with Policy JN Student Fees, Fines, and charges and Regulation JNZ-R Student Fees, Fines, and Charges.

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

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, EXHIBIT “D,” FOR A COPY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 7-63: FEES/DEPOSITS/MATERIALS/REIMBURSEMENTS.)

H-3. Policy LBD Home Instruction

Policy LBD Home Instruction has been developed from the recommended policy update from VSBA. This policy addresses home instruction and adds language to in accordance with a recent change in the Code of Virginia regarding notification to parents of the availability of certain exams. Policy LBD replaces School Board Policy 7-11.2: Home Instruction.

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

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2017, EXHIBIT “E,” FOR A COPY OF POLICY LBD HOME INSTRUCTION.)

I. Superintendent’s Comments

Dr. Massie reported that the enrollment for the first day of school was 8,997.

There was a very positive response to the Men 2 School effort to greet students as they arrived at school on their first day back. There were over 200 men who participated in this event.

Dr. Massie provided information about the back to school nights scheduled for August.

J. Board Comments

Mrs. Snyder reported that she worked during one of the days for Fill the Bus at WalMart. She also expressed her appreciation for the comments made by Dr. Nilles and Mayor Foster during the convocation

Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 15, 2017
Page Six

Dr. Sinha also worked during one of the Fill the Bus events. She was touched to see the response from the community to support our efforts.

Dr. Brennan commended Mr. Polley and Dr. Chris Glover, assistant principal at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation, who were recently recognized as “movers and shakers” in the recent issue of *Lynchburg Business*.

Ms. Carter also worked during the Fill the Bus event. She said that it was interesting to see the number of people who were willing to donate.

Ms. Mason attended the Back to School event at Miller Park. She had a wonderful time engaging with parents, teachers, and students.

Dr. Coleman has been asked to be a nominee for chairman of the VSBA Southern Region. This nomination must come with approval of the school board.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board approved the submission of James E. Coleman for nomination as the chairman of the Southern Regional for the Virginia School Boards Association.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Dr. Nilles, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: Dr. Coleman

K. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 5, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 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.)