

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
October 5, 2010**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman
Thomas H. Webb, Vice Chairman
Albert L. Billingsly
Keith R. Anderson
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Trenay L. Tweedy
J. Marie Waller
Charles B. White

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent
William A. Coleman, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Transportation
Merle P. Herndon, Director of Professional Development and School Business Partnerships
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Jesse Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. Dunbar High School Memorial Wall
- B-2. E. C. Glass High School Art Foundation
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E-1. Heritage High School Task Force
- F-1. Virginia's On-Time Graduation Rate and Cohort Dropout Rates
- F-2. Administrative Regulation 2-42: Community Use of School Facilities: Rules and Conditions
- F-3. Virginia High School League: Energy Drinks
- F-4. Education Jobs Fund
- 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 5:33 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. Dunbar High School Memorial Wall

Dunbar High School had a long history of excellence within the state and in the city's African American community. According to the project's brochure, the school opened in 1923 and served the African American community until 1970. Alumni of the Paul Laurence Dunbar High School have formed a committee, the Dunbar High School Memorial Wall Committee, the purpose of which is to work toward the construction of a Memorial Wall which will be located where the school's North Building once stood. The wall, which will be paid for through donations and contributions from alumni and interested persons, will honor those who worked and/or attended the all-African American school from 1923 – 1970.

There are no preliminary drawings for the wall but the committee has planned that the wall will be constructed where the current dedication marker is for the Dunbar High School West Building. The committee has just begun the campaign to solicit contributions for its construction but would like the school board's approval of the concept of the memorial wall before moving forward. The committee believes that the wall will greatly assist them in commemorating the legacy of the school.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, the school board approved the Dunbar High School Memorial Wall Committee's request to construct a Memorial Wall.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-2. E. C. Glass High School Art Foundation

E. C. Glass High School has a substantial collection of paintings. Some are by former students; some are by local artists and/or members of the community. The works are on display throughout the school and illustrates the artistic skills of the school's students and the quality of the school's arts departments. The E. C. Glass Art Foundation collaborates with the school's administration in caring for as well as displaying the pieces of art. Members of the foundation will come before the school board to discuss their work and to outline plans and possible challenges that the Foundation anticipates as it moves forward with promoting its work and in displaying the works of art.

The foundation, which is known as the Friends of the E. C. Glass Art Collection, is launching an effort to involve the community in preserving the E. C. Glass High School art collection. The organization will operate as a non-profit. Members of the organization have been working since summer labeling paintings and researching the artists of the paintings. There are 152 original pieces dating from 1895 to present. Students who attended the school and donated their artwork have since become well-known artists.

The organization will develop bylaws, guidelines for care and maintenance of the artwork, and plan to share its model with other high schools around the country once it becomes a viable organization.

Members of the school board expressed their appreciation for the work the Friends of the E. C. Glass Art Collection have done so far and look forward to viewing the collection at the open house.

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mr. White, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of September 7, 2010 (Regular Meeting), and the personnel report for the period September 21 – October 5, 2010.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2010, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

D. Student Representative Comments

Miss Natasha N. Chowdry, student representative for Heritage High School, shared about the events and activities occurring at her school.

E-1. Heritage High School Task Force

During the school board meeting on September 21, 2010, the school board discussed the receipt of a letter from Mayor Joan F. Foster. The school board chairman earlier had written to the mayor regarding requests for information about the Heritage High School Task Force, which was established by the Lynchburg City Council. Mrs. Barker read excerpts from the letter citing the two areas of concerns for which the school board had requested clarification. Mayor Foster stated in her letter that this initial group established by the city council was more of a steering committee than the committee "should revise the proposed concept by refining the scope of the effort, clarifying goals, proposing a structure and size of the task force, and recommending a schedule with milestones."

The school board will continue to work with city council with regards to the Heritage High School Task Force. Mr. Billingsly and Mr. White will be members of the steering committee that will help develop the Heritage High School Task Force.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2010, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE LETTER FROM THE HONORABLE JOAN F. FOSTER.)

F-1. Virginia's On-Time Graduation Rate and Cohort Dropout Rates

Since fall 2008, the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) has published annual state-level, division-level, and school-level cohort reports that detail outcomes for students who entered the ninth grade for the first time together and were scheduled to graduate four years later. The Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate is a cohort-based calculation, based directly on the number of those specific students who earn a Virginia state diploma after four years.

The Virginia Cohort Dropout Rate is a cohort-based calculation based on the number of those specific students who are categorized as dropouts or as students who are categorized as "Unconfirmed Status." Beginning with this year's four-year cohort report published for the graduating class of 2010, any student whose status appears as "Unconfirmed" is counted and reported in public documents as a dropout.

The school administration presented the following Virginia cohort graduation and dropout rates for Lynchburg City Schools and provided information about the school division's efforts to account for every student in the original cohort. It was noted that students who receive their GED are not counted as graduates.

| Number of Students | Graduated | GED | Certificate | Enrolled | Dropouts | Long-Term Absence | Unconfirmed Status |
|--------------------|-----------|-------|-------------|----------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 717 | 75.17% | 3.63% | 0.42% | 4.18% | 12.55% | 1.67% | 2.37% |

F-2. Administrative Regulation 2-42: Community Use of School Facilities: Rules and Conditions

The school administration has reviewed the Lynchburg City School Board's administrative regulation regarding the use of school facilities by the community and other organizations. Revisions to the administrative regulation, which includes a new fee schedule, appeared as an attachment to this agenda report. The administrative regulation will be reviewed by the city attorney prior to the school board's consideration of its adoption.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 5, 2010, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 2-42: COMMUNITY USE OF SCHOOL FACILITIES: RULES AND CONDITIONS.)

F-3. Virginia High School League: Energy Drinks

The Virginia High School League's (VHSL) executive committee recently voted 24-2 to ban the use of energy drinks by student athletes during games and practices. With the vote, the rule went into effect immediately. VHSL, which regulates public high schools in the state, considered this rule change after its Sports Medicine Advisory Committee recommended the change. VHSL spokespersons stated that the organization was concerned about potential serious safety and health issues.

The chair of VHSL's medicine committee stated that student athletes "see the drinks as something to give them energy. But it's not the physical nutritional energy that they need to perform well. We want them to be appropriately replenished post practice and games." The spokesperson also stated that students who use the energy drinks could potentially experience problems with heart rate, blood pressure, and jitteriness.

The National Federation of State High School Association's (NFSHA) issued its position on the drinks in 2009. The NFSHA held:

- Energy drinks should not be used for hydration.
- Energy drinks should not be consumed by athletes who are dehydrated.
- There is no regulatory control over energy drinks; thus their content and purity cannot be ensured.

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VHSL-imposed sanctions against schools will start with a warning. Stricter penalties could follow. If a coach intentionally distributes the drinks, that team and school would receive a warning for a year. With a second violation during that same year, VHSL would place the team on probation, thereby keeping the team from going to the playoffs.

F-4. Education Jobs Fund

The Education Jobs Fund legislation was signed into law on August 10, 2010. The law provides more than \$10 billion for schools, similar to that given to schools through the State Fiscal Stabilization Funds under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). Dr. Patricia Wright, superintendent for public instruction, stated in a memo to division superintendents that the “primary purpose of [these funds] is to provide additional funding to states to support local teachers salaries and related costs.” These funds are available on a one-time basis; thus it is critical that school divisions plan for use of these funds so that it reflects this one-time availability. Based on timelines submitted by the U.S. Department of Education, Virginia may be awarded its funds, more than \$249 million, by October 1, 2010.

Lynchburg City Schools is projected to receive \$1,976,551 from the Jobs Fund. The funds are available for obligations that occur as of August 10, 2010. Any funds remaining after the 2010-11 school year must be spent by September 30, 2012.

There are restrictions in the use of these funds. For example, school divisions may use the funds to pay for salaries of teachers and other employees who provide school-level education and related services. However, school divisions cannot use the funds for administrative expenditures related to the operation of the superintendent’s office and/or for division-level employees. Schools also may not use the funds for payment of expenditures for fiscal services, program planning, or human resource services.

The school administration has recommendations regarding the use of these funds. These recommendations represent the initial discussions on this point, for other employees may bring forward other ideas. However, the school administration would recommend that the school division use the funds:

- To provide staffing that would assist in scheduling planning time at the elementary school level.
- To provide bonuses for staff as allowed by these funds.
- To assume the cost of benefits given to employees as noted in this general operating budget.
- To possibly pay increased health care costs for employees during the 2011-12 year.
- Not to hire additional staff that would need to be funded beyond 2011.

The school board discussed the possibility of providing a one-time bonus to staff prior to the end of the year; however, the school board would like to consider other options, possibly even waiting until after the first of the year before making a final decision.

The school administration will give staff an opportunity to submit suggestions for the use of the funds and bring that information to the school board at its next meeting.

G. Superintendent’s Comments

Candler Oil Company through Exxon Mobile presented awarded each school \$750 in grant funding during the principals meeting earlier today.

Earlier this morning WalMart Wards Roads awarded \$100 gift certificates to 10 teachers at Sheffield Elementary School. WalMart has already selected a school for November whose teachers will also receive gift certificates.

Dr. McKendrick thanked all staff for their efforts in making the first six weeks of school a success.

H. Board Comments

Ms. Waller announced that on Friday, she and Mr. Webb attended the VSBA conference regarding charter schools. They have information that they will share with school board members at the next school board meeting.

Mrs. Barker asked that school board members bring their 2010-11 school operating budget books to the school board retreat on Thursday.

Mr. Webb provided information to the school board about the first meeting of the Athletic Task Force.

I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. White, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board convened a closed meeting at 7:26 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2.3711 (A) (1) to discuss personnel matters.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Tweedy, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:30 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

J. Informational Items

School Board Retreat: October 6-7, 2010, Brewer Townhouses Conference Center, Lynchburg College

Lynchburg City School Board/Lynchburg city Council: Thursday, October 14, 2010, 5:00 p.m. Sandusky Middle School

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:32 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.)