

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
December 1, 2009**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman  
Thomas H. Webb, Vice Chairman  
Keith R. Anderson  
Albert L. Billingsly  
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell  
Ingrid M. Hamlett  
Trenay L. Tweedy  
Charles B. White  
Robert W. Jones, Student Representative, Heritage High School  
Joshua K. Graham, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

Darin L. Gerdes

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent  
Stephen C. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration  
Beverly A. Padgett, Chief Financial Officer  
William A. Coleman, Jr., Director of Secondary Education  
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer  
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel  
Pamela D. Smith-Johnson, Assistant Director of Personnel  
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B. Student Representative Comments
- C. Unfinished Business
- D-1. High School Program of Studies: 2010-11
- E. Superintendent's Comments
- F. Board Comments
- G. Informational Items
- H. 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. 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.

Mr. W. E. Clark, III, offered comments to the school board regarding a requirement for students to attend city council meetings in order to graduate.

**B. Student Representative Comments**

Mr. Robert W. Jones, student representative for Heritage High School, and Mr. Joshua K. Graham, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided information about events and activities occurring at their schools.

**C. Unfinished Business**

None

**D-1. High School Program of Studies: 2010-11**

Each year modifications are made to the high school program of studies to reflect changes at the federal, state, or local levels. One group of major changes for 2010-11 comes from the changes being made at the state level to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia* (8 VAC 20-131-5 et seq.) (Standards of Accreditation or SOA). These changes to the SOA became final in July 2009, and these changes, all affecting first-time ninth grade students in 2010-11, include the following:

1. There are two new diploma options (the Standard Technical and Advanced Technical diplomas);
2. The Advanced Diploma requirements are increased from 24 to 26 credits.
3. A credit in economics and personal finance is a graduation requirement for all diplomas except the Modified Standard Diploma;
4. The option to earn two standard credits in mathematics for completing Algebra I in a two-course sequence has been removed;
5. Math credit for the computer math course will only be granted if the student is also a Career-Technical Education program completer.

Many of these changes were anticipated, and the school board approved several related changes to the high school program of studies last year. These changes include the addition of the proposed graduation requirements, the addition of an advanced level economics and personal finance course, and the extension of the Career-Technical Education economics and personal finance course from a semester to a full-year course.

However, some of the changes to the SOA are yet to be reflected in the 2010-11 document, and these include the following:

1. Algebra I Part I will be removed;
2. The typical math course sequences chart will be changed to reflect changes in math course offerings; and
3. A notation will be added indicating that math credit for the computer math course will only be granted if the student is also a Career-Technical Education program completer.

In addition to the changes listed above, there are a number of proposed modifications related to state and local initiatives. These changes include the following:

1. Adding Advanced Placement Economics (Micro and Macro) as a one-credit, full-year course;
2. Adding a semester-long Arts Appreciation course which will be an exploratory rotation to include six weeks of art, six weeks of drama, and six weeks of vocal music;
3. Adding a year-long math support course, called Math Lab, for students who would have been scheduled into Algebra I Part I for 2010-11 but who will be scheduled into Algebra I instead;
4. Removing the option for work/study credit for Marketing I—that opportunity will still be available for Marketing II students;
5. Removing the Digital Imaging I and II courses—that program was lost to budget cuts for 2009-10.
6. Making two required name changes in Career-Technical Education courses—the former Advertising Design course is now referred to as Communications Systems, and the former Computer Maintenance course is now Introduction to Information Technology;
7. Moving from a two-period blocked format to a single-period format for both the first and second year courses in the Computer Systems Technology program;
8. Adding two single-period courses in the area of Computer Networking and Hardware;
9. Making a number of minor editorial changes and clarifications.

A draft copy of the proposed 2010-11 High School Program of Studies was distributed to members of the school board prior to the school board meeting.

This item will be considered for approval at the school board meeting on December 15, 2009.

**E. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. McKendrick stated that the school administration had gathered information relative to the requirements for participating in the Virginia's Race to the Top grant proposal. This competitive grant program is to encourage and reward states that are creating the conditions for education innovation and reform, achieving significant improvement in student outcomes, including making substantial gains in student achievement, closing achievement gaps, improving high school graduation rates, ensuring student preparation for success in college and careers, and implementing ambitious plans in four core education reform areas. At first it was thought that Virginia would not be eligible for these grant funds because of the state's requirements associated with charter schools. It has since been learned that Virginia is eligible for these funds, and the Virginia Department of Education is encouraging school divisions to apply for them.

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Participation in the state's Race to the Top requires that school boards enter into a memorandum of understanding or other agreement that specifies the scope of the work to be implemented by the school division. The VDOE is in the process of developing a memorandum of understanding for local school boards to approve; however, the deadline for the approval is December 11, 2009. Thus, once the school administration receives the MOU from the state department, it will be necessary to conduct a special meeting of the school board so that the school board can approve the MOU. Mrs. Sullivan will contact school board members once a date has been established for this meeting.

Dr. McKendrick announced that the Lynchburg City Schools had won first place in its category of student population of 5,001 – 10,000 in the VSBA Green Schools Challenge. This competition was designed to encourage implementation of specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce the carbon emissions generated by both the local school division and the broader community. This is the first year of this awards program.

Mr. Witt provided the school board with an update of the construction and renovation project at the Fort Hill Community School. He also provided the school board with preliminary RFP bid tabulations for the E. C. Glass High School culinary arts kitchen renovation.

**F. Board Comments**

Mrs. Barker noted that during the VSBA Annual Convention's delegate assembly, delegates decided to request that the Virginia Department of Education conduct a study of the grading scale for high school students for the state. Mrs. Barker also asked the school board's pleasure in inviting Fair Grade Lynchburg to present information regarding the organization's stance on grading scales. Through school board consensus, it was decided that Fair Grade Lynchburg could be invited to present information; however, it was also decided that the school board would need to gather information from the school division's guidance counselors and directors and to wait to receive the results of the study from VDOE before a formal meeting occurred with Fair Grade Lynchburg.

Mr. Billingsly shared comments about his experience as Educator for a Day. He stated that he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and has a new perspective of what occurs on a daily basis in our schools.

**G. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 15, 2009, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

**H. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 6:32 p.m.

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Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

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Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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