

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
February 21, 2012**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Charles B. White, Chairman
Trenay L. Tweedy, Vice Chairman
Keith R. Anderson
Mary Ann H. Barker
Albert L. Billingsly
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Troy L. McHenry
Jennifer R. Poore
J. Marie Waller
Joel A. Graham, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School
Nick L. Comerford, Student Representative, Heritage High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Larry A. Massie, Interim Superintendent
William A. Coleman, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Anthony E. Beckles, Sr., Chief Financial Officer
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Transportation
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- B-1. Public Comments
- C-1. Finance Report
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F-1. Dunbar High School Memorial Wall
- G-1. Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Update on Waiver
- H. Superintendent's Comments
- I. Board Comments
- J-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- J-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- K. Informational Items
- L. 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. Mr. White opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Mrs. Barker, the school board added items A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting, J-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, and J-2. Certification of Closed Meeting to its agenda.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:31 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A) (7) to receive a briefing by legal counsel where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:56 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-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.

C-1. Finance Report

The school administration, in accordance with the 2011-12 school's operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through January 31, 2012. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The operating fund expenditure report summarized the payments made through January 31, 2012, for the operating fund.

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|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Total Operating Fund Budget | \$75,705,953.00 |
| Return of Fund Balance | \$ 1,047,695.00 |
| Use of Lease Purchase Funds | \$ 35,852.79 |
| Adjusted Budget | \$76,789,500.79 |

Through January 31, 2012

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Actual Revenue Received | \$ 34,743,459.82 |
| Actual Expenditures | \$ 35,782,960.24 |
| Actual Encumbered | \$ 33,153,605.10 |

| | |
|--|--------|
| Percent of Budget Received | 45.25% |
| Percent of Budget Used, excluding encumbrances | 46.60% |

| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| As of 01/31/12 – 7 months | 58.33% |
|---------------------------|--------|

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The revenue and expenditure reports detailed the transactions recorded through January 31, 2012. All reports appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2012, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for January 10, 2012 (Regular Meeting), January 17, 2012 (Work Session), the personnel report for the period February 7 – 21, 2012, and the 2012 Summer Programs.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 21, 2012, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

E. Student Representative Comments

Mr. Joshua K. Graham, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, and Mr. Nick L. Comerford, student representative for Heritage High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools

F-1. Dunbar High School Memorial Wall

On October 10, 2010, the Dunbar High School Memorial Committee provided information to the school board regarding the construction of a Memorial Wall to be located where the school's North Building once stood. The wall, which will be paid for through donations and contributions from the alumni and interested persons, will honor those who worked and/or attended the all African-American school from 1923 – 1970.

During this presentation, Mr. Wistar Withers and Ms. Shirley Reynolds provided information to the school board about the overall dimensions of the wall and where it is to be located. Pictures of the wall and a schematic of the location were also shared with the school board.

Construction on the wall will begin in spring, and a dedication ceremony is scheduled for August. Donations can be sent to Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation.

G-1. Elementary and Secondary Education Act: Update on Waiver

Mr. Michael K. Rudder, director of elementary education, provided the school board with an update on the state's waiver related to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. He stated that while Virginia chose not to apply for the waiver during the first window of opportunity, there will be 28 states that plan to apply during the next wave with Virginia being one of them.

The Virginia Board of Education will give the waiver its final review on February 23, 2012. Once it's approved, the State Board will send its request to the U. S. Department of Education. If the waiver is approved, the contents of the waiver will go into effect for the 2012-13 school year. The flexibility application contains the following reform efforts: college and career ready standards and assessments; differentiated accountability systems; and teacher and principal evaluation and support systems.

There are 10 specific waiver requests; however, three of those requests have immediate impact on the school division: the development of new achievable annual measurable objectives in reading/language arts and mathematics in lieu of have the 100% pass rate by the end of the 2013-14 school year; not having to comply with public school choice for Title I schools that do not meet AYP for two consecutive years or more; and not to be required to set aside 20 percent of Title I funds for the purpose of implementing public school choice.

Virginia's current Standards of Accreditation is the foundation of the academic expectations for students. The accountability plan will focus on three proficiency gap groups. Gap group one would identify students with disabilities, English language learners, and unduplicated economically disadvantaged students. Gap group two would identify black students who have not been included in gap group one. Gap group three would identify Hispanic students who are not included in gap group one.

Priority schools and focus schools will be identified through the SOAs and the gap groups. Priority schools will be equivalent to the lowest performing five percent of schools in Virginia. There are 36 of those schools that have been identified for the 2012-13 school year.

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Graduation rates will not be a part of the equation for focus schools. The U. S. Department of Education is requiring college and career standards, and Virginia has increased the rigor of the curriculum and assessments over the past two years.

Focus schools will be required to establish school-level teams to work with a division-level team; engage a contractor from a state-approved list to support the school in developing interventions for students who are at-risk of not passing state assessments in reading and math; and the contractor will help the school division build its capacity to provide leadership and professional development; provide implementation support and coaching throughout the school year for principals and teachers; provide; implement, monitor, and support an intervention model at the school level; and building the school division's capacity to support low-performing schools and increase student achievement.

The school administration will continue to keep the school board informed of the State Board's progress towards obtaining the ESEA flexibility waiver.

H. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Massie is planning a meeting to occur at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation in March to address the achievement among disadvantaged and minority students. Dr. Massie feels that this is the biggest problem in the Lynchburg City Schools, and he would be remiss if he didn't make a statement that the school board has been working on this very troubling situation. The Beacon of Hope has made itself available to help with this endeavor. This community meeting will occur in March on a Saturday or Sunday. The Key Communicators Advisory Committee will also be a part of this community discussion.

Dr. Massie will provide the school board with his report on the efficiency study he has conducted on March 6, 2012.

On February 23, 2012, Mr. White, Mr. Wray, Mr. Coleman and Dr. Massie will travel to Richmond to support Meg Smith as she is honored by the Virginia General Assembly for being named Virginia Teacher of the Year.

Dr. Massie thanked Mr. Gatzke and his staff for the wonderful work they did recovering from the water damage at Robert S. Payne Elementary School. He thanked the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation, Inc. for the \$2,000 donation and others who have donated materials and supplies.

I. Board Comments

Mr. McHenry announced that the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool Committee will meet on Wednesday at the School Administration Building at 12:00 noon.

Mr. Billingsly thanked everyone for the effort that went into the acknowledgment of School Board Appreciation.

Several school board members announced that they had been invited to lunch with students at Linkhome Elementary School. Each of the school board members remarked that the students were engaged and that they had a wonderful time at the school.

Mr. White thanked the LCS Education Foundation for its donation to Robert S. Payne Elementary School. He also indicated that he had attended the Optimist Club luncheon where students in career-technical courses were honored.

J-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board convened a closed meeting at 7:21 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (7) to discuss personnel matters and to receive a legal briefing by staff where such consultation or briefing in open meeting would adversely affect the negotiating or litigating posture of the public body.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Rev. Anderson left at 8:11 p.m.

J-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Ms. Waller, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:23 p.m.

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Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Mr. McHenry, Ms. Poore, Ms. Waller

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, 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: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Mr. McHenry, Ms. Poore, Ms. Waller

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

K. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 6, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Charles B. White, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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