

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
April 18, 2017**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman  
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell, Vice Chairman  
Sharon Y. Carter  
James E. Coleman  
Charleta F. Mason  
Susan D. Morrison  
Derek L. Polley  
Kimberly A. Sinha  
Katie K. Snyder  
Indya M. Page, Student Representative, Heritage High School  
Paris A. Tate, Student Representative Pro Tem, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent  
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration  
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent of 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 and Maintenance  
Marie F. Gee, Director for Personnel  
Ethel E. Reeves, Director for Engagement, Equity, and Opportunity  
Michael K. Rudder, Director for School Improvement  
Maria T. Jaeger, Supervisor for Math and Science  
Dixie B. Sears, Supervisor for Language Arts, History, Library, and Foreign Language  
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

Josh Moody, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. 2017 Virginia School Boards Association Art Contest Winners
- B-2. Student Recognition: E. C. Glass High School Girls Track and Field and Cross Country
- B-3. Student Recognition: Tre'Juan Cash
- B-4. Student Recognition: Jordan Hamlette
- B-5. Update on Schools Denied Accreditation
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E. School Board Committee Reports
- F-1. Policy IICB-R IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons-School Volunteers
- F-2. Textbook Adoption
- G. New Business
- H. Superintendent's Comments
- I. Board Comments
- J. Informational Items
- K. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:31 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Dr. Nilles opened the meeting and asked those in attendance to rise and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

**A-1. Public Comments**

In accordance with Policy BDDH 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. Robert Flood spoke on behalf the Virginia Organizing about the ability of ex-felons to volunteer in schools.

The Reverend Mimi Woodruff-Cooper spoke on behalf of Virginia Organizing about partnering with the school board.

Mr. Gerard Hutcherson spoke about the ability of ex-felons to volunteer in schools.

The Reverend Carl Hutcherson requested that the language in the proposed volunteer policy regarding the length of separation from incarceration and eligibility to apply as a volunteer be reduced from 15 years to five years.

The Reverend Paul Kee spoke about the ability of ex-felons to volunteer in schools.

**B-1. 2017 Virginia School Boards Association Art Contest Winners**

Each year, the Lynchburg City Schools participates in the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Southern Regional Forum Art Contest. Three students' pieces have been selected to represent the Lynchburg City Schools at the 2017 VSBA Southern Regional Forum on April 25, 2017. Following the VSBA Southern Regional Forum, the student artwork will be displayed throughout the summer at the School Administration Building. The students who have been selected to represent Lynchburg City Schools were recognized during the presentation. They are as follows:

Julian Mason – William Marvin Bass Elementary School  
Alexis King – Sandusky Middle School  
Hope Lefew – E. C. Glass High School

**B-2. Student Recognition: E. C. Glass High School Girls Track and Field and Cross Country**

The E. C. Glass High School girls' indoor track and field team recently claimed the team state title. Earlier this year, the girls cross country team won the state title. They were recognized for their hard work, individual, and team successes. Each of the team members were presented with a certificate of recognition.

**B-3. Student Recognition: Tre'Juan Cash**

Tre'Juan Cash is a senior at Heritage High School, state champion in the triple jump, state record holder in both the triple jump and 55 meter hurdles, and *The News & Advance* 2017 Indoor Track Boys Athlete of the Year. As a freshman, Tre'Juan arrived at Heritage wanting to play basketball with little interest in other sports. He played on the Junior Varsity basketball team for two years. Tre'Juan possesses an explosive jumping ability that was a perfect fit for track and field. After joining the track team, he began competing in the high jump and long jump and did very well. Later, he added the triple jump to his jumping resume.

Tre'Juan is a tremendous athlete with great confidence and work ethic. His drive was demonstrated when he continued training over the summer and off season to improve and perfect his jumping and hurdling forms and to become stronger. His faith, dedication, sacrifice, and hard work all culminated when he became the 2017 Triple Jump State Champion for Indoor Track, a state record at a whopping 47'5". Additionally, his success continued as a hurdler, ranking first in the region all year.

Again, he set a state record in the 55 meter hurdles (7.57 seconds) during his first place preliminary race. He finished second place in the final race. Tre'Juan is now setting his sights to continue his success and achievements on the track for the outdoor track season. Tre'Juan is often heard quoting the track team's motto, "What your mind perceive and your heart believe, you will achieve through faith, dedication, sacrifice, and hard work (created by Coach Rufus Knight)."

Tre'Juan's parents and coaches are very proud of his growth and accomplishments on and off the track, and they are honored to see his efforts result in obtaining his goals.

**B-4. Student Recognition: Jordan Hamlette**

Jordan Hamlette has been a member of the Varsity Basketball program at Heritage High School since the end of his JV season in the ninth grade. This year he became the second leading scorer in the history of the school with over 1,100 points. He made First Team All Seminole District, First Team Conference 30, First Team Region, and will make either First or Second Team All State which has not been announced to date. He was also selected to play in the VHSCA All Star game on March 25 at UVA Wise.

He is a member of the National Honor Society, has a 3.8 GPA, takes all advanced classes and has made all A's and B's in his AP classes for the past two years. He has been a volunteer for the VES basketball camp, Salvation Army Bell

Ringer, and reader to Heritage Elementary students. Jordan has been a tremendous leader for our program, and we are very proud of him.

**B-5. Update onf Schools Denied Accreditation**

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 this year. Dr. Brabrand explained that 430 observations have been conducted at all schools in the division, and that 38 of those observations occurred at Linkhorne Middle School (LMS), and 46 occurred at Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation (TCMESFI). These observations focused on areas where the schools are not fully accredited, which is English and math for LMS, and English and science for TCMESFI.

The first strategy lever under Achievement is around LOLET/COLET. At LMS, 47 percent of lessons saw students engaged in talking about or doing standards-aligned work for one minute. All LOLET components were in place for 39 percent of the observations, and at least 47 percent had three high leverage instructional strategies in place. Further, 21 percent of the lessons observed at LMS had all three components in place. While these number are below division averages, there is marked improvement from the beginning of this process two years ago.

For TCMESFI, 74 percent of the lessons observed had all LOLET components in place, and 72 percent had high leverage instructional strategies in place. In addition, 50 percent of the lessons observed had all three components in place.

While neither school met the goals outlined in the strategy lever, progress has been made in both schools.

**C. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of April 4, 2017 (Regular Meeting); the personnel report for the period April 4 – 18, 2017, and the Special Education Annual Plan/Part B, Section 611, Flow-through Application and Section 619 Preschool Grant Applications (2017-18).

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2017 EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

**D. Student Representative Comments**

Ms. Indya M. Page, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Paris A. Tate, student representative pro tem for E. C. Glass High School, shared comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

**E. School Board Committee Reports**

Dr. Dolan-Sewell provided an update from the XLR8 Regional STEM Academy board meeting. She shared information about sessions that have occurred for potential students, internships in which students are participating with area businesses, and that the application review process for next year's eleventh grade students is currently underway.

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

At the request of the school board, the school administration reviewed Policy IICB-R/IICC-R Guidelines for Community Resource Persons/School Volunteers. School divisions across the state have been contacted concerning existing policies, processes, and practices that are in place relative to background checks for volunteers and how the results of the background check affect the individuals' ability to volunteer. The Equity Task Force has also discussed this policy and provided feedback to the school administration.

On March 7, 2017, the school administration presented information gathered to the school board. Following discussion during the school board meeting, the school administration was directed to conduct a community survey regarding the policy and to then bring that information to the school board for further discussion. The results of the survey were discussed during the last school board meeting.

Dr. Coleman motioned to change the policy language to "(1) the disqualifying conviction occur more than five and less than 15 years before the date the exception is sought..." Dr. Dolan-Sewell seconded the motion.

Discussion following this motion included the range of 5 – 15 years for the exception. There was also discussion about regulations that will be developed that will help the superintendent determine individuals' eligibility as a volunteer.

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Dr. Sinha motioned to amend the main motion to “(1) the disqualifying conviction occur more than five years before the date the exception is sought. The motion was seconded by Dr. Coleman.

Yes Votes: Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: Dr. Nilles

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board approved changes to the policy from 15 years to five years before the date the exception is sought.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Coleman, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: Ms. Carter

Abstentions: None

This policy will become effective July 1, 2017.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF APRIL 18, 2017, EXHIBIT “B,” FOR A COPY OF POLICY IICB-R/IICC-R GUIDELINES FOR COMMUNITY RESOURCE PERSONS/SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS.)

**F-2. Textbook Adoption**

Textbooks that were considered for World Geography (4690Y) and Advanced World Geography (4367Y) courses which were added to the 2017-18 High School Program of Studies are as follows:

McGraw-Hill Geography: *The Human and Physical World*  
Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt: *World Geography*

Both textbooks are on the state-approved list for social studies textbooks.

Teams of teachers, administrators, the secondary social studies coach, the social studies supervisor, parents, and students have examined these books and participated in presentations from the publishers. The recommendation of this group is Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt: *World Geography*.

The textbooks will be available in Conference Room 2 at the School Administration Building for parents, students, and community members to examine over the next two weeks.

The Physics textbook for the Advanced Physics course (3317Y) which was added to the 2017-18 High School Program of Studies will be using an updated version of the Physics textbook that was approved by the school board in July 2004. This textbook, McGraw-Hill: *Physics Principles and Problems*, is also on the state-approved list.

The price for the textbooks is within a three dollar difference in price, which is within the state’s contracted price. The textbook comes in an electronic version with a guided level reader and audio capabilities.

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Morrison, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt: *World Geography*.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**G-1. New Business**

None

**H. Superintendent’s Comments**

Students will participate in the State History Day Competition on Saturday. Regional winners will participate in this event.

The 24 Math Challenge will occur on April 24, 2017, at Linkhorne Middle School.

The Virginia Department of Education will visit on Monday as part of the process associated with schools denied accreditation.

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The school division's Job Fair will occur on April 29, 2017, at Heritage High School from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

Online registration is now open for the 2017-18 school year.

**I. Board Comments**

Mr. Polley congratulated all of the students recognized this evening.

Mrs. Snyder attended the College Fair held at William Marvin Bass Elementary School, and she thanked the Beacon of Hope for making this event possible.

Dr. Nilles attended the College Fair held at Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation. He stated that this opportunity allows students to begin thinking about college and their plans at an earlier level.

**J. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 2, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

**K. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 p.m.

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Michael J. Nilles, 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.)