

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
November 20, 2007**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Julie P. Doyle, Chairman
Sterling A. Wilder, Vice Chairman
Keith R. Anderson
Mary Ann H. Barker
Leslie J. Faircloth
Ellis M. Frankfort
Darin L. Gerdes
Alison A. Reynolds, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Contessa A. Tracy, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Katherine K. Banks
Albert L. Billingsly

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent
Roger L. Roberts, Deputy Superintendent
Stephen C. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Merle P. Herndon, Director of Professional Development and School Business Partnerships
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Director of Facilities and Transportation
Bruce R. McMillan, Assistant Director of Personnel
Wendie L. Summers, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Annie McCallum, *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. High School Program of Studies: 2008-09
- F-2. Capital Improvement Plan: 2009-13
- G-1. Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning (PETAL) Program
- G-2. School Board Policy 7-25: Promotion, Retention, Acceleration
- G-3. Legislative Positions: 2007-08
- H. Superintendent's Comments
- I. Board Comments
- J. Informational Items
- K. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 4:35 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Ms. Doyle opened the meeting.

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Gerdes, SECONDED by Mr. Faircloth, the school board convened a closed meeting at 4:35 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss personnel matters.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

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Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Wilder, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:15 p.m.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mr. Faircloth, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, 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: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Ms. Doyle called the open session to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked those present to stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

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 2007-08 school operating budget, authorized, approved and processed the necessary payments through October 31, 2007. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The finance report summarizes the payments made through October 31, 2007.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Mr. Faircloth, SECONDED by Mr. Wilder, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of November 6, 2007 (Regular Meeting); the personnel report for the period October 16-November 20, 2007; item C-3. Career-Technical Education Program: Finance; and item C-4. Career-Technical Education Program: Teachers for Tomorrow.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Mr. Frankfort stated that the implementation of the finance course is a good first step in incorporating this kind of information into the school division's curriculum. He recently learned of other schools divisions that require all students to pass a finance course in order to graduate. Mr. Frankfort stated that all students need to know the basics of how to handle personal finance. He asked that the school administration pursue the possibility of expanding this course and making it mandatory for graduation.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

E. Student Representative Comments

Ms. Alison A. Reynolds, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Contessa A. Tracy, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided the school board with information about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

F-1. High School Program of Studies: 2008-09

Each year modifications are made to the High School Program of Studies to reflect changes at the federal, state, or local levels. The recommended changes to the Program of Studies for the 2008-09 school year include the following:

Recommended Additions:

1. A year-long *Teachers for Tomorrow* course;
2. A semester-long *Finance* course;
3. A semester-long *Introduction to Building Trades* course;
4. A semester-long *Introduction to Auto Body Repair* course;
5. A semester-long *Introduction to Auto Service Technology* course;
6. A year-long *Child Development and Care* course to be taught in the pregnant teen program;
7. A year-long *Nutrition and Food Preparation* course to be taught in the pregnant teen program; and
8. A semester-long *Family Health and Social Development* course to be taught in the pregnant teen program;

Recommended Deletions (due to a decrease in student interest)

1. Delete the year-long *Firefighter* course;
2. Delete the semester-long *Photography* course;
3. Delete the four-week *Summer Musical Theatre* course;

Recommended Changes (to provide additional flexibility for scheduling)

1. Change the year-long *Building Trades 2* course from a triple period to a double period;
2. Change the year-long *Auto Body Repair 2* course from a triple period to a double period;
3. Change the year-long *Automotive Service Technology 2* course from a triple period to a double period; and
4. Change the following Career Technical Education courses from year-long to semester-long format:
 - a. *Technology Foundations*
 - b. *Technology Transfer*
 - c. *Advertising Design*
 - d. *Design, Multimedia and Web Technologies*
 - e. *Computer Maintenance*

Editorial and Typographical Revisions

1. Clarify the position of the PETAL math blocks (grades 6 and 9) in the math course sequence flow charts;
2. Include additional information about Virtual Virginia's Online Advanced Placement courses;
3. Provide clarification regarding the state requirement for sequential electives; and
4. Make minor editorial changes to clarify text and correct typographical errors.

A draft copy of the proposed 2008-09 High School Program of Studies was distributed to the members of the school board.

Dr. McKendrick mentioned that the school administration will present information to the school board at its next meeting recommending a new course for Air Force Junior Reserve Officers Training Corp (AFJROTC) students at E. C. Glass High School. This new course will be a year-long single-period course centered on the Drill Team requirements and will that will allow students to receive a credit in physical education. Heritage High School already has a course for its Marine Corp JROTC students to earn physical education credit.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Frankfort, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the High School Program of Studies for 2008-09.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT “C,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.)

F-2. Capital Improvement Plan: 2009-13

The Lynchburg City Council requested that the Lynchburg City School Board submit current costs for the school division’s capital improvement plan. The city manager requested that the school board forward that information to him by mid-December.

The school administration has therefore made revisions to the plan so that it more accurately reflects those current costs. In revising the new CIP, the school administration adjusted for a new Sandusky Middle School and moved the start dates for other projects back at least one year. The revised plan includes Heritage High School, but the dates and amounts are subject to change based on the feasibility study that is currently in process. The years and amounts for Heritage High School will be revised once the feasibility study is complete.

A draft of the FY 2009 – FY 2013 Capital Improvement Plan appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Frankfort, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the Capital Improvement Plan for 2009-13.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Mr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT “D,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.)

G-1. Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated learning (PETAL) Program

The Lynchburg City School Board approved the Promoting Excellence Through Accelerated Learning (PETAL) Program on August 16, 2001. The goal of the program is to improve the achievement of all students with a particular emphasis on accelerating the achievement of African-American students.

During this presentation, Ms. Pamela Smith-Johnson, instructional specialist for PETAL programs, presented information regarding the PETAL programs. The presentation included program objectives and components. Additionally, the following acceleration data was presented to school board members:

- Program enrollment;
- Elementary students enrolled in accelerated mathematics and advanced reading; and
- Secondary students enrolled in advanced level mathematics and advanced level English courses

Further, comparative data was reviewed regarding the number of black students enrolled in advanced level math and advanced English courses from 2001-02 through 2007-08 as well as the number of students enrolled in the summer accelerated academy programs for the same period.

G-2. School Board Policy 7-25: Promotion, Retention, Acceleration

Lynchburg City School Board Policy 7-25: Promotion, Retention, Acceleration delineates the criteria which students must meet in order to be promoted from one grade to another. These criteria describe both state and local requirements. It also details course requirements, including those for high school graduation, as mandated by the state as well as by the Lynchburg City School Board.

Since the inception of the requirements by the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), the school administration has believed that the policy may be counter-productive in some areas, especially as related to NCLB’s graduation requirements. For example, during the most recent discussions about graduation rates, the school administration noted how the ninth grade bubble is, in part, a result on the policy because local requirements demand that a student successfully complete his/her current English course in order to be promoted to the next grade. Thus, if a student is successful in all other five or six courses that he takes that year, he/she could not be promoted to the next grade, even though he/she may have acquired the required number of course credits for the next grade level.

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The school administration has reviewed the proposed changes with high school principals, members of the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, and high school guidance directors. During those discussions, the school administration noted that they also viewed the current policy as restrictive and possibly contributing to the increasing the number of dropouts.

The revised policy would remove the required courses needed for a student to be promoted. However, the revised policy would continue to require that students successfully complete certain courses in order to graduate from high school. Further, the revised policy would change the number of credits required for a student to be promoted. According to the revised policy, then, a student would need four credits to be promoted to the tenth grade, nine to be promoted to the eleventh grade, and 15 to be promoted to the twelfth grade.

Counselors would continue to work with individual students to ensure that they are successfully completing the courses needed to graduate.

The revised policy would go into effect for the 2008-09 school year.

This item will be considered for action at the December 4, 2007, school board meeting

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT "E," FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7-25: PROMOTION, RETENTION, ACCELERATION.)

Upon MOTION by Mr. Frankfort, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board added item G-3. Legislative Positions: 2007-08 to its school board meeting agenda.

Yes Votes: Ms. Doyle, Mr. Wilder, Rev. Anderson, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Faircloth, Mr. Frankfort, Dr. Gerdes

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

G-3. Legislative Positions: 2007-08

The Lynchburg City School Board adopted the attached legislative positions last year. The school administration provides these positions to school board members now so that they can review the positions, confer as to whether these positions are still current, and propose additional positions. The school administration will then amend the positions as directed by the school board.

The school board requested that a position be added that supports legislation that requires public and private pre-kindergarten programs to meet the same standards as local school divisions. It was also requested that the language regarding the re-benchmarking of funding for the Standards of Quality be updated.

This item will be considered for action at the December 4, 2007, school board meeting.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF NOVEMBER 20, 2007, EXHIBIT "F," FOR A COPY OF THE LEGISLATIVE POSITIONS FOR 2007-08.)

H. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McKendrick announced that Keonna Jackson, a student at E. C. Glass High School, collapsed during basketball practice last week. Miss Jackson is still in the hospital awaiting surgery. Dr. McKendrick thanked her coach and members of the EMT staff present during the practice who assisted Miss Jackson. Dr. McKendrick indicated that their quick and efficient response helped Miss Jackson survive.

I. Board Comments

Mrs. Barker stated that she had attended and participated in several events at many different schools during National Education Week.

Reverend Anderson also participated in activities during National Education Week which included reading to students at Sheffield Elementary School. He also stated that he had attended the Virginia School Boards Association Annual Conference.

Mr. Frankfort thanked the students in the Pregnant Teen program at LAUREL Regional School for inviting him and others to lunch during National Education Week. Following the meal, guests were given a tour of the facility and overview of the program.

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Mr. Wilder also thanked the students in the Pregnant Teen program for the luncheon. He, too, read to students at Sheffield Elementary School, and he stated that volunteers from the Master Gardners program were there presenting a program to students. He was also able to participate in the Linkhorne Elementary School reading night.

Ms. Doyle stated that five school board members attended the recent VSBA Annual Conference this year. She stated that this conference gives school board members an opportunity to interact with other school board members around the state, and she challenged the school administration to identify schools with programs worthy of presentation at next year's conference.

J. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, December 4, 2007, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Julie P. Doyle, Chairman

Wendie L. Summers, Clerk

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