

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
February 19, 2008**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Julie P. Doyle, Chairman
Sterling A. Wilder, Vice Chairman
Keith R. Anderson
Mary Ann Barker
Albert L. Billingsly
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:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent
Roger L. Roberts, Deputy Superintendent
Stephen C. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Beverly A. Padgett, Chief Financial Officer
Merle P. Herndon, Director of Professional Development and School Business Partnerships
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Trenay L. Tweedy, Public Information Officer
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Director of Facilities and Transportation
Wendie L. Summers, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Annie McCallum, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. Finance Report
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E-1. Capital Improvement Plan: Sandusky Middle School
- E-2. School Operating Budget: 2008-09
- E-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Sandusky Middle School
- F-1. Literary Loan Application and Resolution: Sandusky Middle School
- F-2. Religious Exemptions
- F-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Bedford Hills Elementary School
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I. Informational Items
- J. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:35 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Ms. Doyle opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Wilder, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board approved the addition of items E-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Sandusky Middle School and F-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Bedford Hills Elementary School

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A. 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. Finance Report

The school administration, in accordance with the 2007-08 school operating budget, authorized, approved and processed the necessary payments through January 31, 2008. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The finance report summarizes the payments made through January 31, 2008.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mrs. Barker, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for January 22, 2008 (Regular Meeting).

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

D. 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.

E-1. Capital Improvement Plan: Sandusky Middle School

Staff from Dominion Seven Architects provided the Lynchburg City School Board with an update on the progress of the Sandusky Middle School (SMS) project. Renderings of the new Sandusky Middle School were also presented to the school board.

Images of the renderings will be on display during the month of April at City Hall. A Request for Proposals for the project will be advertised on April 6, 2008, and bids will be reviewed May 1, 2008. The school board will consider the school administration's recommendation for a contractor on May 6, 2008. The school administration has received nine bids from the pre-qualifier RFP. Those individuals will be notified by the end of the month if they qualify to submit a bid for the project.

On Monday, February 25, 2008, a meeting will occur at Sandusky Middle School beginning at 6:30 p.m. to update the Sandusky community about the progress on the Sandusky Middle School project. Staff from Dominion Seven Architects will present renderings and site plans for the new school.

E-2. School Operating Budget: 2008-09

Mrs. Padgett stated that information regarding the governor's recommended reduction to direct aid to public education had been received from the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE). Those recommendations include the reduction of funding for the Virginia Preschool Initiative, a reduction in funding for school construction, and the transfer of 50 percent of local Lottery distributions to support state basic aid payments. Funding amounts for the recommendations were not received from VDOE.

The school division has also received the House budget amendments. Those amendments provide the school division with an additional \$300,928 in funding. Those amendments include updates to VRS, RHCC, and GLI rates; revised projection for special education regional tuition; updates to the sales tax and the K-3 Class Size Initiative; a two percent salary adjust effective December 1, 2008; supplemental School Construction grants and support position adjustments to the grants; and restoration of the Virginia Preschool Initiative free lunch methodology. The Senate budget amendments, which include the

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redirection of Lottery proceeds and School Construction grants to Basic Aid, no raise in the first year for teachers, lowering of the VRS rate, adding spaces to Early Childhood Education, the restoration of teaching scholarships, and the adjustment of sales tax to cover revenue shortfall, did not include funding amounts.

E-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Sandusky Middle School

On February 14, 2008, the Lynchburg City Schools received six (6) responses to a request for bids on the new track and football field for Sandusky Middle School. A team of school administrators and Dominion Seven Architects staff reviewed the proposals. The evaluation team recommended to the superintendent that the J.E. Sears Company be hired to construct the new track and football field.

The bid tabulation form appeared as an attachment to this agenda report.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Faircloth, SECONDED by Mr. Wilder, the school board approved awarding a contract to the J. E. Sears Company for the construction of a new track and football field at Sandusky Middle School.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

F-1. Literary Loan Application and Resolution: Sandusky Middle School

Lynchburg City Schools is applying for a Literary Loan from the Virginia Board of Education for the purpose of borrowing the principal amount of \$7,500,000 from the Literary Fund for the new Sandusky Middle School. As part of the application process the Lynchburg City School Board is required to adopt a resolution approving the application. Should the school board receive the Literary Fund, that money would be used to pay for any other loans being used for the Sandusky Middle School project.

The resolution and application appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mr. Wilder, the school board adopted the resolution and approved the application for a loan in the principal amount of \$7,500,000 for Sandusky Middle School.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008, EXHIBIT "D," FOR A COPY OF THE LITERARY LOAN APPLICATION AND RESOLUTION.)

F-2. Religious Exemptions

During the school board's retreat, one of the topics discussed was the process associated with requests received from parents for their children to be exempt from mandatory attendance at school due to religious beliefs. The school board, pursuant to the Code of Virginia 22.1-254 (B) (1) must approve requests for exemption from school attendance because of "bona fide religious training or belief."

Following discussions with the city attorney, the school administration developed a letter to send to parents who request religious exemption for their children. The letter asks that parents send specific information to support their request. Parents will also be asked to sign a Statement of Belief form, and should their children be 14 years of age or older, the children will be required to sign the form. The letter and the form appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

Questions were raised about having a student sign the Statement of Belief form and specifying that this would occur only if the student was 14 years of age or older. Further, the word "corroborating" was changed to "acknowledging."

The school administration will discuss the changes with the city attorney. This item will be considered for action at the March 4, 2008, school board meeting.

F-3. Capital Improvement Plan: Bedford Hills Elementary School

On February 19, 2008, the Lynchburg City Schools received ten (10) responses to a request for bids on the roof replacement of Bedford Hills Elementary School. A team of school administrators and Dominion Seven Architects staff reviewed the proposals. The evaluation team recommended to the superintendent that Melvin T. Morgan Roofing be hired to replace the roof at Bedford Hills Elementary School.

The bid tabulation appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mr. Frankfort, the school board approved a contract with Melvin T. Morgan Roofing for the construction of a new roof at Bedford Hills Elementary School.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 19, 2008, EXHIBIT "E," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.)

G. Superintendent's Comments

This year, there was a 100 percent pass rate on the Algebra I Standards of Learning assessment for students in the PETAL math program at each of our two high schools. The PETAL math program, which was originally started for high school students, has now been implemented at the middle school level for sixth grade students. By implementing the program in sixth grade, students will be prepared earlier to take higher level math courses.

The school administration has been investigating the possibility of acquiring property at the Fort Hill Village shopping center to use as a site for the school division's alternative education program. Prior to presenting additional information to the school board, Dr. McKendrick asked that school board members tour the property. Ms. Summers will contact school board members to schedule a time for tours. Additional information regarding the site will be provided at the next school board meeting.

H. Board Comments

Mr. Wilder provided information about his recent attendance at the Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, D. C.

Ms. Doyle announced that the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation Inc. will host the annual Breakfast with Superintendent Paul McKendrick on March 5 at 7:30 a.m. in the Memorial Ball Room at the Hall Campus Center.

I. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 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.)