

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

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Thomas H. Webb, Vice Chairman
Keith R. Anderson
Albert L. Billingsly
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Darin L. Gerdes
Ingrid M. Hamlett
Trenay L. Tweedy
Charles B. White

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

**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
Linda J. Cole, Director of Secondary Alternative and Adult Education
William A. Coleman, Jr., Director of Secondary Education
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer
Merle P. Herndon, Director of Professional Development and School Business Partnerships
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Ray Reed, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. Virginia 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Awards
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E-1. School Operating Budget 2009-10: Amendments
- E-2. Fort Hill Community School
- F-1. H1N1: Update
- F-2. Safe Schools Committee
- F-3. School Volunteer Hours: 2008-09
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- I-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- J. Informational Items
- K. 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. Mr. Webb 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.

There were no individuals who wished to speak before the school board.

B-1. Virginia 21st Century Community Learning Centers Grant Awards

On Friday, August 28, 2009, the Virginia Department of Education announced the recipients of the 2009-10 Cohort Eight 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant awards. Linkhorne Middle School and William Marvin Bass Elementary School each received grant awards in the amount of \$180,000 for one year with possible continuation of funding for an additional two years, potentially providing \$540,000 for each school and \$1,080,000 for the two schools combined. These grants were two of only 34 grants awarded across the Commonwealth. For Linkhorne Middle School, this is a first grant award. For William Marvin Bass Elementary School, this is a second grant award, having previously been a part of the Cohort Five awards in 2006-07. Both grants were written and will be implemented in cooperation with Central Virginia Community Services.

In addition to the Cohort Eight awards, the Virginia Department of Education also announced that Perrymont Elementary School and Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation received a continuation grant for 2009-10 in the amount of \$200,000. These two schools were a part of the Cohort Seven awards made for 2008-09 and have now received a combined \$400,000 in 21st Century Community Learning Centers funding with the potential for receiving an additional \$200,000 for 2010-11.

The 21st Century Community Learning Centers grant program was established by Congress as Title X, Part I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The purpose of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers program is to establish or expand community learning centers that provide significant expanded learning opportunities for children and youth, that will assist students to meet or exceed state and local standards in core academic subjects, and that offer families of students served by community centers opportunities for literacy and related educational development. The programs that have been developed at each of the four schools are unique, tailored to the individual needs of each school community by providing programs and activities for remediation and enrichment beyond the normal school day.

Mr. Coleman and Mr. Rudder provided additional information about the programs and activities that will occur at each school. They included services to increase reading and math scores, after school tutorial programs, summer enrichment activities, and a partnership with the city's department of parks and recreation that would include physical fitness activities for students.

Dr. Gerdes arrived at 5:41 p.m.

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the personnel report for the period August 4 – September 1, 2009, and the request for religious exemption.

Yes Votes: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Gerdes requested that item C-2. School Board Policy 5-47: Family and Medical Leave be reviewed and include language consistent with federal regulations. Miss Wingfield stated that she would have the city attorney review the policy.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 5-47: FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.)

D. 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.

E-1. School Operating Budget 2009-10: Amendments

Because of two events, the school administration needed to amend its academic offerings and its budget. Those events included re-establishing the Pregnant Teen program at LAUREL and therefore developing a budget for the program as well as adjusting staff and leveling classes due to higher than expected student enrollment.

First, in developing the 2009-10 school operating budget, the school administration, because of a number of academic reasons, recommended the elimination of the Pregnant Teen program. In so doing, the school administration eliminated the program's budget from the school division's general operating budget, and it became part of the school administration's efforts to eliminate a \$4.5 million shortfall. However, in what was the result of a lapse in communication with the school board regarding the implementation and the future of the

Pregnant Teen program, the school administration had to develop a 2009-10 budget for the program because the school board did not approve the recommendation to eliminate the program during its July school board meeting. Thus the school administration had to develop a budget for the program and then used allocations that would have been used if the program had been moved into base schools. The school administration also used funds gained from not adding a full-time equivalent (FTE) in filling the director of transportation and facilities position. Last year, the program's budget was \$212,000, which included salaries and benefits for staff.

Secondly, with the higher than anticipated student enrollment, a number of principals reported high teacher-student ratios in several classes/grades. In order to remedy the issues associated with this challenge, the school administration reviewed enrollment data and then made several staffing decisions, including but not limited to, transferring staff to other schools, adding course three sections at the secondary level, and hiring one elementary teacher as well as a teacher assistant. The school administration will use funds from Title I and from the federal stimulus programs to pay for aforementioned staffing.

For the record, as of August 31, 2009, the school administration noted the school division's enrollment at 8,289. The school administration used a projected enrollment of 8,130 to develop the school division's 2009-10 budget.

E-2. Fort Hill Community School

At its meeting on June 2, 2009, the school board approved funding in the amount of \$692,000 for renovations at the Fort Hill Community School. Funding for the renovation comes from funds the school division received through the American Revitalization and Recovery Act (ARRA) as well as from the balanced of completed capital projects.

On August 28, 2009, the school administration reviewed bids received for the project. Following the review, the school administration recommends that a contract be awarded to J. E. Jamerson in the amount of \$569,000. Information regarding bids received for this project is as follows:

Company	Base Bid	Deduct	Final Bid Total
J. E. Jamerson	\$569,000.00	-0-	\$569,000.00
C. L. Lewis & Company	\$599,995.00	\$27,198.00	\$572,797.00
Coleman-Adams	\$607,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$604,000.00
Coleman-Glass	\$630,000.00	-0-	\$630,000.00
South End construction	\$633,584.00	-0-	\$633,584.00
Custom Structures, Inc.	\$657,032.64	-0-	\$657,032.64
F & S Building Innovations	\$672,885.00	-0-	\$672,885.00
Kenbridge Construction Co.	\$799,700.00	\$50,000.00	\$749,700.00

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Dr. Gerdes, the school board approved a notice to proceed in anticipation of a contract with J. E. Jamerson in the amount of \$569,000 for the Fort Hill Community School renovation project.

Yes Votes: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

F-1. H1N1: Update

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), because of the possible spread of the pandemic H1N1 flu virus, has indicated that the upcoming flu season promises to be one of the most unusual. Public health officials are expecting continued circulation of the pandemic H1N1 flu virus (this year's "swine flu"), plus the circulation of several strains of "seasonal" flu.

The school division has collaborated with the Central Virginia Health District (Virginia Department of Health) and Intravene in developing strategies to protect students and staff against influenza illnesses. For instance, the Central Virginia Health District staff will visit schools this fall to administer Flumist, the flu vaccine that's given intranasally (sprayed into the nose). Further, since the pandemic H1N1 flu will require a different vaccine than the usual seasonal flu, the school division and the Health Department will offer a second vaccination campaign this fall. The Central Virginia Health District will offer these vaccinations free or at reduced rates for students covered by Medicaid or Anthem. For those not covered by the aforementioned, there will be a \$5 cost. Lastly, as it has done previously, the school division will offer seasonal flu shots to staff at reduced rates. As for vaccinations for the H1N1 pandemic flu, the school administration is researching the costs and the expense of offering that vaccine at reduced rates for staff.

Ms. Anne Bond Gentry, coordinator of student support services, has conferred with various local, state, and national health agencies. She discussed matters related to this agenda report, including the vaccinations

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discussed above, CDC suggested recommendations relative school closures, and steps schools should take when students or staff contract either of the diseases.

F-2. Safe Schools Committee

This committee, established by the school board, makes recommendations on topics related to the safe operation of schools and the safety of children. It has also made suggestions on the development of school board policies and administrative regulations that have assisted in establishing and maintaining secure buildings and campuses.

Committee membership operates on a three-year rotating basis. The composition of the committee includes representation of parents, teachers, school administrators, local social service and health agencies, fire department, and law enforcement. The proposed membership of the Safe Schools Committee for 2009-10 appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board approved the membership of the Safe Schools Committee for 2009-10.

Yes Votes: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE SAFE SCHOOLS COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2009-10.)

F-3. School Volunteer Hours: 2008-09

The school division places an importance on parental and community involvement and therefore encourages such participation. During these dire financial times, that participation is appreciated ever more.

During the 2008-09 academic year, more than 2,670 volunteers provided more than 55,340 volunteer hours. If measured by dollars, with the minimum wage as a standard (\$7.25 per hour) volunteers contributed more than \$401,273 to the school division.

A copy of a report including the number volunteers and hours served by school was presented to the school board.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2009, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE REPORT.)

G. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McKendrick expressed his appreciation to the many organizations that helped families obtain school supplies this year. He also thanked WalMart and Sam's Club for monetary donations made to each school.

Dr. McKendrick welcomed the two new student representatives for the 2009-10 school year.

H. Board Comments

Mr. Billingsly congratulated Mr. Witt and Miss Wingfield on their new positions. He also welcomed the two new school board representatives and indicated that he looked forward to the addition of their perspectives during the school board meetings.

Mr. Webb thanked the staff for a great beginning of school year. He also stated that he had attended a recent VSBA conference where he received information about ARRA funding and benchmarking for the Standards of Quality.

I-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Dr. Gerdes, the school board convened a closed meeting at 6:54 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss personnel matters.

Yes Votes: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

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Abstentions: None

I-2 Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Tweedy, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:05 p.m.

Yes Votes: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, 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: Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Gerdes, Ms. Hamlett, Mrs. Tweedy, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

J. Informational Items

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

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Thomas H. Webb, Vice Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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