

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
October 6, 2009**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

Darin L. Gerdes

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent
Stephen C. Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
Linda J. Cole, Director of Secondary Alternative and Adult Education
William A. Coleman, 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:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. Heritage High School's Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (MCJROTC)
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- E-1. Tuition Refund Program
- F-1. Midtown Connector
- F-2. Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools in Virginia
- F-3. Partners In Education: Board of Directors
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I. Informational Items
- J. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:34 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Mrs. Barker 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.

Ms. Marie Harris spoke before the school regarding school division attendance policies.

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board moved item C-3. Tuition Refund Program to the first item under unfinished business, and removed item F-1. Governor Kaine's Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Reduction Plan from the school board meeting agenda.

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Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Hamlett, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-1. Heritage High School's Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (MCJROTC)

Heritage High School's Marine Corp Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp (MCJROTC) recently garnered two national awards. The program has won the Naval Honor School Award. This is the sixth time in 12 years that the program has won the naval award. More importantly, the program has been successful in winning the 2008-09, Region I, Marine Corps Reserve Association (MCRA) Award, the highest award available to leadership education programs in high school ROTC programs. This is the first time in the 32-year history of Heritage High School that the school's program has achieved this level of recognition.

One program from each of the five regions is annually recognized as being the very best program within that region. There are 221 programs nationally, 50 within Region I, which includes nine states. Thus the HHS MCJROTC program is one of the top five programs in the nation, and the top program out of 50 schools covering the nine-state region. The region represents approximately 5,000 cadets from school populations totaling more than 50,000 students.

In order for a program to receive this award, cadets must not only demonstrate competence in athletic/physical activities but they must also prove their leadership skills through work in the community, involvement in leadership activities/organizations, work toward and the completion of their high school careers, and excellent performance in the classroom. As Major G.F. "Jeff" Ranowsky II, U.S. Marine Corps (Retired), and senior Marine instructor at HHS' MCJROTC program, stated, this was a team effort.

Major Ranowsky stated that this award is the result of a report that is submitted each school year documenting activities that occur during school year. These activities include student participation in the program in relation to the total population of the school, student involvement in extra-curricular activities, the number of honor roll students, the number of events (drill team or color guard) in which students participate, and the number of community involvement hours served by students. All schools are evaluated based on this information, and awards are presented in accordance with the results of the evaluation.

School board members and the superintendent expressed their congratulations to the students and staff on their receipt of such a prestigious award.

C. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of September 1, 2009 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report for the period September 15 – October 6, 2009, and the request for religious exemption.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Hamlett, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2009, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

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. Tuition Refund Program

During the development of the 2009-2010 school operating budget, the school administration recommended and the school board approved the elimination of the school division's tuition refund program. This fringe benefit for staff allowed the reimbursement of up to \$800 each fiscal year for tuition and textbooks for approved courses taken at accredited colleges and/or universities. The school administration, still believing in the benefits of offering varied professional development and also recognizing the need and the benefits of the continued efforts to improve teacher quality, brings to the school board a proposal to resurrect the tuition refund program, using funds in the amount of \$140,000 from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), maintenance of effort funds.

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Because the funds come from ARRA, the school administration recommends offering the tuition refund program only during the 2009-10 and 2010-11 academic years, for ARRA funding from the federal government ends at that time. Other recommendations relative to this proposal include:

- Making the refund available for those who took courses during the summer and thus they would be eligible to request the refund.
- Requiring that the employee submit the reimbursement form **and** receive approval from the director of personnel at least two weeks prior to enrolling in classes in order to be eligible for the refund.

Again, because of the aforementioned budget constraints, the school board approved eliminating the tuition refund program as a fringe benefit. The school administration now would recommend offering it again. In doing so, the school administration also recommends that the language from the attachment to the agenda report be added and used in the LCS employee handbook.

Dr. McKendrick noted that there had been some concern that in approving the reinstatement of this program that funds would be taken away from a teaching position. As these funds are not coming from the operating budget, it will not affect the reduction of teaching staff. Funds will be provided on a first come, first served basis.

Upon MOTION by Ms. Hamlett, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, the school board reinstated the tuition refund program for 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Yes Votes: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Hamlett, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2009, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

F-1. Midtown Connector

Phase I of the City of Lynchburg's Midtown Connector project calls for improvements at the intersection of Memorial Avenue and Langhorne Road. This work will require the need for Right of Way on the Langhorne Road side of the E. C. Glass High School property. It is anticipated that the work will begin in spring 2010 with the installation of new utility poles along Langhorne Road beginning just above the driveway at E. C. Glass High School closest to Memorial Avenue. The access lane bearing right from Langhorne Road to Memorial Avenue will be re-aligned accordingly which will result in the removal of several trees along the property.

F-2. Revisions to the Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools In Virginia

On February 19, 2009, the Virginia Board of Education approved final revisions to the *Regulations Establishing Standards for Accrediting Public Schools In Virginia* also known as the Standards of Accreditation (8 VAC 20-131). While these changes have been in effect since July 2009, they will have significant implications for first-time ninth grade students in 2010-11.

During this presentation, Dr. Smith provided the school board with an update regarding the revisions to the Standards of Accreditation and how those changes impacted the list of approved math courses. Further, he noted changes to secondary English accreditation scores and how the new benchmarks for graduation and completion rates will affect accreditation requirements. In addition, Dr. Smith provided the school board with information about the standard technical diploma and the advanced technical diploma and about the requirements for obtaining those diplomas. These changes will be reflected in the 2010-11 High School Program of Studies which will be presented to the school board in December.

Mrs. Tweedy arrived at 6:37 p.m.

F-3. Partners In Education: Board of Directors

The Partners In Education board of directors is comprised of one representative each from the Lynchburg City School Board and from the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce board of directors, along with community leaders who represent education, business, professional, and organizational sectors of the community. Each representative serves a term of three years and attends semi-annual meetings. Members are appointed jointly by the Lynchburg City School Board and by the Lynchburg Regional Chamber of Commerce Board. Board members provide general leadership for the partnership program and serve as policy makers under the overall jurisdiction of the school board and the chamber board.

The proposed membership for the board of directors was presented to the school board.

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Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board approved the proposed membership for the Partners In Education board of directors.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 6, 2009, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE PARTNERS IN EDUCATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS.)

G. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. McKendrick thanked Ms. Pound for her recent article in *The News & Advance* about Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation. He explained that he appreciates those kinds of stories that celebrate the work of students, parents, and teachers.

Dr. McKendrick announced that the enrollment last year on September 30 was 8,294. The unofficial enrollment this year on the same date is 8,349.

H. Board Comments

Rev. Anderson announced that the Finance Committee meeting scheduled for October 15, 2009, will be rescheduled for another day. He also extended his personal thanks for all the well wishes and the warm welcome he has received since his return home.

I. Informational Items

School Board Retreat: October 8-9, 2009, Faculty Resource Room, Schewel Lecture Hall, Lynchburg College

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 20, 2009, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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