

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
February 2, 2016**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann Hoss, Chairman
Sharon Y. Carter
James E. Coleman
Michael J. Nilles
Katie K. Snyder
Diamond L. Rosser, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Stephen M. Farmer, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

J. Marie Waller, Vice Chairman
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Derek L. Polley
Jennifer R. Poore

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent for Student Learning and Success
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administration
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
Jason J. Ferguson, Director for Transportation
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 of School Improvement and Grants
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director for Exceptional Learners
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Katrina Dix, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- B-1. Public Comments
- C. Consent Agenda
- D. Student Representative Comments
- F-1. Lynchburg City Schools; Educational Technology Plan: 2015-17 Addendum
- G-1. Promise Plan: School Climate and Culture
- G-2. Promise Plan: GEAR-UP
- H. Superintendent's Comments
- I. Board Comments
- J. Informational Items
- K. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:02 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Ms. Hoss opened the meeting.

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:02 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss an employee appointment.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:30 p.m.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman, 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. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Ms. Hoss asked those in attendance to rise and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board amended its meeting agenda to add an addendum to item D-1. Personnel Report and move item F-2. High School Program of Studies: GPA Calculation to the next school board meeting agenda.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B-1. Public Comments

In accordance with Policy BDDH Public Participation at School Board Meetings, 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. Mary Payne spoke before the school board regarding teacher recruitment.

C-1. School Board Appreciation

The month of February marks the annual observance of School Board Appreciation Month. The Virginia School Boards Association established this observance in 1989 to encourage public recognition of the roles and responsibilities of school board members and to highlight the importance of public education throughout the Commonwealth.

This year's theme, "Turning Vision into Results," reflects the top priority of local school board members as they advocate for public education with local, state, and federal leaders.

The Lynchburg City Schools is joining with other school divisions throughout the state to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities.

Members of the Lynchburg City School Board receive no financial compensation for their tireless efforts, and this school board is one of very few boards statewide that has student representatives. The nine members of the school board are appointed by Lynchburg City Council.

Even though this special event shows an appreciation of school board members, members of the community recognize that their contributions reflect a year-round commitment. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of the city's schools and students.

Members of the school board received gifts from schools throughout the school division, and a meal was prepared for them by the Culinary Arts students at E. C. Glass High School.

The school board also adopted a resolution in recognition of the school board clerk.

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The Lynchburg City School Board recognizes School Board Clerk:
Wendie L. Sullivan

WHEREAS, school board clerks in each locality throughout our great Commonwealth are appointed by law to fulfill their duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks are responsible for keeping accurate records of the meetings and proceedings of the school board, a record of all receipts and disbursements, and a record of all official acts; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks perform such other duties in connection with the school business of the city as may be required by the school board; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks maintain frequent contact with the public, including parents, employees and the media, on behalf of the school board and superintendent; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks, in the performance of their duties, are often required to work extra hours attending school board meetings; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks join with school boards to help ensure that students achieve to their highest potential; and

WHEREAS, school board clerks provide an invaluable service for school board members and superintendents, the VSBA Board of Directors does hereby recognize the third week of February as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week in the Commonwealth of Virginia, and

WHEREAS, the Lynchburg City School Board joins the VSBA in recognizing the many and varied contributions of school board clerks;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that at its meeting on the second day of February, the year 2016, the Lynchburg City School Board also recognizes this week of February as School Board Clerk Appreciation Week.

Mary Ann Hoss, Chairman

February 2, 2016

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent

February 2, 2016

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Snyder, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board adopted the resolution of recognition for Mrs. Wendie L. Sullivan, school board clerk.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

D-1. Personnel Report

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Snyder, SECONDED by Dr. Nilles, the school board approved the personnel report and addendum for the period January 19 – February 2, 2016.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Brabrand announced Elizabeth Macensup as the new athletic director for E. C. Glass High School, effective May 15, 2016.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 2, 2016, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE PERSONNEL REPORT.)

E. Student Representative Comments

Miss. Diamond L. Rosser, student representative for Heritage High School, and Mr. Stephen M. Farmer, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

F-1. Lynchburg City Schools' Technology Plan: 2015-17 Addendum

The 2010-15 Educational Technology Plan for Virginia is the Department of Education's most recently released vision for the use of technology in public schools. It serves as a blueprint for school divisions by identifying the necessary components of an effective technology program.

In accordance with the No Child Left Behind Act, the universal services Act (E-Rate), and the Code of Virginia, school divisions must submit a local technology plan that is aligned with the state plan. The local plan must guide the division's use of educational technology for the next two years. The current Lynchburg City Schools' Educational Technology Plan outlines goals and objectives for years 2013-2015. The document presented this evening has been updated to reflect the

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state's two-year extension to its Plan. The LCS Plan is in alignment with the revised state Plan until its expiration on June 30, 2017. This timetable will bring the LCS Plan into the same renewal cycle as the Virginia Department of Education's Technology Plan.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Nilles, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman, the school board approved the Lynchburg City School's Educational Technology Plan Addendum for 2015-17.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

F-2. 2016 Lynchburg City Schools Summer School Programs

Each year the school administration brings summer school offerings to the school board for approval of programs. The school administration provided the school board with a summary of recommended dates, times, and locations for Lynchburg City Schools summer school programs including: Elementary Remedial, Elementary PETAL, Elementary Enrichment program, Middle School Remedial, Middle School PETAL, High School Remedial for Course Credit, High School PETAL, and High School SOL Academy during the last school board meeting.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved the Lynchburg City Schools summer school programs for 2016.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Nilles, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

G-1. Promise Plan: School Climate and Culture

Each school year, and as part of Strategy Cluster 2 of the Promise Plan, the Lynchburg City Schools administers a survey of students, parents, and staff regarding the climate and culture in the schools. This presentation provided a summary of the results from the fall 2015 survey.

The survey was administered to all employees, parent/guardians and students in grades five, seven, eight, ten, eleven, and twelve. Academic expectations, safety and respect, communication, engagement, attitude and culture, leadership/decision-making, discipline/bullying/discrimination/harassment, and reporting bullying/discrimination/harassment/assault make up the different survey categories. Data was reported on student responses relative to how they felt parents care about their education, teacher expectations regarding their success, if teachers treat students with respect, and if students treat teachers with respect. School board members asked questions about the low number of students who feel that their peers treat teachers with respect.

Data relative to parent responses on if school is important to their child's success, their child's respect for his/her teacher, and if school staff communicates "good news" to them about their child was also provided to the school board.

The school administration will review the data by school and incorporate results into the Comprehensive Plan. While the school division celebrates the positive glows received through the survey, professional development in deficit areas will be provided as necessary.

G-2. Promise Plan: GEAR-UP Grant Update

The Lynchburg City Schools is currently implementing the GEAR-UP grant with the eighth grade cohort. This presentation provided an update on activities from the first semester and a look ahead at the second semester. This grant is part of Strategy Cluster #5.

H. Superintendent's Comments

Spring intersession will occur February 17-19, 2016. Letters have been sent to parents of students who have been identified as needing additional instruction.

Dr. Brabrand commended Mr. Copeland, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Gatzke and their staffs for all of their hard work and effort during the recent snow storm.

Dr. Brabrand noted the passing of Ms. Waller's mother this past weekend.

I. Board Comments

Mrs. Snyder thanked everyone for all of the gifts offered for School Board Appreciation. She also reported that she and Ms. Carter had attended the regional meeting of school boards to discuss pending issues.

Ms. Carter thanked all of the students and teachers who helped with the School Board Appreciation recognition.

Dr. Coleman thanked everyone for all of the gifts. He also remarked about February being Black History Month and that this is a wonderful time to see how all people are able to come together.

J. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 16, 2016, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

K. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Mary Ann Hoss, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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