

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
February 16, 2016**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann Hoss, Chairman
J. Marie Waller, Vice Chairman
Sharon Y. Carter
James E. Coleman
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell
Michael J. Nilles
Derek L. Polley
Jennifer R. Poore
Katie K. Snyder

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**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-1. Finance Report
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F-1. High School Program of Studies 2016-17: GPA Calculation
- G-1. Lucille Chaffin Kent Historical Marker
- G-2. Promise Plan
- 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 and asked those in attendance to rise and recite the *Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Ms. Waller, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board added item A. Closed Meeting to the beginning of the school board meeting agenda and move item B-1. Student Recognition to the March 1, 2016, school board meeting

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

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Abstentions: None

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:03 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (7) to receive consultation or legal briefing regarding specific legal matters involving Saunders vs. Lynchburg City School Board.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Coleman arrived at 5:14 p.m.

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:30 p.m.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, 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. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Nilles arrived at 5:30 p.m.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Dr. Coleman, the school board approved the settlement agreement in Saunders vs. Lynchburg City School Board as explained by counsel and to authorize the superintendent to sign that agreement.

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, 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.

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

C-1. Finance Report

The school administration, in accordance with the FY2015-16 school operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through January 31, 2016. The school administration certifies that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The operating fund expenditure report summarizes the payments made through January 31, 2016, for the operating fund.

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Total Operating Fund Budget	\$ 90,820,024.00
Prior Year End Encumbrances	\$ 90,304.40
Insurance Proceeds	\$ 54,180.84
School Bus Funding	\$ 977,000.00
Fund Balance Return	\$ 2,316,449.00
Restricted Donations	\$ 1,105.00
Adjusted Budget	\$ 94,259,063.24

Through January 31, 2016		
Actual Revenue Received	\$	46,439,957.16
Actual Expenditures	\$	47,558,222.71
Actual Encumbered	\$	37,921,765.83

Percent of Budget Received	49.27%
Percent of Budget Used, excluding encumbrances	50.45%
As of 1/31/16 – 7 months	58.34%

The revenue and expenditure reports detailed the transactions recorded through January 31, 2016. All reports appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016, EXHIBIT “A,” FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan Sewell, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of January 19, 2016 (Regular Meeting), and February 2, 2016 (Regular Meeting).

Yes Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Dr. Nilles, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

E. Student Representative Comments

None

F-1. High School Program of Studies 2016-17: GPA Calculation

On January 19, 2016, the school board approved the 2016-17 High School Program of Studies with the exception of the new GPA calculation. The school board wanted the community to have additional time to provide input regarding the new calculation and asked that the GPA calculation be considered separately from the High School Program of Studies. Since the January 19, 2016, school board meeting, the school administration has provided information to parents, teachers, and students relative to the new GPA calculation, and the school board had an opportunity to seek information about GPA calculations and its importance on student acceptance by colleges and universities.

The school administration reviewed the following reasons for the change to the current GPA calculation:

1. The original formula was created when the standard course load was six courses. The reason for the custom formula no longer exists (six periods with an optional seventh) and now has the opposite effect intended. Students who opted for a seventh course (zero period) to take an elective were penalized in GPA/rank even if they achieved an “A” in that course. Now with the standard course load of seven courses, there is no protection from GPA/rank if one of the courses is a regular weighted course and the implications on GPA/rank are even greater than before the current formula.
2. Currently, the context of advanced courses is very different with more Advanced Placed courses, dual enrollment courses, Early College, and the STEM Academy. In some cases, students are taking several more college-level courses than they will in college.
3. Student workload and health concerns with the large number of Advanced Placement course load.
4. Emerging online course options, including more offered outside high school semesters.
5. The formula is only understood by few.
6. May incentivize course choices that aren’t ideal for college or career or that are made simply to “game” the formula.

The proposed calculation is the total number of quality points divided by the number of courses. The points that can be accumulated beyond 4.0 in a given year are determined by year such that at least two classes can be taken in a course load that are not above 4.0 without it harming a class rank. Full course load is required for consideration for class rank honors, the amount of points that can be added above a 4.0 is proportionately less if a student has six courses as a full course load. Rising 11th and 12th grade students will remain on the current GPA calculation. For all other students, the current calculation will be used through the 2015-16 school year and the new formula will be applied for all other years beginning with the 2016-17 school year.

Members of the school board discussed the new GPA calculation and offered their opinions regarding whether or not to approve the new calculation.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board approved the new GPA Calculation.

Yes Votes: Dr. Coleman, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore, Mr. Polley, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: Ms. Hoss, Ms. Waller, Ms. Carter, Dr. Nilles

H-1. Lucille Chaffin Kent Historical Marker

The school administration has been approached by Mrs. Jane B. White regarding a proposed historical marker to be installed in the city right-of-way on the property of E. C. Glass High School near the intersection of Lakeside Drive and Memorial Avenue. The historical marker honors Lucille Chaffin Kent, the first Virginia woman and one of the first women in the nation to earn an instructor's rating in aeronautics. Mrs. Kent taught aeronautical classes at the old E. C. Glass High School and taught ground school classes. Her instrument instruction and Link Trainer flight simulation classes enabled pilots to fly in poor visibility, which was a giant step forward in aviation.

A draft of the text appeared as an attachment to the agenda report. Ms. White only asks for the school board's approval of the text to appear on the marker. There are no financial obligations.

The school board will consider this item for action at the next school board meeting.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

H-2. Promise Plan: Enhancing the Use of Quality Instructional Practices

As one of the strategies that comprise the Lynchburg City Schools Promise Plan (Strategy Cluster 6), the school division is strengthening approaches to enhance the use of quality instructional practices. This presentation provided the school board with an update on the LOLET/COLET initiative. School board members were able to review the form administrators use to gage student learning, if students are engaged, and if the teacher is preparing appropriate lesson plans and teaching with quality strategies. The school administration also shared the results of data collected on a monthly basis and a log of visits to school by central office administrators.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 16, 2016, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

I. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Brabrand announced that February is Career-Technical Education Month, and he provided a list of activities that have occurred relative to career-technical education.

The audit of Title 3 funds has been completed, and it was reported to be a clean audit. The audit of Title 1 funds begins next week.

The SOL writing test will be given March 7-12.

J. Board Comments

Ms. Carter announced that she had seen a performance of *Ragtime*, and the students and staff at Heritage High School did a wonderful job with this play. She also offered complimentary remarks regarding Mr. John E. Blakely, principal at Robert S. Payne Elementary School, and his assistance and support of the Neighborhood Watch for the Payne Elementary School area.

Mr. Polley recently attended the VSBA Legislative Conference and was able to speak with area legislators. He also provided information about the website, www.dreamitdoitvirginia.com, which provides information to students about career choices available to them.

Dr. Coleman visited Dearington Elementary School for Innovation for the presentation of the students' Black History Month program. He stated that it was a tremendous multi-cultural event, and he had a wonderful time with the students.

K. Informational Items

Public Budget Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2016, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 1, 2016, immediately following the Public Budget Hearing, Board Room, School Administration Building

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:28 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.)