

**Lynchburg City School Board
Special Meeting
March 9, 2010**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman
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:**

None

**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
William A. Coleman, Jr., Director of Secondary Education
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Transportation
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology
Pamela D. Smith-Turner, Assistant Director of Personnel
Billie Kay Wingfield, Director of Personnel
Wendie L. Sullivan, Recording Secretary/Clerk

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- B. Study Session
- C. 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. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Gerdes, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:34 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss several employee assignments.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Dr. Gerdes, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board reconvened in open session at 6:57 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

B. Study Session

The school administration reviewed the rationale for the proposed options of closing Perrymont Elementary School and Hutcherson Early Learning Center which includes maximizing funding provided through the Standards of Quality, providing all schools access to Title I funding, reduction of operational costs and more efficient utilization of facilities and staff.

Currently, the school division has five schools with a student enrollment of less than 300. By increasing the enrollment at those schools, the school division would realize additional funding of about \$50,000 per school; however, additional funding would not be realized for the 2010-11 school year as the funding would be based upon enrollment that existed on September 30, 2008.

Previously the school administration had presented \$875,000 in projected savings associated with the closing of Perrymont Elementary School. However, after calculating staffing for elementary schools, the savings would be closer to \$655,000 as there would be approximately \$220,000 savings due to the elimination of five teaching positions. The savings associated with closing Hutcherson Early Learning Center and relocating it at Perrymont Elementary School would be approximately \$100,000 in operational costs. Total savings for the closing of Perrymont Elementary School, relocating Hutcherson Early Learning Center to Perrymont, adjusting attendance zones so that all schools have an enrollment greater than 300, and making all schools Title I is projected to be \$983,000.

Following discussion of the superintendent's working papers, the school board received updated information regarding state funding. At this time, the House's proposed budget calls for permanent changes to the education funding formulas which include the elimination of state funding for the secondary planning period from the Standards of Quality and block-granting and reducing funding for a number of stand-alone incentive programs and at-risk and preschool programs. Many of the Senate's proposed budget reductions contain language which calls for temporary reductions that will not cause permanent changes to the funding formula. Both Senate and House budget proposals rely on VRS rate reductions to mitigate cuts in funding. However, the VRS rate reduction will result in larger payments becoming due in future years.

Total additions to the school operating budget are \$1,715,000 and are as follows:
proposed increase in health/dental/vision insurance rates is \$500,000
costs for second year of ERIP is \$875,000
costs for new initiatives for algebra and on-line software \$340,000

Total reductions in operating revenue in the House's budget amount to \$12,606,006 and the Senate's budget amount to \$10,644,546.

The school administration reviewed the results received thus far from the calendar survey with the majority of respondents favor the 172-day calendar.

C. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk