

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

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell, Vice Chairman
Sharon Y. Carter
James E. Coleman
Charleta F. Mason
Susan D. Morrison
Derek L. Polley
Jennifer R. Poore
Katie K. Snyder
Indya M. Page, Student Representative for Heritage High School
Sidney M. Marshall, Student Representative for E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Scott S. Brabrand, Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning and Success
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
Marie F. Gee, Director for Personnel
Ethel E. Reeves, Director for Engagement, Equity, and Opportunity
Michael K. Rudder, Director for School Improvement
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director for Exceptional Learners
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Josh Moody, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B. Consent Agenda
- C. Student Representative Comments
- D. School Board Committee Reports
- E-1 Comprehensive Plan: Update
- E-2. School Board Finance Committee
- F-1. Crisis Plans: 2016-17
- G. Superintendent's Comments
- H. Board Comments
- I. Informational Items
- J. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:33 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Dr. Nilles opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Mr. Polley, the school board approved the addition of an addendum to the personnel report for the period August 2 – 16, 2016, and the addition of item E-2. School Board Finance Committee.

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

No Votes: None

**Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 16, 2016
Page Two**

Abstentions: None

A-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.

Mr. Albert L. Billingsley provided information about *Safe Families for Children*.

B. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes of August 2, 2016 (Regular Meeting), the personnel report and addendum for the period August 2 – 16, 2016, and the request for religious exemption.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF AUGUST 16, 2016, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

C. Student Representative Comments

Ms. Indya M. Page, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Sidney M. Marshall, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

D. School Board Committee Reports

Dr. Coleman provided information about the Equity Task Force and its efforts to revamp the bylaws so that they reflect the current mission of the task force.

Ms. Carter reported on the first meeting of the LAUREL School Board. She said that they are excited about the new ramp that provides better access for students to the playground. She also said that they are looking for playground equipment that provides better access for students who are in wheelchairs.

Ms. Poore stated that the Governor's School Board met about two weeks ago. They are excited about the new space they have at the new Heritage High School, and they plan to have an open house in the very near future.

E-1. Comprehensive Plan: Update

Dr. Brabrand provided the school board with an update to the Comprehensive Plan in the areas of student graduation, enrollment in advanced placement and dual enrollment courses, achievement on Standards of Learning tests, student attendance, behavior, and school culture. School board members asked for data for school culture to be broken down by grade level relative to students feeling safe in school. There were also questions about the differences in gains between white and black students and if equity in teaching could be a factor. Dr. Brabrand explained that COLETE/LOLET is being used to gage teaching strategies based on gender and race. Pacing guides have also been tweaked to give a framework for instructional time. Further, the guidelines for equity that were developed this summer will provide direction for staff this year, and administrators received equity training during Summer Leadership Conference, which will help them assist faculty and staff in this area.

E-2. School Board Finance Committee

On August 2, 2016, the school board appointed members to the School Board Finance Committee. The alternate member for the Committee was not appointed. Mrs. Susan D. Morrison has expressed an interest in serving on this Committee, and the chairman is recommending her for appointment.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Coleman, SECONDED by Ms. Poore, the school board appointed Mrs. Susan D. Morrison as alternate representative for the School Board Finance Committee for the period August 16, 2016, - June 30, 2017.

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

No Votes: None

**Lynchburg City School Board – Regular Meeting
August 16, 2016
Page Three**

Abstentions: None

F-1. Crisis Plan: 2016-17

Pursuant to the Code of Virginia §22.1-279.8, each school board shall ensure that every school develops a written school crisis, emergency management, and medical emergency response plan. The school must also review the plans on an annual basis.

The school division works collaboratively with the Lynchburg Police Department to develop those plans, and a copy of the plans will be forwarded to each school board member for review. The plans will be presented to the school board for consideration at the September 6, 2016, school board meeting.

G. Superintendent's Comments

The Virginia Department of Education awarded the school division over \$900,000 to assist with the extended year program. This funding will be used to support intersession activities, remediation programs, intervention services and the Empowerment Academy, and additional time and resources for summer school programs.

The ribbon cutting ceremony at Heritage High School was a big success. The construction project was completed on time and under budget. This is the largest construction project in the history of the city and schools. A building dedication will occur during homecoming week at Heritage High School.

Dr. Brabrand thanked all of those who participated in the Men to School initiative. There were men at almost every school who welcomed students to the school year. This was a tremendous opportunity for community members to support education and connect with students.

The new grab-n-go lunches at the middle school are a big success as are the chef salads that have been introduced at Sheffield Elementary School.

The back-to-school event that occurred on August 6, 2016, at Miller Park was a big success. Attendance was up this year, and all schools were represented.

H. Board Comments

The school board, through consensus, agreed on November 3, 2016, as the date for school board retreat.

Ms. Carter commented on the ribbon cutting ceremony at Heritage High School noting that it was great to be there.

Ms. Poore, who also attended the ribbon cutting ceremony, stated that it was good to see the former faculty and staff members in attendance.

Mrs. Morrison visited four schools on Monday to check in and see how things were progressing. The schools looked fantastic, and it was great to see so many wonderful things happening on the first day of school.

Dr. Coleman commented on the back to school event, remarks provided by Dr. Nilles at the convocation, and the presentation given by Dr. Brabrand on defining reality and offering hope.

I. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 6, 2016, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

J. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman

Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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