

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
September 7, 2010**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

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

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Paul McKendrick, Superintendent  
William A. Coleman, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Edward R. Witt, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Operations and Administration  
Beverly A. Padgett, Chief Financial Officer  
April M. Bruce, Director of Testing  
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer  
Steven L. Gatzke, Director of Facilities and Transportation  
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:**

Jesse Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B. Consent Agenda
- C. Student Representative Comments
- D. Unfinished Business
- E-1. School Volunteer Hours
- E-2. Pauline F. Maloney STEP With Links Program: 2010-11 Budget
- E-3. Budget Adjustment: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers Grants
- E-4. Adequate Yearly Progress Report
- E-5. School Board Retreat
- E-6. Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology: Student Allotments for School Divisions
- F. Superintendent's Comments
- G. Board Comments
- H-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- H-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- I. Informational items
- J. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:40 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*.

Upon MOTION by Mr. White, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board added items D-6. Central Virginia Governor's School for Science and Technology: Student Allotments for School Divisions, H-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, and H-2. Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

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No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**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.

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

**B. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION by Mr. Webb, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for July 21, 2010 (Regular Meeting); the personnel report for the period August 17 – September 7, 2010, and a request for religious exemption.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

**C. Student Representative Comments**

Miss Natasha N. Chowdry, student representative for Heritage High School, and Mr. R. Addison Spinner, student representative for E. C. Glass High Schools, shared about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

**D. Unfinished Business**

None

**E-1. School Volunteer Hours**

The school division places an importance on parental and community involvement and therefore encourages such participation. During these dire financial times, that participation is appreciated even more.

During the 2009-10 academic year, approximately 2,700 volunteers provided 55,433 volunteer hours. If measured in dollars, with the minimum wage as standard (\$7.25 per hour) volunteers contributed more than \$401,000 to the school division.

Dr. Herndon provides this information to all volunteer coordinators each year so that they can compare their hours from year to year as well as compare their hours with other schools. Dr. Herndon informed the school board that Wal-Mart on Wards Road has donated \$1,000 for the school division's *Pack the Bus*. The Wal-Mart on Old Forest Road has donated \$2,000 for the school division, \$2,000 to E. C. Glass High School, and the manager of the store visited Linkhorne Elementary School and distributed 10 \$100 gift certificates to teachers.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORT.)

**E-2. Pauline F. Maloney STEP With Links Program: 2010-11 Budget**

The Lynchburg City School Board serves as fiscal agent for the Pauline F. Maloney STEP With Links program. The organization's governing board has approved its 2010-11 operating budget in the amount of \$43,732, which represents a decrease of \$1,186 over the 2009-10 fiscal year.

The Pauline F. Maloney STEP With Links program enhances academic and cultural development of minority students who are in the sixth grade and is sponsored by the Links, Inc., a national organization of professional women. This program is funded entirely through donations. Lynchburg City Schools contributes \$10,000 annually to this program.

The 2010-11 budget appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

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Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board authorized the school administration to act as fiscal agent for the Pauline F. Maloney STEP With Links program and to administer the 2010-11 budget in the amount of \$43,732.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 7, 2010, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF THE PAULINE F. MALONEY STEP WITH LINKS BUDGET.)

**E-3. Budget Adjustment: 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers**

The Virginia Department of Education notified Lynchburg City Schools that the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers program being implemented at the schools listed will receive continuation funding as shown below:

Linkhorne Middle School	\$180,000
Perrymont Elementary School and Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation	200,000
William Marvin Bass Elementary School	<u>180,000</u>
	\$560,000

This amount is included in the 2010-11 Grant Fund budget.

The school division has also received notification from Virginia Department of Education that the application for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers submitted for the following schools have been approved for funding as shown below:

Sandusky Middle School	\$137,500
Heritage Elementary School	150,795
Robert S. Payne Elementary School	<u>130,496</u>
	\$418,791

This amount was not included in the 2010-11 Grant Fund budget and results in an increase to the Lynchburg City Schools Grant Fund budget of \$418,791.

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mrs. Tweedy, the school board approved the increase in the grant fund budget of \$418,791.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**E-4. Adequate Yearly Progress Results**

Each year since 1998 the school division has administered Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in grades three through eight as well as 12 high school end-of-course tests. The SOL accreditation passing rates are 70% or 75% in English, and 70% in math, social studies, and science. The required passing rates remain constant from year to year. It is anticipated that all 16 schools will be fully accredited by the Virginia Department of Education this year.

On August 12, 2010, the Virginia Department of Education released official Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) results based on Standards of Learning testing during 2009-10. The AYP for school divisions is based on the federal accountability system for public schools as required by No Child Left Behind. The student achievement requirements of the law result in 29 targets to be met by each school. The achievement requirements of the law also increase each year. For the 2009-10 school year, pass rates in math were 83 percent, and in math is was 85 percent. Virginia requested that the US Department of Education hold the pass rates steady. On July 29, 2010, the school division was notified that required pass rates would only increase slightly to 81.1 percent in English and 79.1 percent in math.

The 29 AYP subgroup areas for reading and math are total school, black, Hispanic, white, economically disadvantaged, student with disabilities, and Limited English Proficient. There are provisions that will help schools meet required target rates in these areas. The "Safe Harbor" provision allows a school to use a failure rate that has decreased by at least 10 percent to show acceptable adequate yearly progress. The "Trailing

Average” provision allows a school that doesn’t meet a target to average the past three years to try and meet the target. If a school misses AYP for two years in the same content area, English or math, the school moves into school improvement. In the second \ consecutive year of missing AYP, the school division must provide written notice to parents of the school affected. The school must offer at least two choices of schools not in school improvement for students of that school to attend and transportation must be provided for students to attend those schools. In the third consecutive year of school improvement, students must continue to be provided the option of attending an alternate school and supplemental services must be provided to students who are economically disadvantaged free-of-charge. In the fourth consecutive year of school improvement, all previous consequences must remain in place, and additional corrective action must be taken which includes implementing new curriculum, extending the school day/year, and reorganizing the school internally. Public school choice is being offered at Heritage Elementary School and Perrymont Elementary School. The receiving schools are Robert S. Payne Elementary School, Sandusky Elementary School, and Sheffield Elementary School. Supplemental educational services will be offered to eligible students at Perrymont Elementary School.

At this point, the school division is implementing several initiatives to help schools meet AYP. Indistar, which is being used as a division improvement planning tool, was created by the Center for Innovation and Improvement and required by the VDOE to help us develop a school division improvement plan. Further, stimulus funds are being used to purchase leveled libraries for elementary schools, and the school division is expanding the use of instructional math software in middle schools. UVA is also being used as a consultant for the math initiative.

Central office staff will conduct academic reviews at selected schools, and additional content-specific professional development will be offered to teachers and instructional assistants. Data meetings will also be held with each principal.

#### **E-5. School Board Retreat: 2010-11**

Each year the Lynchburg City School Board conducts a retreat in order to establish priorities for the school year and to discuss programs and operational issues relative to those priorities. Some of the issues identified for discussion are as follows:

- Alignment of the Comprehensive Plan, School Operating Budget, and Annual Report
- Skillful Teacher Program: Overview
- School Attendance Zone Redistricting: Briefing by Consultants
- Educational Performance Review: Standards of Learning, Adequate Yearly Progress, Graduation Rates, and School Improvement Planning
- Virginia School Efficiency Program Review: Briefing by Virginia Department of Planning and Budget
- End-of-Year Financial Reports Review for 2009-10

The school board requested an update on the Fort Hill Community School and further plans to continue consolidation efforts with the program. The school board also asked to place the school board’s reduction in force policy on its agenda.

#### **E-6. Central Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Technology: Student Allotments for School Divisions**

In the Central Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Technology Governing Board meeting on August 1, 2010, the Appomattox County superintendent and the Appomattox School Board requested a permanent reallocation of two slots (one junior and one senior) beginning with the 2011-12 school year. Appomattox County has had some difficulty in recent years filling all six allocated slots with students who are well-qualified for the program, and this prompted the request for reallocation. During the discussion, the director of the Governor’s School discussed, in general, the ease or difficulty with which each school division has been able to fill its allocated slots over the past few years. Lynchburg City Schools has in almost all cases easily filled its 30 slots and had several additional well-qualified students on its waiting lists. In fact, within the last five years Lynchburg City Schools has enrolled an approximate average of four additional students selected (above 30) each year to help the Governor’s School maintain full enrollment. These slots have been funded by the school districts that did not fill all of their slots.

The current allocation prescribes 40 slots for Bedford County, 28 for Campbell County, 14 for Amherst County, six for Appomattox County, and 30 for Lynchburg. Central Virginia Governor’s School policy clearly indicates that school divisions will pay tuition for their allocated slots regardless of their ability to fill them with willing and capable students. This policy ensures a stable revenue stream for operations. Thus, the only way Appomattox County could have what it believes to be a more appropriate allocation of four slots is by action of the Governor’s School Governing Board through a change in the Governor’s School’s policy. If that should happen, then the Lynchburg City School Board could purchase and use the two slots as part of its enrollment for the CVGS.

The school board discussed the purchase of the two additional slots and decided that because there are usually Lynchburg City Schools students on the waiting list to attend the Governor’s School, it would be beneficial for

students if those slots were purchased. The school board will vote on this item at the next school board meeting.

**F. Superintendent's Comments**

Dr. McKendrick indicated that the opening of school had gone smoothly this year. The school administration has been meeting each day to discuss student enrollment and staffing for schools. The enrollment as of today is 8,312, and the school operating budget for 2010-11 was based on an enrollment of 8,144.

Dr. McKendrick welcomed Miss Chowdry and Mr. Addison to the school board and stated that he looked forward to their participation.

**G. Board Comments**

Mr. Webb provided comments about his visits during the opening week of school and Sandusky Middle School. He also provided information about the back to school convocation and the VSBA Safety Conference he recently attended.

Mrs. Barker provided comments about the back to school convocation and stated that she heard a lot of positive comments from the staff about the presentation made by Dr. McKendrick.

**H-1. Notice of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board convened a closed meeting at 7:26 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia 2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss a personnel matter.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**H-2. Certification of Closed Meeting**

Upon MOTION by Mr. Billingsly, SECONDED by Mrs. Tweedy, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:45 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Mr. White, SECONDED by Mr. Webb, 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: Mrs. Barker, Mr. Webb, Rev. Anderson, Mr. Billingsly, Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Mrs. Tweedy, Ms. Waller, Mr. White

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**I. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, September 21, 2010, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

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**J. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

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Mary Ann H. Barker, Chairman

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Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk

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