

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
October 3, 2017**

**BOARD
MEMBERS
PRESENT:**

Michael J. Nilles, Chairman
James E. Coleman, Vice Chairman
Robert O. Brennan
Sharon Y. Carter
Charleta F. Mason
Susan D. Morrison
Derek L. Polley
Kimberly A. Sinha
Katie K. Snyder
Manan A. Shah, Student Representative, Heritage High School
Kenadie D. Roberson, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD
MEMBERS
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION
PRESENT:**

Larry A. Massie, Acting Superintendent
Ben W. Copeland, Assistant Superintendent for Operations and Administration
John C. McClain, Assistant Superintendent for 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
Steven L. Gatzke, Director for Facilities
Marie F. Gee, Director for Personnel
Michael K. Rudder, Director for School Improvement
Russell E. Stone, Director for Transportation
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director for Exceptional Learners
Dixie B. Sears, Supervisor for Language Arts, History, Library, and Foreign Language
Maria T. Jaeger, Supervisor for Math and Science
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA
PRESENT:**

Sydney Schaedel, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda
Items:**

- A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- B-1. Public Comments
- C-1. German Exchange Program
- C-2. Efforts to Improve Student Achievement: Dearington Elementary School for Innovation and William Marvin Bass Elementary School
- D-1. Finance Report
- E. Consent Agenda
- F. Student Representative Comments
- G. School Board Committee Reports
- H. Unfinished Business
- I-1. Foreign Travel: High School German Students
- I-2. Alternative Education Program Review
- I-3. Extended Opportunities for Success: Grant Summary for 2016-17
- I-4. Virginia Graduation Measures
- J. Superintendent's Comments
- K. Board Comments
- L. Informational Items
- M. Adjournment

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

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Snyder, SECONDED Ms. Carter, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:03 p.m., pursuant to the Code of Virginia § 2.2-3711 (A) (6) to discuss consideration of public funds where competition or bargaining is involved where, if made public initially, the financial interest of the governmental unit would be adversely affected.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Ms. Mason arrived at 5:38 p.m.

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Snyder, the school board reconvened in open session at 6:11 p.m.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Morrison, 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: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Dr. Nilles asked those in attendance to rise and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Dr. Nilles asked for a moment of silence to remember the victims and their families who suffered the recent tragedy in Las Vegas where a gunman opened fire upon attendees during a concert.

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. German Exchange Program

Mrs. Magdalena Markovinic, German teacher at E. C. Glass High School, was recently recognized by the United States Department of State for her continuous work in establishing, promoting, and maintaining international relations between the students of Lynchburg, Virginia, and Stahnsdorf, Germany. Ms. Markovinic initiated the German-American Partnership Program (GAPP) during the 2013-14 school year at Heritage High School. She transferred to E. C. Glass High School in fall 2015 where she expanded the program.

GAPP is a highly regarded academic exchange program supported by the German Foreign Office as well as the US State Department. The program promotes in-depth language learning and intercultural communication. Mrs. Markovinic was recognized by the school board during this presentation.

C-2. Efforts to Improve Achievement: Dearington Elementary School for Innovation and William Marvin Bass Elementary School

Dearington Elementary School for Innovation and William Marvin Bass Elementary School continue their efforts to improve student achievement through instructional activities that will garner success for students in the classroom. The two schools shared key aspects of their improvement efforts during this presentation. Noted were efforts in reading by providing structured, small, group-focused literacy blocks; one hour of additional adult assistance during each literacy block; and leveled resources for all student reading levels. Further, instructional assistants have received reading training, and there has been an added focus on reading in other content areas such as science and social studies. There has been a greater focus on writing during the literacy block, creating grade-level common assessments, and reading observations during each quarter.

Programs and practices implemented at William Marvin Bass Elementary School include an after school program three days per week with a focus on math, reading, and science. There is also structured blocks of time for instruction, and after school teachers review student data on a regular basis and then collaborate with school day teachers to fine tune strategies for individual students.

The after school program at Dearington Elementary School for Innovation occurs one day per week where teachers focus on data collected on students. DESI has also partnered with the Boys and Girls Club for reading instruction. There are also five school-wide reading strategies in every classroom.

D-1. Finance Report

The school administration, in accordance with the FY2017-18 school operating budget, authorized, approved, and processed the necessary payments through August 31, 2017. The school administration certified that the amounts approved are within budgetary limits and revenue.

The operating fund expenditure report summarized the payments made through August 31, 2017 for the operating fund.

Total Operating Fund Budget	\$ 95,324,667.00
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Through August 31, 2017

Actual Revenue Received	\$ 6,800,139.74
Actual Expenditures	\$ 10,805,751.82
Actual Encumbered	\$ 72,055,246.81

Percent of Budget Received	7.13%
Percent of Budget Used, excluding encumbrances	11.34 %

As of 8/31/17 – 2 months	16.67%
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The revenue and expenditure reports detailed the transactions recorded through August 31, 2017. All reports appeared as attachments to the agenda report.

Mr. Beckles provided an update on revenue and expenses thus far for the school year. He also provided an update on the participation rate for free and reduced meals at E. C. Glass High School, Heritage High School, and Bedford Hills Elementary School.

Mr. Beckles stated that due to medical expenses experienced over the past 12 months, the school division will need to raise health insurance rates beginning January 2018. He provided the school board with information associated with what costs will probably look like for each category of participation. He will update the board with additional information as he receives it.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2017, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE FINANCE REPORT.)

E. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Mrs. Morrison, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for September 19, 2017 (Regular Meeting), and September 21, 2017 (Student Discipline Committee Meeting), and the personnel report for the period September 19 – October 3, 2017.

Yes Votes: Dr. Nilles, Dr. Coleman, Dr. Brennan, Ms. Carter, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF OCTOBER 3, 2017, EXHIBIT “B,” FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

F. Student Representative Comments

Mr. Manan A. Shah, student representative for Heritage High School, and Ms. Kenadie D. Roberson, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, shared comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools.

G. School Board Committee Reports

None

H. Unfinished Business

None

I-1. Foreign Travel: High School German Students

Lynchburg City Schools’ German teachers have established a partnership with Vicco von Bulow Gymnasium, a high school in Stahnsdorf, Germany. Through this partnership, students from Stahnsdorf visited Lynchburg in 2014 and 2016, and plan to visit again in 2018. Likewise, students from Lynchburg City Schools have traveled to Germany three times.

The German teachers request permission to continue this partnership by traveling with up to 12 students this upcoming summer break, June 4 – 20, 2018.

Ms. Magdalena Markovinovic, German teacher at E. C. Glass High School, presented information about this educational exchange opportunity. The presentation included travel arrangements, itinerary, accommodations, safety precautions, and cost.

School Board Policy 6-42: Field/Recreation/Class/Athletic Trips requires prior approval by the school board for student travel outside the continental United States.

This item will be considered as a consent agenda item during the next meeting.

I-2. Alternative Education Program Review

The objective of alternative education is to provide opportunities for students who are not succeeding in the traditional classroom setting. The challenges that our students face today go beyond our current alternative education program.

During this presentation, the school administration shared with the school board a “road map” that will help the school administration as it reviews the programs currently available to students, the effectiveness of those programs, and modifications to programs as necessary with the goal of increasing our students’ success.

This year-long review will use teams to review community awareness and knowledge, locations and facilities, and instruction and support. Each team has goals and timelines for presenting progress reports to include any necessary budget requests to the school board by 2018-19.

I-3. Extended Opportunities for Success: Grant Summary

For the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years, Lynchburg City Schools was awarded \$921,248 for a start-up grant for an extended school year program entitled *Extending Opportunities for Success (EOS)*. During this presentation, the school administration provided the school board with information about Intersessions, Summer School, Senior Intensive, and Credit Recovery programs, all of which were supported through these grant funds.

Participation rates for elementary school were up 23 students from October 2016 to February 2017. In middle school, participation rates were up by two students during the same period, and 126 for high school students.

The Elementary Summer Bridge Program enrolled 180 student in prekindergarten through fifth grade and occurred July 5 – 21, 2017. During this time, students focused on reading and math skills to bridge learning from one grade level to the next. The PETAL Elementary Summer Program enrolled 110 students during the same time period. The program promotes accelerated learning in reading and math by furthering academic achievement for recommended students.

Middle School Summer School offered two sessions during July 5 – 21, 2017, and students were offered math and science for the first session, and reading and history for the second session. The PETAL Secondary Summer Program, which mirrors the elementary program, occurred during the same time period.

Scholarships were offered to high school students who were unable to pay for summer school courses. This summer, 20 scholarships were awarded to students, and 100 percent of the students who took summer school courses earned credits toward graduation.

The next intersession will occur on October 9-11, 2017. Individual schools are developing the focus for their programs.

I-4. Virginia Graduation Measures

On September 26, 2017, the Virginia Department of Education released cohort graduation and dropout rates. Virginia has three graduation measures.

- The Virginia Graduation and Completion Index (GCI) is a Board of Education approved formula that calculates a weighted percent of the students within a given cohort who graduate, complete, or stay in school each year. It also incorporates outcomes for students who remain in school beyond their “on-time” graduation year. (Diploma 100, GED 75, still enrolled 70, Certificate of Program Completion 25).
- The Federal Graduation Indicator (FGI) recognizes graduates who earn Advanced and Standard Diplomas within four years of entering the ninth grade for the first time.
- Virginia On-time Graduation Rate (OGR) is a measure of graduates who earn Advanced Studies, Standard, and Applied Studies Diplomas within four years of entering the ninth grade for the first time.

The Federal Graduation Indicator benchmark is met if

- at least 80 percent of student graduate with Standard or Advanced Studies diplomas, or
- the percentage of students not graduating within four years of entering the ninth grade is reduced by at least 10 percent.

The FGI includes the percentage of students who graduate with a Standard or Advanced Studies Diploma. Student earning a GED, Certificate of Completion, or other diplomas do not count in the FGI calculation

The FGI for E. C. Glass for 2016-17 is 82 percent, which is up one percent from last year. The FGI for Heritage High School is 88 percent, which is up seven percent from last year.

For the Virginia Graduation and Completion Index, high schools must meet graduation objectives and achieve the required pass rates in all four core subjects for full accreditation. The benchmark is 85 points. E. C. Glass received 87 points for the 2016-17 school year, which is the same as it was last year. Heritage High School received 89 points this year, which is up three points from last year.

The calculation for the Virginia On-Time Graduation Rate takes into account student mobility, changes in student enrollment, policy and instructional practices such as ninth grade retention. Schools are not penalized for EL students or students with disabilities who need more than four years to graduate.

The reports looks at the following categories:

- The number of students beginning a ninth grade cohort;
- The OGR which is the percentage of students who graduated with a Virginia diploma in four years;
- The percentage of GED or Certificate earners in four years; and
- The percentage of Still Enrolled, Dropouts, Long-term Absence, and Unconfirmed Status.

The OGR for the school division is 86 percent, 85 percent for E. C. Glass High School (down one point), and 89 percent for Heritage High School (up four points).

J. Superintendent's Comments

Dr. Massie announced that several school board members had received certificates for their participation in VSBA professional development activities. Those who received certificates are: Sharon Carter – Award of Honor; James Coleman – Award of Honor; Derek Polley – Award of Honor; Charleta Mason – Award of Achievement; and Susan Morrison – Award of Recognition.

Dr. Massie presented at the Junior National Honor Society Induction at Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation on October 4, 2017, where 25 students were inducted into the organization.

Dr. Massie attend the Doughnuts for Dads event at Paul Munro Elementary School on September 28, 2017. Dads, granddads, and significant others came to have doughnuts, coffee, and juice and visited classrooms to show support of their students.

K. Board Comments

Mrs. Snyder attended the Heritage High School v. E. C. Glass High School football game this past weekend. She noted that students were taking donations for hurricane victims while at the game.

Ms. Carter was happy to hear about the Junior National Honor Society event and hoped that other schools would join this organization.

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Mr. Polley provided information about the board training activity that occurred on September 22, 2017. He also thanked Dr. Massie for providing clarification to LCS staff about honoring the United States Flag.

Mr. Coleman also remarked about the training that occurred on September 22, 2017. He, too, had an opportunity to attend the Heritage High School v. E. C. Glass High School football game.

Dr. Brennan is the corporate chairman for the Genworth Virginia 10 Miller, and he recognized Mr. Stone one behalf of the organization for his help with transportation during the 10-Miler event.

L. Informational Items

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 3, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

M. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 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.)