

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
February 7, 2012**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Charles B. White, Chairman  
Trenay L. Tweedy, Vice Chairman  
Keith R. Anderson  
Mary Ann H. Barker  
Albert L. Billingsly  
Regina T. Dolan-Sewell  
Troy L. McHenry  
Jennifer R. Poore  
J. Marie Waller  
Joel A. Graham, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

None

**ADMINISTRATION  
PRESENT:**

Larry A. Massie, Interim Superintendent  
William A. Coleman, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction  
Anthony E. Beckles, Sr., Chief Financial Officer  
April M. Bruce, Director of Testing, Guidance, and Gifted  
Leigh F. Farmer, Public Information Officer  
Merle P. Herndon, Director of Professional Development and School Business Partnerships  
Gloria C. Preston, Director of Student Services and Alternative Education  
Michael K. Rudder, Director of Elementary Education  
Gregory P. Sullivan, Director of Information Technology  
Wyllys D. VanDerwerker, Director of Special Education  
Pamela D. Smith-Johnson, Supervisor of Instruction  
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B-1. School Board Appreciation Month
- B-2. Alternative Education Program
- C-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- C-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F-1. School Board Policy 7-14: Nonresidents
- G-1. School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees
- G-2. Special Education Advisory Committee: 2011-12
- G-3. Educational Technology Series XII (Spring 2012) Notes
- G-4. Summer Programs
- H. Superintendent's Comments
- I. Board Comments
- J-1. Notice of Closed Meeting
- J-2. Certification of Closed Meeting
- K. Informational Items
- L. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Mr. White opened the meeting and requested that those in attendance stand and recite *The Pledge of Allegiance*.

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Mr. Billingsly, the school board added items C-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, C-2. Certification of Closed Meeting, J-1. Notice of Closed Meeting, and J-2. Certification of Closed Meeting.

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

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.

Mr. Bob Sullivan spoke before the school board in support of revisions to School Board Policy 7-14: Nonresidents.

**B-1. School Board Appreciation Month**

Governor Bob McDonnell has proclaimed the month of February 2012 as School Board Appreciation Month. The Virginia School Boards Association established this observance in 1989 to encourage public recognition of the roles and responsibilities of school board members and to highlight the importance of public education throughout the Commonwealth.

This year's theme, "Leading Today for Tomorrow," stresses the importance of education in all walks of life. More than 850 school board members in Virginia are entrusted with establishing goals and policies for 134 local school divisions.

The Lynchburg City Schools is joining with other school divisions throughout the state to recognize the important contributions school board members make to their communities.

Members of the Lynchburg City School Board receive no financial compensation for their tireless efforts, and this school board is one of very few boards statewide that has student representatives. The nine members of the school board are appointed by Lynchburg City Council.

Even though this special event shows an appreciation of school board members, members of the community recognize that their contributions reflect a year-round commitment. They are dedicated individuals who are committed to the continuing success of the city's schools and students.

Members of the school board were presented with gifts from each school.

**B-2. Alternative Education Program**

Mrs. Gloria C. Preston, director of student services and alternative education, provided the school board with an overview of the alternative education program which included video of the alternative education sites and students who attend the programs at those sites.

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

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board convened a closed meeting pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) to discuss employee appointments.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

Upon MOTION by Mr. McHenry, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board reconvened in open session at 6:21 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**D. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board approved the school board meeting minutes for December 6, 2011 (Regular Meeting); the personnel report the period January 24 – February 7, 2012; the textbook adoption for history and social sciences – secondary level; School Board Policy 7-41: Use of Drugs and Alcohol; and School Board Policy 7-48: Weapons/Explosives.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

Following the approval of the consent agenda, Ben Martin and Brad Bradley were announced as head football coaches for E. C. Glass High School and Heritage High School, respectively.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “A,” FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

**E. Student Representative Comments**

Mr. Joshua K. Graham, student representative for E. C. Glass High School, and Mr. Nick L. Comerford, student representative for Heritage High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at their schools

**F-1. School Board Policy 7-14: Nonresidents**

During the school board retreat, school board members discussed the opportunity for students who live outside the city and pay tuition to attend the Lynchburg City Schools to have access to the same programs as students who reside in the city. Proposed revisions to the current policy, based upon input from school board members, were presented to the school board at the meeting on November 15, 2011. In addition to the programs currently cited in School Board Policy 7-14, the school administration presented information about the prekindergarten program to the school board on December 6, 2011. This program would not be available to nonresident students because this program is funded by the state and is based on the estimated number of at-risk four-year-olds not eligible for Head Start within each locality.

Nonresident students who pay tuition to attend the Lynchburg City Schools and who receive additional services must pay the additional cost of those services. Parents of non-resident students need to provide transportation to and from school.

Discussion of the policy included denying opportunities for qualified city residents who do not have the resources to pay for enrichment activities and allowing tuition-paying students to compete for space in programs that have traditionally been for city residents. Others stated that if a student pays tuition to attend the Lynchburg City Schools, those students then become our charge and therefore have rights to all programs offered by the school division.

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board approved revisions to School Board Policy 7-14: Nonresidents.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, Mrs. Barker, Mr. Billingsly, Mr. McHenry, Ms. Waller

No Votes: Dr. Dolan-Sewell, Ms. Poore

Abstentions: Rev. Anderson

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “B,” FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7-14: NONRESIDENTS.)

**G-1. School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees**

In its review of School Board Policy 7-14: Nonresidents, members of the school administration also reviewed School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees. In order to align the two policies, the school administration recommends changes to School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees. The proposed revisions appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Members of the school administration have established additional fees to be charged nonresident students who apply or qualify for these services. These fees were determined based upon cost differential associated with the staffing of these programs. Fees are subject to change annually. Based upon current staffing and the contract between Lynchburg City Schools and the Board of the Central Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Technology, the following additional fees are proposed:

Thomas C. Miller Elementary School for Innovation	\$400.00
Dearington Elementary School for Innovation	\$500.00
Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation	\$300.00
Gifted Opportunities Center	No Additional Fee
Central Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Technology	\$4200.00

There are no fees for the Gifted Opportunities Center because we receive state funding for our gifted program, therefore it is included in the regular operating budget.

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Tweedy, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board approved revisions as presented to School Board Policy 4-20: Tuition Fees with fees included.

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

No Votes: Mr. Billingsly

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “C,” FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 4-20: TUITION FEES.)

**G-2. Special Education Advisory Committee: 2011-12**

State regulations governing the education of students with disabilities require the Lynchburg City School Board to appoint a Special Education Advisory Committee annually. This committee meets a minimum of four times per year, and members serve two-year terms.

The Virginia Department of Education guidelines define the role of the Special Education Advisory Committee as follows:

- To advise the school division of unmet needs in the education of students with disabilities,
- To assist the school division in the formulation and development of long-range plans designed to provide needed educational services for students with disabilities,
- To participate in the development of priorities and strategies for meeting the identified needs of students with disabilities,
- To submit periodic reports and recommendations regarding the education of students with disabilities to the division superintendent for transmission to the school board,
- To assist the school division in interpreting plans to the community for meeting the special needs of students with disabilities.

The proposed membership appeared as an attachment to the agenda report. New members were noted in bold.

Upon MOTION by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board approved the appointment of the Special Education Advisory Committee membership for 2011-12.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “D,” FOR A COPY OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011-12.)

**G-3. Educational Technology Series XII (Spring 2012) Notes**

The Virginia Department of Education has notified Lynchburg City Schools that its share of the Educational Technology Series XII (Spring 2012) Grant Funds will be \$466,000. A 20 percent matching expenditure of \$93,200 is required. Grant funds may be expended on networking/infrastructure equipment, classroom multimedia network computers, instructional software, and local technology plan hardware. Purchases from these funds are financed by Virginia Public School Authority Bonds, which are sold in the spring of each year.

Ordinarily, these funds may not be spent more than 60 days prior to the date the bonds are sold. However, a school division may spend funds prior to that date and be reimbursed for those expenditures if the school board passes a resolution stating its intention to do so. A resolution stating the school board’s intention to be reimbursed for expenditures is attached for school board consideration.

The Central Virginia Governor’s School for Science and Technology, the LAUREL Regional Special Education Program, and the Secondary Alternative Education Program are also eligible for \$26,000 each. There is no local match required for these grants. The resolution attached to the agenda report referred to these funds as well.

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board approved the resolution to permit reimbursement for expenditures under the Educational Technology Issue Series XII Notes.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “E,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS.)

**G-4. 2012 Summer Programs**

The school division offers summer programs to provide enrichment, acceleration, and academic support opportunities for elementary, middle, and high school students. The attachment to the agenda report provided the name, description, student groups, dates, times, transportation needs, and funding sources for each of the proposed summer programs.

It was noted that PETAL will continue to provide opportunities in high school and elementary enrichment programs. There will also be athletic programs and SOL academies to help students who still need to pass tests in content areas.

This item will be considered for action at the school board meeting on February 21, 2012.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF FEBRUARY 7, 2012, EXHIBIT “F,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUMMER PROGRAMS SCHEDULE.)

**H. Superintendent’s Comments**

Dr. Massie stated that the City/Schools Leadership meeting held on Monday morning was very productive. Members discussed the FY 2013 budget and student achievement. There was also discussion of the RFP that is due on Friday regarding the Heritage High School project.

Dr. Massie has been asked to speak before the Lynchburg City Council on February 14, 2012, and provide information about the FY2013 budget.

On February 23, 2012, Meg Smith will be honored by the Virginia Board of Education as the Virginia Teacher of the Year. School board members are invited to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Sonny Phillips of Forest, Virginia, donated \$5,000 to the Robert J. Miller Fitness Center, which is located at Heritage High School.

Mrs. Farmer’s last day with the Lynchburg City Schools in February 8, 2012. Dr. Massie thanked her on behalf of the staff and the school board for the good work she has done for the school division. He also wished her the best of luck on her new job.

**I. Board Comments**

Mr. Billingsly inquired about the new fitness center at Heritage High School. Dr. Massie indicated that all of the equipment can be moved to a new facility should a new school be built for Heritage High School.

Rev. Anderson thanked his colleagues on the school board, the school administration, teachers, and others who have rallied behind him after the loss of his father and his daughter. It made him feel good to know that there are those he can turn to in a time of need, and it has strengthened his resolve to help others.

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

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Rev. Anderson, the school board convened a closed meeting at 7:35 p.m. pursuant to the Code of Virginia §2.2-3711 (A) (1) (2) (7) to discuss personnel matters, student disciplinary matters, and to receive a legal briefing by a staff member.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

Upon MOTION by Rev. Anderson, SECONDED by Dr. Dolan-Sewell, the school board reconvened in open session at 8:51 p.m.

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

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

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

**K. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 21, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

**L. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

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Charles B. White, 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.)