

**Lynchburg City School Board  
Regular Meeting  
March 6, 2012**

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Charles B. White, Chairman  
Trenay L. Tweedy, Vice Chairman  
Keith R. Anderson  
Mary Ann H. Barker  
Albert L. Billingsly  
Troy L. McHenry  
Jennifer R. Poore  
J. Marie Waller  
Nick L. Comerford, Student Representative, Heritage High School

**BOARD  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

Regina T. Dolan-Sewell  
Joel A. Graham, Student Representative, E. C. Glass High School

**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, Gifted, and Guidance  
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  
Charles E. Dellinger, Supervisor of Instruction  
Pamela D. Smith-Johnson, Supervisor of Instruction  
Ethel R. Coles, Coordinator of Equity and Accountability  
Wendie L. Sullivan, Clerk/Recording Secretary

**MEDIA  
PRESENT:**

Jessie Pounds, *The News & Advance*

**Agenda  
Items:**

- A-1. Public Comments
- B. Consent Agenda
- C. Student Representative Comments
- D-1. Efficiency Review
- D-2. School Board Policy 7-33.3: Student Uniforms
- D-3. Administrative Regulation 7-33.3: Student Uniforms
- D-4. School Board Policy 7-37: Dress and Appearance
- D-5. Administrative Regulation 7-37: Dress and Appearance
- D-6. School Board Policy 5-18: Reduction in Force
- E-1. K-5 Social Studies Textbook Adoption
- E-2. School Calendar: 2012-13
- F. Superintendent's Comments
- G. Board Comments
- H. Informational Items
- I. 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*.

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.

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

**B. Consent Agenda**

Upon MOTION by Mrs. Barker, SECONDED by Mr. McHenry, the school board approved the personnel report for the period February 21 – March 6, 2012; a request for religious exemption; and the Capital Improvement Plan for 2013 - 2017.

Yes Votes: Mr. White, Mrs. Tweedy, 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, the appointment of Kevin M. Latham as director of secondary education was announced.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

Rev. Anderson arrived at 5:33 p.m.

**C. Student Representative Comments**

Mr. Nick L. Comerford, student representative for Heritage High School, provided comments about the events and activities occurring at his school.

**D-1. Efficiency Review**

Over the past several months, the superintendent has conducted an efficiency review of the Lynchburg City Schools. Dr. Massie's presentation focused on the following areas: academics, behavior management, athletics, custodial services, instruction and staffing, maintenance, and transportation.

Dr. Christopher D. Jones of Longwood University all of the schools within the division and prepared a report which he presented to the school board. Following his report, the school board convened a recess at 6:42 p.m.

The school board reconvened at 6:45 p.m.

Dr. Massie continued the review his findings for efficiencies in athletics, custodial services, instruction and staffing, maintenance, and transportation. A copy of the complete efficiency was presented to the school board.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT "B," FOR A COPY OF THE EFFICIENCY STUDY.)

**D-2. School Board Policy 7-33.3: Student Uniforms**

The superintendent has reviewed School Board Policy 7-33.3: Student Uniforms. As a result of that review, that policy has been revised. The policy has also been reviewed by legal counsel. A copy of the revisions to the policy appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Concern was raised about the opt-out portion of the policy and if this option, in effect, would do away with school uniforms. Dr. Massie explained that the opt-out portion of the policy makes it legally defensible and that it does not affect the integrity of the policy. This item will be considered for action by the school board at its March 20, 2012, school board meeting.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT "C," FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7-33.3: STUDENT UNIFORMS.)

**D-3. Administrative Regulation 7-33.3: Student Uniforms**

The superintendent has reviewed Administrative Regulation 7-33.3: Student Uniforms. As a result of that review, that regulation has been revised. The regulation has also been reviewed by legal counsel. A copy of the revisions to the regulation appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Following discussion, the school board asked that the wording in Section D (1) (a.) remain unchanged. Dr. Massie was also asked by the school board ensure that the school division would be a time frame of a 30-day grace period for students entering a school that has a student uniform policy in place.

The school board will consider action on this item at is March 20, 2012, school board meeting.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT “D,” FOR A COPY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 7-33.3: STUDENT UNIFORMS.)

**D-4. School Board Policy 7-37: Dress and Appearance**

The superintendent has reviewed School Board Policy 7-37: Dress and Appearance. As a result of that review, that policy has been revised. The policy has also been reviewed by legal counsel. A copy of the revisions to the policy appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Dr. Sullivan explained that in reviewing the policies and regulations regarding student uniforms, policies and regulations regarding student dress and appearance were also reviewed by legal counsel. The changes to the school board policies were made in accordance with that review.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT “E,” FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 7-37: DRESS AND APPEARANCE.)

**D-5. Administrative Regulation 7-37: Dress and Appearance**

The superintendent has reviewed Administrative Regulation 7-37: Dress and Appearance. As a result of that review, that regulation has been revised. The regulation has also been reviewed by legal counsel. A copy of the revisions to the regulation appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

Questions were raised regarding Section (A) (10) with regards to the wearing of bedrooms shoes and flip flops were raised. It was noted that legal counsel had recommended that flip flops were added to this section because of safety issues.

The school board will consider this item for action at its meeting on March 20, 2012.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT “F,” FOR A COPY OF ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION 7-37: DRESS AND APPEARANCE.)

**D-6. School Board Policy 5-18: Reduction in Force**

The superintendent has reviewed School Board Policy 5-18: Reduction in Force. As a result of that review, that policy has been revised. The policy has also been reviewed by legal counsel. A copy of the revisions to the policy appeared as an attachment to the agenda report.

School board members were asked to review the policy and contact Dr. Massie should questions arise. The school board will consider action on this at its meeting on March 20, 2012.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT “G,” FOR A COPY OF SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 5-18: REDUCTION IN FORCE.)

**E-1. K-5 Social Studies Textbook Adoption**

The textbook evaluation committee for social studies has completed the review process and recommends the adoption of the *Houghton Mifflin Harcourt K-5 Series*.

The attachment to the agenda report lists the recommended program, the copyright date, and the total cost of student and teacher materials based on the current configuration of classrooms, teachers, and students.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT “H,” FOR A COPY OF THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENT.)

**E-2. School Calendar 2012-13**

A draft of the Lynchburg City Schools’ calendar for 2012-13 appeared as an attachment to the agenda report. The school administration thanked the employees who were on this committee for their contributions. Mr. Coleman highlighted the key features of the calendar noting the nine teacher workdays/staff development days, the two additional workdays for new teachers, Election Day is a holiday for all employees, and that the school administration is proposing a move from a six-week grading period to a nine-week grading period. This proposal has been supported by all principals. This will also require that an interim report be sent home during each nine-week period.

(SEE SCHOOL BOARD DOCUMENT FILE, MEETING OF MARCH 6, 2012, EXHIBIT "I," FOR A COPY OF THE SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2012-13.)

**F. Superintendent's Comments**

A community-wide meeting to discuss the achievement gap has been scheduled for March 25, 2012, at 4:00 p.m. at Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School for Innovation. During this meeting, the school administration will receive opinions and comments and help involve the community with solving this problem.

Dr. Massie wished the Heritage High School Pioneers good luck as the team travels to Virginia Commonwealth University to play in the state tournament.

Breakfast with the Superintendent, which is sponsored by the Lynchburg City Schools Education Foundation, Inc., will occur on March 8, 2012, at 7:30 a.m. in the Hall Campus Ballroom at Lynchburg College.

The school operating budget for 2012-13 will be presented to the school board on March 20, 2012 and presented to the Lynchburg City Council on March 27, 2012.

**G. Board Comments**

Mr. McHenry congratulated the Heritage High School boys' basketball team. He also stated that he had attended the performance of *Hairspray* at Heritage, and it was fantastic. Mr. McHenry announced that the Superintendent's Evaluation Tool Committee met and has a final draft that members are reviewing. All of the revisions that were requested during the retreat have been made, and the school board will receive a copy of the document in the near future.

Mrs. Tweedy recognized the number of years of service of employees who are retiring, particularly noting the years of service for Mr. Parnell and Ms. Swain.

Ms. Poore gave kudos to Mr. Tony Tucker who played the lead in *Hairspray*.

Mr. White thanked Dr. Massie for all of his hard and for responding to the requests made of him when he assumed his assignment as interim superintendent.

**H. Informational Items**

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, March 20, 2012, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

**I. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 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.)