

**Lynchburg City School Board
Regular Meeting
September 19, 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. Standards of Learning State Accreditation Results
- D. Consent Agenda
- E. Student Representative Comments
- F. School Board Committee Reports
- G-1. School Board Retreat: 2017-18
- H-1. LCS One: Update
- I. Superintendent's Comments
- J. Board Comments
- K. Informational Items
- L. Adjournment

The Lynchburg City School Board met for its regular business meeting at 5:05 p.m. in the Board Room at the School Administration Building. Dr. Nilles opened the meeting.

Upon MOTION by Ms. Carter, SECONDED by Ms. Morrison, the school board added a closed meeting to discuss spending of public funds and to add item C-4. Personnel Report for the period September 5-19, 2017.

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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

A-1. Notice of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED Ms. Mason, the school board convened a closed meeting at 5:07 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, Ms. Mason, Mrs. Morrison, Mr. Polley, Dr. Sinha, Mrs. Snyder

No Votes: None

Abstentions: None

A-2. Certification of Closed Meeting

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Mason, the school board reconvened in open session at 5:34 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 Dr. Brennan, SECONDED by Dr. Sinha, 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*.

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.

Mr. Vincente Gonzalez spoke before the school board about the rights of illegal aliens who are students in the Lynchburg City Schools.

Ms. Allesia Duram spoke about her experiences as an undocumented immigrant who attended the Lynchburg City Schools.

C-1. Standards of Learning State Accreditation Results

Each year the school division administers Standards of Learning (SOL) tests in grades three through eight as well as 12 high school end-of-course tests. On September 13, 2017, the Virginia Department of Education released official state accreditation results based on Standards of Learning tests. During this presentation, the school administration shared the results and the status of each school.

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The Standards of Learning test results are used in the calculation of State Accreditation and Federal Annual Measurable Objectives. Students begin taking SOL tests in third grade, and when they enter high school, they must pass their courses and SOL tests in order to earn a diploma.

In order to meet state accreditation, schools must meet the 70 percent benchmark in math, history, and science, and the 75 percent benchmark in English. High schools must also have a Graduation and Completion Index of 85 or higher. School may use a three-year trailing average to meet the 70/75 percent benchmark. Recovery points in reading and math are available. Workkeys, AP, and ACT are approved substitute tests for high school students and are recognized by the state.

High schools must meet graduation objectives as well as achieve the required pass rates in all four core subjects for full accreditation. The benchmark that must be met is 85. E. C. Glass High School's graduation completion index is 87 this year, which is up by two points. Heritage High School's GCI is 89, which is up three points.

There are several accreditation designations. They are as follows:

Fully Accredited – Schools that meet all SOL pass rate benchmarks and GCI benchmark

Partially Accredited: Approaching Benchmark-Pass Rate – Schools that are not fully accredited but that are within a narrow margin (two points) of the adjusted SOL pass rates required for full accreditation.

Partially Accredited: Improving School-Pass Rate – Schools that are not fully accredited and do not qualify for a rating of Partially Accredited: Approaching Benchmark-Pass Rate, but that are making acceptable progress toward full accreditation.

Partially Accredited: Warned School-Pass Rate – Schools that are not within a narrow margin of nor making acceptable progress towards achieving the adjusted SOL pass rates required for full accreditation.

Partially Accredited: Reconstituted School – Schools that fail to meet the requirements for full accreditation for four consecutive years and receive permission from the State Board of Education to reconstitute.

Accreditation Denied – A school is denied accreditation if it fails to meet the requirements to be rated fully accredited for four consecutive years.

To Be Determined – This designation indicates that the state is reviewing the progress of the school.

Schools that are fully accredited for the 2017-18 school year are: Bedford Hills Elementary School, Paul Munro Elementary School, Robert S. Payne Elementary School, Sandusky Elementary School, Sheffield Elementary School, Thomas C. Miller Elementary School, and E. C. Glass High School. Schools that have been denied accreditation are Linkhorne Elementary School, William Marvin Bass Elementary School, Linkhorne Middle School, and Sandusky Middle School. The remaining schools are in To Be Determined Status.

Following the presentation, the school board discussed future options about reviewing data. The school board then requested that the school administration present a monthly report on student achievement.

D. Consent Agenda

Upon MOTION by Mr. Polley, SECONDED by Ms. Carter, the school board approved school board meeting minutes for September 5, 2017 (Regular Meeting); September 5, 2017 (Work Session); September 5, 2017 (Closed Meeting); and September 12, 2017 (Student Discipline Committee Meeting); the VSBA Policy Services Contract; the Lynchburg Juvenile Detention Center Education Program Budget: 2017-18; and the personnel report for the period September 5 – 19, 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 SEPTEMBER 5, 2017, EXHIBIT "A," FOR A COPY OF THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS.)

E. 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.

F. School Board Committee Reports

Ms. Mason announced that the Governor’s School Board had met, and she invited school board members to visit the school.

G-1. School Board Retreat: 2017-18

Each year, Lynchburg City School Board conducts an annual retreat. Members of the school board have submitted potential topics for discussion. They are as follows:

Professional Learning Communities	Student Discipline
Achievement Gap	School Finance 101
Teacher Turnover Rate and Retention Data	Salary Trends
Data Warehouse	LOLET/COLET
School Safety	Poverty-to-Progress: Education Group
School Environment	Capital Improvement
School Calendar	School Start Times

The school board retreat will occur on November 1. Mrs. Sullivan will inform the school board when a location for the retreat has been secured. She will also send the list of items to the school board for prioritization so that an agenda can be developed for the meeting.

H-1. LCS-One: Update

LCS-ONE was approved for implementation in the spring 2014. The purpose of LCS-ONE is to break the digital divide of our students and increase student engagement. The school administration provided an update on LCS-ONE during this presentation.

I. Superintendent’s Comments

Mr. Beckles gave a report of the efforts taken by the school administration to provide free and reduced priced meals for students. The last day for students to receive benefits based on last year’s application is September 25, 2017. After that date, students will be charged full price for meals. At this point, E. C. Glass High School has 96 students who have not completed applications, Heritage High School has 106 students, and Bedford Hills Elementary School has 23 students. The school administration will continue to work with parents and students to complete applications.

Dr. Massie reported that he and several administrators from the school division worked with the city manager and other city staff to complete a Bloomberg grant that would provide funding to assist with programs and activities to help close the achievement gap.

J. Board Comments

Dr. Brennan reminded everyone that open forums would be conducted on September 25, 2017, beginning at 6:30 p.m. concurrently at E. C. Glass High School and Sandusky Middle School.

Dr. Coleman reminded Student Discipline Committee members that there would be a meeting on September 21, 2017, at 5:00 p.m.

K. Informational Items

School Board Training: Friday, September 22, 2017, Virginia School Board Association Offices, 200 Hansen Road, Charlottesville, Virginia

Next School Board Meeting: Tuesday, October 2, 2017, 5:30 p.m., Board Room, School Administration Building

L. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:27 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.)