



**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Booker T. Reaves Media Center, Charlottesville High School
Thursday, January 9, 2020 (5:00 PM)**

1.1 Call to Order: Associate Superintendent James Henderson called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.1 Moment of Silence: Mr. Henderson asked all those present to observe a moment of silence.

3.1 Pledge of Allegiance: The Board began its meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

4.1 Roll Call:

The following Board Members were present:

Mr. James Bryant	Ms. Lashundra Bryson Mosberger
Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Ms. Leah Puryear
Ms. Lisa Torres	Mr. Juandiego Wade
Tiara Strait, Student School Board Representative	

The following Board Members were absent:

Dr. Sherry Kraft

The following Staff Members were present:

Mr. James Henderson	Ms. Gertrude Ivory
Ms. Kim Powell	Mr. Jeff Faust
Ms. Renee Hoover	Dr. Kendra King
Ms. Denise Johnson	Ms. Beth Cheuk
Ms. Julia Green	Ms. Leslie Thacker

The following Staff Members were absent:

Dr. Rosa Atkins

Board Organization

5.1 Elect a Chairperson: In accordance with School Board Policy, BCA, School Board Organizational Meeting, Mr. Henderson called for nominations for Chair of the Board. Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Puryear, to elect Ms. Jennifer McKeever as Chair of the School Board for calendar year 2020. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

5.2 Elect a Vice-Chair: In accordance with School Board Policy, BCA, School Board Organizational Meeting, Ms. McKeever called for nominations for Vice-Chair of the Board. Mr. Bryant made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres,

to elect Ms. Leah Puryear as Vice-Chair of the School Board for calendar year 2020. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

5.3 Appoint Clerk and Deputy Clerk of the Board: In accordance with School Board Policy, BCA, School Board Organizational Meeting, upon the recommendation of Mr. Henderson, Ms. Puryear made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, that the Board approve the appointment of Leslie B. Thacker as Clerk to the School Board and Julia Green as Deputy Clerk to the School Board effective January 1, 2020. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Ms. McKeever welcomed newly elected school board member Ms. Bryson Morsberger and student representative to the school board Tiara Strait.

6.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Ms. Puryear made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

7.1 Comments from Members of the Community: Andy Orban addressed the Board with comments of appreciation for listening to concerns around the condition of school buildings. He expressed appreciation for the Walker/Buford PTO presentation that included information on improvements for the Buford and Walker bathrooms.

Amy Ogden addressed the Board with comments that the offering of world languages in the division is declining. She also noted concern that Spanish wasn't offered during the first part of the school year due to staffing and asked what the Board plans to do to build up the program.

7.2 Public Comment 2020-2021 Budget: There were none.

8.1 Board Member Comments: Ms. Torres thanked those who spoke during public comment.

Ms. Puryear expressed her appreciation to the Board for selecting her as Vice-Chair, wished those present a Happy New Year, and thanked students and staff for their work.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger thanked those who provided public comment and those who provided well wishes for her recent election to the Board.

Ms. McKeever thanked those that provided public comment.

9.1-6 Adoption of Consent Agenda: Items from the consent agenda included **Personnel Recommendations**, [Minutes from the December 5, 2019 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes from the December 18, 2019 School Board Budget Work Session](#), [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#), and [Grant Awards](#). Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Puryear, to approve the adoption of the consent agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Action Items

10.1 Approval - 2020-2021 Program of Study: James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Dr. Eric Irizarry, CHS Principal; Dr. Jesse Turner, Buford Principal; Dr. Adam Hastings, Walker Principal; and Ms. Stephanie Carter, Director of CATEC, presented the 2020-2021 Program of Study for Board information on December 5, 2019. The Program of Study was presented for action.

Ms. McKeever asked for clarification around the Spanish offering in 5th grade. Mr. Henderson responded that staff is revisiting World Language offerings and will report back to the board.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger noted the importance of examining the foreign language offerings closely as it is an item that determines if a student graduates with an advanced diploma instead of a standard diploma.

Ms. McKeever stated that she feels the Program of Study is lacking in the foreign language program. Taking it in elementary but not offering it at 5th grade.

Ms. Puryear and Mr. Wade recommended receiving additional information regarding Spanish at Walker at the January 25, 2020 meeting.

Mr. Henderson noted that it will be important to look at the amount of time students spend at Walker and how to work in the many electives into students' schedules.

Ms. Torres thanked Dr. Irizarry and Mr. Henderson for including American Sign Language in the Program of Study.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever, to approve the 2020-2021 Program of Study. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

10.2 [Approval - 2020-2021 School Calendar](#): James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, presented the 2020-2021 School Calendar for Board information on December 5, 2019. The item was presented for action. Annually, the Charlottesville City School Board is charged with the development and approval of a calendar which must incorporate 180 days or 990 hours of instruction for students served in the school division. A draft of the 2020 – 2021 school calendar was posted on our website for review and comment. All comments received were taken into consideration when developing the proposed calendar.

Mr. Wade asked Mr. Henderson to provide information on the amount of snow days allowed and the requirements for makeup days. Mr. Henderson responded that the calendar allows for three days that do not need to be made up and upon the fourth day the Superintendent works with the Board to determine if days will be made up. A total of five days are allowed to be missed without requiring makeup day.

Ms. Puryear made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to approve the 2020-2021 School Calendar. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Items for Discussion

11.1 [Student and Family Engagement/Early Connections Update](#): James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, Velvet Coleman and Bianca Johnson, Student and Family Engagement Facilitators, provided an update on student and family engagement. Information presented included highlights from recent activities, professional development, community partners, Parent University, parent outreach, and future initiatives.

Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Coleman and Ms. Johnson's efforts around family engagement.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger noted that she attended Parent University and how family friendly the event was.

Ms. Torres also noted appreciation for including information on community partners and asked what the Board can do to support those efforts. Ms. Coleman and Ms. Johnson responded that having a Family Resource Center at each elementary school, more time for professional development, and family engagement staff at each level would be beneficial.

11.2 Special Education Structural Overview: Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, introduced Dr. Katrina Lee, Supervisor of Special Education, presented an update on the Special Education Structural Overview. Information presented included:

- Overview of Special Education Specialized Programs
 - Staff
 - Program Descriptions
 - Structured Teaching & Autism Resource Classroom
 - Designed for students with Autism who are able to access the general education curriculum with individualized supports
 - Provides intensive individualized instruction in communication, social skills, executive functioning
 - Currently, available as an IEP placement at Clark and Burnley Moran
 - Rising 5th grades will access a modified STAR program at Walker with the intention of expanding to a full program in 2020-2021
 - Behavior and Emotional Support and Tools
 - Designed for students with emotional and behavioral needs who are able to access general education with individualized supports
 - Provides intensive individualized instruction in social skills, emotional self-regulation, coping strategies, executive functioning and work habits
 - Utilizes the Zones of Regulation, Social Thinking and Superflex Curriculums as well as modifying the Tier 1 SEL curriculum
 - Provides a safe space for emotional self-regulation and co-regulation
 - Proposed at Burnley Moran and Jackson Via with students accessing from other schools as determined by IEP teams
 - Life Skills Education and Adaptive curriculum Program
 - Designed for students with significant intellectual disabilities who require an adapted curriculum in order to develop functional academics along with skills that they will need in everyday life across the domains of vocation, community, leisure/recreation, and domestic.
 - Provides intensive individualized instruction across the five domains with emphasis adjusting based on age
 - Currently available as an IEP placement for students in K through Post-High at Jackson Via, Walker, CHS and Parkside



Ms. Torres noted that two of the programs mentioned were in place before but have been renamed.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger asked if teachers are provided with tools and professional development that teachers in specialized programs receive so that they can be prepared when students return to their home schools from these programs. Dr. Lee responded that they do.

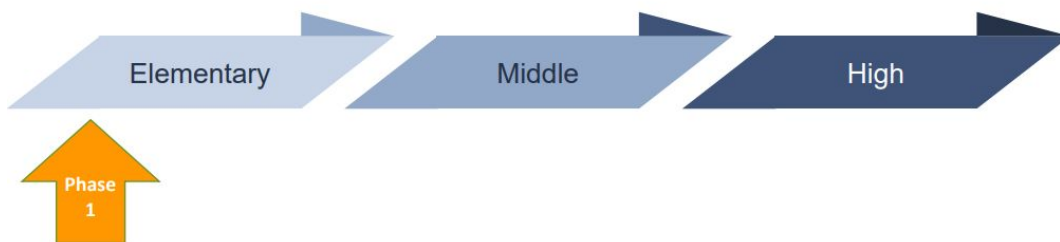
11.3 Facilities Improvement Planning Committee (FIPC) Project Recommendations: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented an update on the Facilities Improvement Planning Committee (FIPC) Project Recommendation. Information presented included:

- Facilities Improvement & Planning Committee (FIPC):
 - First Meeting – August 16, 2016
 - FIPC Profile:
 - School Board
 - Division & School Administration
 - Teachers
 - City Facilities Development

- Community Members
 - FIPC reviews progress & sequence of projects, and provides recommendations for future project areas
 - Division Administration, City Facilities Staff & School Staff collaborate to finalize scope and design for each project
- Capital Improvements Plan (CIP)
 - Rolling 5 Year Plan
 - Actual appropriations are annual
 - Unused appropriations carry forward
 - Annual funding for school modernization at \$1,250,000 for summer 2020
 - Original funding \$1 million
 - Inflation allowance provided in year 3 of original 5 year plan
 - Funding for CIP assessed annually by City Council
 - Zero-based CIP
- FIPC – Considerations for Projects
- Clear Goals – The Strategic Plan
- FIPC – Proposed Elementary Sequence

Construction		
Year	School	Description
2018	Clark	Classroom Modernization
2019	Jackson-Via	Classrooms & Commons
 2020	Burnley-Moran	Classrooms & Media Center*
2021	Greenbrier	Multi-Purpose Commons
2022	Venable	Media Center Renovation
2023	Johnson	Commons Area Renovation
 Currently in Design *Originally was Dining/Learning Commons & Outdoor Space		

- FIPC – Project Planning



Original FIPC Outcome/Guidance:

- Recognize Budget Challenge: Transformative Change vs. Broader Building Impact
- Consider Model Spaces – Aspirational Approach
- If one grade-level will be the model (vs. a common area model space), it should be the highest grade level in the building.
- FIPC – Updated Elementary Proposal

Each Elementary School will choose 1 focus area to address with funds remaining AFTER the classroom furniture & technology are addressed:

- FIPC will be reconvened in 2022/2023 to determine next steps (assuming CIP funding continues)
- Next steps will be heavily dependent upon status & progress of reconfiguration project
- Reconfiguration Update: RFP Posted on City Procurement Current Projects Web Page 12/18/2019 Closing Date 1/30/2020

Ms. McKeever thanked Ms. Powell for her leadership on this project.

11.4 2020-2021 Budget Update: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented the 2020-2021 Budget Update for Board information. Information presented included:

GOVERNOR’S BUDGET OVERVIEW

- Governor’s Budget Released 12/17/2019
- Press Release: www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases
- VRS Rate increase
- Changes to funding for Regional Special Education Programs (“intensive needs”)
- Address decreasing lottery proceeds with a tax on “games of skill”
 - “Our schools rely on our state and local governments to fund them, but we in turn rely in part on the Virginia Lottery, which has for decades provided a funding stream for our schools. But technology moves fast, and in just the last year we have seen a sharp rise in electronic games of skill. As these machines become more popular, our lottery sales have dropped. “
 - “...impose a tax on these games of skill, and earmark that revenue to boost funding for our public school students. ..use the revenue from regulating these games to create a new flexible, per pupil pot of money distributed to our school divisions based on enrollment so that they can use these funds in a manner that best supports their needs. “
- SUMMARY
 - State revenue projected for decrease compared to current fiscal year
 - The increase in Charlottesville’s Local Composite Index of ability to pay (LCI) is reducing the projected FY 2021 state revenue for CCS

Ms. McKeever noted that advocacy to hold regional education programs harmless is important for this General Assembly session.

Ms. Puryear noted that CCS is one of 9 divisions in the PREP program. Superintendents are working diligently on the hold harmless aspect and noted the importance of having legislators support school divisions.

11.5 Strategic Plan Progress Update: Jeff Faust, Director of Technology, and Beth Cheuk, Coordinator of Community Relations, presented an update on the Strategic Plan Progress. Information presented included:

- CCS Values
- Focus Areas
- Academic Excellence
- Safe and Supportive Schools
- Organizational Supports

Ms. Torres asked for a sample of student portfolios.

11.6 Community Equity Committee Update: Beth Cheuk, Coordinator of Community Relations, and Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, presented an update on the Community Equity Committee. Information presented included:

- Role of Equity Committee
- Equity Committee Selection
- Four Key Areas

- Supported/Supportive Staff: This includes diversifying our staff and equipping our educators to succeed and help all students succeed.
 - Diverse, Inclusive, and Rigorous Learning Experiences: Let's embrace our diversity -- in classrooms' student composition and in richly varied and challenging learning activities.
 - Growing Relationships: As we help our staff and students feel connected, supported, and safe, we will learn from one another for our mutual gain.
 - Equity Foundations: We want to be systematic and proactive as we make positive changes. Let's follow -- and establish -- best practices.
- Working Teams
 - Other Voices

Ms. McKeever asked how to prevent groupthink and the best method to gather a wide range of input. Ms. Johnson responded that not having isolated conversations and encouraging committee members to collect input from other voices such as the Charlottesville Youth Council, the Charlottesville NAACP, and school PTOs.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger asked what tools are in place for measuring outcomes. Ms. Cheuk responded that the Equity Foundations Committees is working to develop/locate metrics and to determine the best way to display the selected data. Ms. Cheuk and Ms. Johnson will develop proposed metrics for the Board to review at its annual retreat.

Ms. Torres thanked Ms. Cheuk and Ms. Johnson for their work and asked if metrics will be tied into the Equity Policy as well. Ms. Johnson replied that it will.

11.7 2020 School Board Member Committee Assignments: Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, presented the 2020 School Board Member Committee Assignments for discussion and/or approval.

Mr. Wade noted that he has been on some committees and although he is comfortable he is willing to change.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger noted that as a new member she isn't sure how assignments work and that she would like to be on the Equity Committee. Ms. McKeever noted that there may be opportunities to be on one of the working groups and encouraged Ms. Bryson Morsberger to contact her to find out what opportunities may be available.

There was discussion related to potentially convening a committee to address the requested re-naming of various school facilities.

Board Response to Written Reports

12.1 2019-2020 Course/Program Enrollment Update: Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, prepared the Course/Program Enrollment report for Board information.

12.2 2019-2020 Professional Development Update: James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, and Ms. Paula Culver-Dickinson, will present the 2019-2020 Professional Development Update for Board information.

13.1 Comments from Members of the Community: Chris Meyer addressed the Board suggesting that when presenting information on reconfiguration to provide a timeline. He suggested changing the time of meetings to 6:30 p.m. or 7:00 p.m., including metrics around equity, and noted concern that there aren't many indicators in presentations. Mr. Meyer also requested information on the criteria around the Superintendent's evaluation.

Phil Varner addressed the Board with the suggestions of reviewing the names of schools to better reflect the current values and vision of the community than was expressed fifty to one hundred years ago when schools were originally named.

14.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Bryant thanked those that provided public comment, congratulated Ms. McKeever and Ms. Puryear for their election as Chair and Vice-Chair. He also noted his sadness upon hearing of the passing of Ms. Morales and Mr. Vest and provided reflections on their tenure at Charlottesville High School.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger noted when looking at equity as metrics are as important and would like to see dates and deadlines for evaluating progress. She noted that she would like to see Mr. Meyers' comments about performance metrics for the Superintendent and school board meeting times be addressed. She also suggested providing childcare during board meetings and that she is interested to see what the state of facilities are and how they will be addressed in the Capital Improvement Plan. She also noted that several members of the community have expressed concerns around substitute teachers and that she would like to see a timeline for addressing the issue.

Ms. McKeever responded that families are welcome to attend board meetings (including children), the meeting time topic may be addressed during the retreat.

Ms. Puryear noted sadness on the passing of Ms. Morales and Mr. Vest and shared reflections on their tenure at Charlottesville High School. Ms. Puryear also noted that CCS is not the only division in the county that is having a substitute problem and that even though substitutes apply there is a delay as state agencies now take 4-8 weeks to return background checks. Ms. Puryear also provided information on the process for the Superintendent Evaluation.

15.1 Superintendent's Comments: Mr. Henderson extended thoughts and prayers to the family of Mr. William Vest and Ms. Lisa Morales' families for their recent passing. He also wished students and families a Happy New Year and noted that staff is working hard to make sure all students succeed.

16.1 Work Session Wrap-Up - Dr. Kendra King: There were three requests from the Board:

- Provide information on world language at Walker
- Sample of student portfolio
- Review
- Meetings times and protocols

17.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. McKeever read the list of upcoming meetings and activities.

18.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

A video of the January 9, 2020 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1wEYSiv7ddt98hbWn8wbSEzYw9s2VbbJ-/view?ts=5e18b6e3>



Jennifer McKeever, School Board Chair



Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk