



**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Booker T. Reaves Media Center, Charlottesville High School
Thursday, May 2, 2019 (5:00 PM)**

1.1 Call to Order: School Board Chair Jennifer McKeever called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.1 Moment of Silence: School Board Chair Jennifer McKeever 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	Dr. Sherry Kraft
	Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Mr. Ned Michie
	Ms. Leah Puryear	Ms. Lisa Torres
	Mr. Juandiego Wade	Ms. Zyahna Bryant, Student Representative

The following Board Members were absent: None

The following Staff Members were present:	Dr. Rosa Atkins	Dr. Gary Blair
	Mr. Jeff Faust	Mr. James Henderson
	Ms. Renee Hoover	Dr. Kendra King
	Dr. Katrina Lee	Ms. Kim Powell
	Ms. Julia Green	Ms. Leslie Thacker

The following Staff Members were absent: None

5.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Dr. Kraft 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, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Michie, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 Comments from Members of the Community: Ashlyn Cherrix, 2301 Angus Road, CHS Junior (Y Street) addressed the Board with comments of support for a comprehensive tobacco and product prohibition and distributed a 24/7 campaign packet to board members.

Student and Staff Recognitions

7.1 [Teacher Appreciation Week Proclamation](#): Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, along with senior staff and the Board, recognized Charlottesville City Schools' teaching staff noting that the first full week in May of each year has been designated as National Teacher Appreciation Week to honor the dedicated men and women who lend their passion and skills to educating our children. Charlottesville City Schools is keenly aware of the importance of teachers in helping our students reach their full potential and it is appropriate that teachers be recognized for their dedication and commitment to educating our children. May 7-11, 2018 is proclaimed teacher appreciation week and all citizens were urged to pay tribute to our public school teachers.

Ms. McKeever and Dr. Atkins thanked teachers for their work and influence on students and the community.

7.2 [Virginia Nurses Week Proclamation](#): Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, along with school administration and the School Board, recognized Charlottesville City School Nurses for their hard work and care for our students every day. The week of May 6 through 12, 2019, has been designated as National Nurses' Week and Governor Ralph Northam has established May 8, 2019 as School Nurse day in the Commonwealth of Virginia. Dr. King recognized Sherry Eicher from Burnley-Moran Elementary, Amy Charron from Clark Elementary, Ellen Muller from Greenbrier Elementary, June Esselstyn from Greenbrier Elementary, Marica (Dee) Bell from Jackson-Via Elementary, Amy Peltier from Johnson Elementary, Amy White from Venable Elementary, Kathy Jones from Walker Upper Elementary, Roynetta Jackson from Buford Middle School, Ann Sandridge from Charlottesville High School, and Gary Chovan - Division-wide.

Ms. McKeever and Dr. Atkins thanked nurses for their work and impact on students and the community.

8.1 [Board Member Comments](#): Mr. Bryant congratulated and thanked teachers and nurses for their work.

Dr. Kraft provided an update on recent activities such as a recent invitation to join the Paramount Theater Education Committee, ReadyKids Breakfast, Emily Couric Leadership Luncheon, Black Male Alliance Committee meeting, VSBA Conference on School Safety, 3-year-old preschool enrollment event, and the City Schoolyard Garden Annual Golden Trowel Awards. She also announced that she will attend a middle grades working group meeting at UVA on Friday, May 3.

Ms. Puryear provided an update on her recent attendance at several Public Education Fund (PEF) events and announced that PEF will be hosting one week STEAM Camp at UVA and is organizing a 5K walk to be held later this year. She added that, as a member of the City of Promise Board, she is excited that their positive work will continue and that the current Executive Director Denise Johnson will join the Charlottesville City Schools to help address equity concerns. Ms. Puryear also attended the Emily Couric Leadership Luncheon and thanked Ms. Bryant for inviting her to sit at her table.

Mr. Wade noted that as a member of several scholarship boards he is proud of students for working hard and receiving scholarships. He also provided an update on recent visits to Clark, Venable, and Johnson.

Ms. Torres thanked those that provided public comment and provided an update on her recent activities such as a Housing Advisory Committee meeting, the AATF completion celebration, and a Special Education Advisory Committee meeting.

Ms. Bryant provided an update on recent activities such as National Decision Day at CHS and announced that the Jefferson School African American Heritage Center is accepting applications for the Trailblazer program.

Ms. McKeever recognized and thanked Ms. Bryant for her service as a Student School Board Representative.

9.1-5 [Adoption of Consent Agenda](#): Items from the consent agenda included [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes from the April 11, 2019 School Board Meeting](#), [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#), and the [2019-2020](#)

[Albemarle Regional Migrant Education Program Certification](#). Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the Adoption of the Consent Agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Michie, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Action Items

10.1 [Approval - Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application for 2019-2020](#): Dr. Kendra King And Dr. Katrina Lee, Supervisor of Special Education, presented the proposed budget for the Federal Flow Through Funding for Special Education for 2019-2020 at the April 11, 2019 meeting for Board consideration upon first review. Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, presented the plan for approval at this meeting. Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, to approve the Special Education Annual Plan/Part B Flow-Through Application for 2019-2020. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Michie, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Items for Discussion

11.1 [Charlottesville Youth Council Recommendations on Equity](#): Beth Cheuk, Coordinator of Community Affairs and Development; Gretchen Ellis, Human Service Planner for the City of Charlottesville; Daniel Fairley, Youth Opportunity Coordinator for the City of Charlottesville; and members of the Youth Council presented recommendations on Equity.

Working with Charlottesville City Schools and the City of Charlottesville, on January 24th and February 7th 2019 the Charlottesville City Youth Council conducted a series of student led focus groups in over 30 classrooms at Charlottesville High School and Buford Middle School. Employees of the City of Charlottesville served as scribes while the members of Youth Council conducted the focus groups. These responses were compiled into one document that highlighted the most pressing issues presented by students during the focus groups. Youth Council then presented this information to Dr. Atkins and created potential solutions to the issues suggested. Charlottesville Youth Council Recommendations were presented by students: LaAsia Thomas, Ben Yates, Eve Keesecker, Harrison Greenhoe, Margaret Anne Doran, and Noelle Morris.

Ms. McKeever thanked Mr. Fairley, Ms. Ellis, and students for their presentation.

Ms. Bryant thanked the students for their presentation and encouraged the implementation of a timeline/deadlines for action.

Dr. Atkins thanked the Charlottesville Youth Council for their comprehensive report and for including recommendations. She also expressed appreciation for the dialogue when she attended one of the council's meetings and noted that following the meeting, and based on council recommendations, both she and Dr. Irizarry visited the CHS cafeteria and have implemented some corrective actions. One of those actions is that students on free and reduced lunch are not limited to specific items.

Ms. Torres also expressed gratitude for the presentation and suggestions made by the youth council.

Mr. Wade noted the difficulty of communicating today even given the numerous ways to do so. He also noted that there is some conflict for encouraging younger students to enroll in AP classes when there are also concerns from parents around the stress of students taking too many AP courses.

Ms. Puryear commended the Black Student Union and the Charlottesville Youth Council for bringing suggestions along with their concerns.

Dr. Kraft said that she is impressed and encouraged students to be part of the ongoing process and to provide feedback. She also thanked the students for including concerns of the ESL student community.

Ms. McKeever encouraged the students to work with the School Board Student Representative.

Mr. Bryant thanked the youth council for their hard work.

Mr. Michie commended students for attending the many focus groups and noted how helpful it is to get the full perspective and suggested that a document with a timeline be published on the division website.

11.2 Textbook Adoption - World Geography: James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, and Annie Evans, World Studies Coordinator, presented information on the World Geography Textbook Adoption and recommend that Geography The Human and Physical World, 2018 be purchased based on the following:

- High-quality instructional resources that assure equity for students and accountability for teachers
- Encourages and supports differentiated instruction that helps students while at the same time, exposing students to equitable, age appropriate skills and content
- Includes a wide range of geographical content which compliments the 9th grade environmental science standards and curriculum
- Allows us to ensure all students in CCS have access to a consistent geography curriculum

120 Student Texts x \$110.19 = \$13,222.80
+S&H \$793.37= **\$14,016.17 Total**

Mr. Michie asked why this adoption is less expensive than prior adoption. Ms. Evans responded that this adoption only includes one set per classroom instead of one per student and that it includes 120 digital versions that can be checked out similar to books at a library.

11.3 History of Gifted Education: James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Margaret Thornton, former CHS Teacher and Ph.D. student at the University of Virginia School of Education and Human Development, who provided an update on the History of Gifted Education and the founding of the Quest Program. Information presented included:

- A brief history of education in Charlottesville
- A brief history of federal funding of gifted education
- An exploration of the relationship between the national gifted education movement and the history of public education in Charlottesville
- Where we are now in Charlottesville and where we might go with future studies

Ms. McKeever and Dr. Atkins thanked Ms. Thornton for her presentation.

Dr. Kraft noted that concerns identified in the past were not addressed and that it is striking that nothing substantial was done.

Ms. Bryant thanked Ms. Thornton for her presentation.

Dr. Atkins noted that the [Smith letter](#) illustrates the intentionality on one hand to comply with the law but to comply in the most marginalized way in order to avoid desegregation. She noted that she has met with and shared the letter with the Quest Advisory Committee, PTO Chairs, Principals, Quest Teachers, and the Equity Committee to a flood of emotions from each group upon reading the letter. She added that she will be bringing a recommendation to the Board in June about the Quest Program and that the model will be different beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. She also thanked UVA Education Professors for their input.

11.4 Preschool Update (Program and Enrollment): Mr. James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Sheila Sparks, Coordinator for Preschool and Family Support, and Rachel Rasnake, Coordinator of Special Education, who presented the Preschool (Program and Enrollment) item for Board information. Information presented included:

- Enrollment Updates
- Highlights and Accolades
- VDOE Updates
- Instructional Tools
- Assessment of the Quality of Teacher-Child Interactions
- Professional Development Based on Assessments
- Partnerships and Initiatives
- Next Steps

There was discussion related to the benefits of a centralized preschool center and Dr. Atkins thanked Ms. Sparks for her work.

11.5 Proposed 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Schedule: Dr. Kendra King, Director Special Education and Student Services, presented the Proposed 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Calendar for Board consideration. Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the Proposed 2019-2020 School Board Meeting Schedule. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Michie, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

11.6 2019-2020 Student Fee Schedule: Dr. Kendra King, Director, Student Services and Achievement, presented the Student Fee Schedules for Board consideration upon first reading. Each year, the Superintendent approves the Student Fee Schedule for all schools within the division. The schedule is then shared as information for the Board. The schedule is attached. No schools may add any additional fees without prior approval of the Superintendent. Additionally, for each fee approved, the school administration has developed a plan for providing access to students who may not be able to afford the item or activity. This year, there is an additional fee schedule for the new tablet initiative. This schedule will be for any associated fees for that program. Plans are still being developed for the fee exemption but will be determined before the tablets are distributed.

12.1 Comments from Members of the Community: Melvin Burruss addressed the Board expressing his support for the Charlottesville Youth Council recommendations and noted how happy he was to see the presentation on the Gifted Education program and that it validates the experiences of the black community. Mr. Burruss also recommended that elementary students from Westhaven be sent to Venable Elementary.

Dede Smith addressed the Board with comments of support for Mr. Burruss' suggestions and that the Board look at the retention rate of preschool students.

13.1 Board Member Comments: Ms. Bryant addressed the Board with comments of appreciation for Ms. Thornton's presentation.

Ms. Torres thanked those that provided public comment, thanked Ms. Bryant for her service as a Student Representative to the Board, and noted the importance of education in the community. She announced local filmmaker Mr. Lorenzo Dickerson will be releasing a film called 3rd Street: Best Seats as part of the Tom Tom Festival. Other local film makers include Sarad Davenport and Tanesha Hudson who participated in Tom Tom Festival forums around the film Untold Stories in Charlottesville. Ms. Torres also thanked Dr. Atkins for her leadership and noted that she looks forward to hearing the recommendations.

Mr. Wade noted that community members have approached him expressing their appreciation for recent powerful discussions. He also congratulated Ms. Bryant and recognized her for her service.

Ms. Puryear announced that the City of Promise will host its annual Game Changer Luncheon on May 30 at the Carver Recreation Center and also thanked Ms. McKeever for providing an opportunity for board members to individually attend meetings weekly with Dr. Atkins.

Dr. Kraft noted appreciation for the quality of discussions the Board is able to have amongst both the board and community. She wished Ms. Bryant the best and thanked her for her advocacy.

Mr. Bryant thanked those who attended the meeting, noted that Ms. Thornton's presentation was outstanding and recalled some experiences around integration and the cruelty around those experiences. He noted that he will be attending the Minor Preston Scholarship event, that he and Mr. Wade attended a panel session at the YMCA, and that he has been invited to sit on a panel at UVA next Monday, May 6. Mr. Bryant thanked Ms. Bryant for her contributions to the Board and thanked Dr. Atkins for her leadership.

Mr. Michie stated that he is blessed to be on the board when there seems to be much community energy to address equity. He added that things seem to be coming together well with lots of thought around difficult problems.

14.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Atkins expressed appreciation for Ms. Thornton and all those who presented information and to those who spoke during public comment. She also provided an update on the following activities (excerpts):

- Emily Couric Leadership Luncheon on April 15, 2019
- MS Dinner of Champions on April 16, 2019
- Virginia State University College of Education Dean's Advisory Board Meeting on April 17, 2019
- City Schoolyard Garden 2019 Roots Celebration and Golden Trowel Awards
- Visit to Computers4Kids on April 29, 2019
- Congratulations to the 2019 National Teacher of the Year
- Equity Committee Update from the May 1, 2019 Equity Committee Meeting
 - Announced: Current City of Promise Executive Director T. Denise Johnson has accepted the new position of Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion at Charlottesville City Schools.
 - Reviewed: Recent new information such as tonight's presentation on the history of gifted education and the feedback from the CHS Black Student Union and Charlottesville Youth City Council.
 - Shared out: Reports from the four working groups on Institutional Structures, Instructional Changes/Professional Learning, Community Engagement, and Policy/Metrics
 - Charlottesville High School Musicians Earn Top Honors at Atlanta Festival

15.1 Work Session Wrap-Up - Kim Powell: There was no requests from the Board.

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

17.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

A video of the May 2, 2019 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/154UWQ4zH1wv1XlsP2N15vN8lcNKAhzkM/view?ts=5ccc4fcd>

Jennifer McKeever, School Board Chair

Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk