



**MINUTES  
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS  
Booker T. Reaves Media Center, Charlottesville High School  
Thursday, March 1, 2018 (5:00 PM)**

**1.1 Call to Order:** School Board Chair Juandiego Wade called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

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

**3.1 Roll Call:**

The following Board Members were present:	Dr. Adam Hastings	Dr. Sherry Kraft
	Ms. Amy Laufer	Ms. Jennifer McKeever
	Ms. Leah Puryear	Ms. Lisa Torres
	Mr. Juandiego Wade	Ms. Fré Halvorson-Taylor, 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
	Ms. Kim Powell	Ms. Leslie Thacker
	Ms. Jennifer Herring	

The following Staff Members were absent: None

**4.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda:** Dr. Hastings made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Dr. Hastings, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Laufer, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**5.1 Comments from Members of the Community:** Kathryn Laughon, parent of an 11th grade student, urged the Board to support the student activism that has recently been awakened with the Parkland, Florida shooting and to also allow teachers to participate if they wish. Ms. Laughon also noted that she would like to see Board issue a strong statement asking for real action on gun violence.

Althea Laughon-Worrell, 11th grade student, addressed the Board echoing the comments given by her Mother Kathryn Laughon.

Wendy Fletcher, American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, voiced comments from Alissa Conover, Community Advocate, who communicated in ASL. Ms. Conover referenced House Bill 84 that allows the addition of ASL to school curriculum, counting towards a foreign language elective. She noted what a wonderful opportunity not only for students but for the profession of interpreters who are very needed. Ms. Conover encouraged the creation of a face to face class in addition to a virtual class.

Ms. Fletcher also addressed the Board, noting that she is personally pleased that the bill will allow her son to study ASL, which is very relevant to his life since he is from a deaf family.

Bekah Saxon, speaking as a parent of a Buford student and former teacher in the school division, addressed the Board, noting that this year is the most difficult year Charlottesville schools have faced in the thirty plus years she has lived in the area. She commented that students and teachers have been traumatized by this year's events, from the white nationalist rallies in the summer through several mass shootings such as in Las Vegas and Parkland, FL. She encouraged the Board to take a stand on the issue of gun violence and to strongly support students in their activism efforts such as the National School Walkout on March 14.

## **Special Recognition**

**6.1 VSBA Employer Commendation Program:** Dr. Kendra King, Director of Student Services and Achievement, stated that the VSBA Employer Commendation Program is designed to thank the employers of school board members for providing the support, encouragement, and time needed to perform school board duties. Upon the recommendation of any Virginia school board member who is employed full-time, the VSBA executive director will send a letter of commendation and certificate to the board member's employer as a way of reinforcing the value and commitment of Board members. Ms. Puryear recommended Ms. Martha Stuart, Associate Provost for Academic Support and Classroom Management for the University of Virginia.

Board members and Dr. Atkins thanked Ms. Stuart and UVA for providing Ms. Puryear the opportunity to serve.

**7.1 Board Member Comments:** Fré Halvorson-Taylor, Student School Board Representative, provided an update on recent student activities such as the Black Student Union and Young Liberals partnership to sponsor a lecture series for Black History Month. In addition, this year's Black History Month assembly celebrated African American history and reflected on activism, particularly the intersection of sports and social justice. On February 13, CHS celebrated an \$83,000 partnership with the CFA Institute supporting three areas, the AVID program (including a renovated classroom), the CHS Student Investment Group, and the Economics and Personal Finance classes required by all students. She recommended the consideration of a CHS advisory board to encourage accessibility and diversity of extra-curricular activities.

Ms. Halvorson-Taylor, speaking as a student and not a School Board Representative, noted that students are frightened and would like support from the Board for the walkouts and would like to see concrete legislation to help students come to school and be safe.

Ms. Torres thanked those who spoke during community comments and expressed appreciation to the school division for its ongoing support of an ASL curriculum. She added that she hopes the division will continue efforts to hire a classroom ASL teacher. Ms. Torres expressed appreciation to the community for letters and comments related to school safety and expressed her support.

Ms. McKeever expressed appreciation for the support of the deaf community and the passing of VA HB84, noting that she would also like to see a classroom offering. She noted how moved she was by the community comments and agrees that the Board can make a strong statement by passing the resolution that appears later on the agenda. She also expressed appreciation for teachers' and students' hard work in the weeks following Parkland.

Dr. Kraft expressed appreciation for those who spoke during community comments and noted how proud, appreciative, and overwhelmed she is by student leadership not only in Florida but all over the country. Dr. Kraft

provided an update on recent activities she attended such as the NSBA Equity Conference, the Soul Feast at Clark Elementary, several community film screenings of *I'm Not a Racist, Am I?*, the CHS and CFA Institute's AVID ribbon cutting, an event where the former Secretary of Education and current Board of Education member Anne Holton spoke regarding Education in the Commonwealth, and the Grace Tinsley Scholarship Bash.

Ms. Puryear provided an update on her recent attendance at the Public Education Foundation Luncheon and thanked Charlottesville High School AVID Teacher Brian Kayser, CHS AVID students, Buford Principal Eric Johnson, and Buford Middle School students for their participation. Ms. Puryear also attended the CHS Theatre performance of *South Pacific* and recognized Dr. Atkins for her leadership.

Dr. Hastings echoed the sentiments of appreciation to those who spoke during community comments.

Ms. Laufer also echoed the sentiments of appreciation to those who spoke during community comments adding that as board members and parents the concerns and comments regarding school safety are taken very seriously. She noted that it is important for families to know who else they can advocate to for their needs and offered a list of the members of Virginia's [Militia, Police and Public Safety Committee](#) that discusses these issues and decides whether they advance to the General Assembly. She urged the community to contact these members to advocate appropriately.

Mr. Wade stated that the Board has been very moved by the comments received regarding school safety, noting that it is the Board's number one priority. He noted appreciation to Ms. Halvorson-Taylor and to all of the Student School Board representatives for their representation at CHS.

**8.1-6 Adoption of Consent Agenda:** Items from the consent agenda included [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes from the February 1, 2018 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes from the February 6, 2018 School Board Budget Work Session](#), [Minutes from the February 15, 2018 School Board Meeting \(Budget Approval\)](#), and [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#). Dr. Hastings 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 Dr. Hastings, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Laufer, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

## Action Items

**9.1 School Safety (Information):** Dr. Atkins, Superintendent, thanked Ms. Fletcher and Ms. Conover for their comments regarding HB84 and Ms. Halvorson-Taylor for her heartfelt comments regarding school safety.

Dr. Atkins addressed those present stating that the school division's responsibility is to not only educate students but to do so in an environment that is conducive to learning. Such an environment is one in which students feel free to speak, move about, and to learn and engage in the process of learning and one that teachers feel comfortable in the delivery of instruction. Dr. Atkins noted that the division's primary goal is to provide an environment that reassures staff and students that they are, that issues are taken very seriously, and that needs will be responded to. Dr. Atkins noted that the division will do everything it can to secure facilities, to make students and employees feel safe, and to make sure the routes to school and home are safe.

Dr. Atkins' comments:

*First of all, our hearts grieve for everyone in Parkland, Florida, and other sites touched by school violence. As a country and as a school division, we need to learn from such tragedies to minimize risk and promote a safe and positive community. Thankfully, we are not alone in this work. At Charlottesville City Schools, we take advantage of expert resources such as Dr. Dewey Cornell at UVa, along with the Charlottesville Police Department. We follow guidelines for schools' best practices, and we attend special trainings and events such as school safety conferences. Our own Kim Powell attended such a conference just this week.*

*In order to help the community understand the safety measures we have in place, we're inviting Dr. Cornell and the Charlottesville City Police to a community forum on school safety here at Charlottesville High School on Thursday, March 15 at 7pm.*

*In addition, we are aware of several upcoming dates when across the nation, there will be student-led events related to school safety and gun violence. At Buford and CHS, teachers and administration are working with our student-leaders to make sure that we are respecting their rights, keeping them safe, and following our policies.*

*On Wednesday, March 14, some Buford and CHS students plan to gather at a designated on-campus site for seventeen minutes to show solidarity with Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The Charlottesville Police and some staff and teachers will be on hand to assure student safety.*

*We will remain in communication with our student-leaders about future events. It is our goal to use occasions such as this as "teachable moments" so our students -- regardless of their political beliefs -- can continue to learn how to engage in our community and world to make a positive impact.*

Dr. Kraft asked if Walker Elementary School students will be able to participate in the walkout. Dr. Atkins encouraged parents of those student to call or email her regarding participation at Walker.

Dr. Atkins thanked the community for their emails and comments delivered at the meeting.

Ms. Halvorson-Taylor asked if teachers will be allowed to participate in the walkout. Dr. Atkins responded that the safety of students will be the first priority and that teachers will be needed to provide support and guidance for students during the walkouts.

Dr. Atkins stated that administrators will be meeting with community agencies such as the Charlottesville Police Department to discuss school safety and support for the student walkout event on March 14.

Ms. Puryear noted that there will be students and teachers who will not be supportive of the walkout and asked if there is a plan for providing guidelines on how to also support those students and teachers. Dr. Atkins responded that it is the division's responsibility to provide students with the ability to express themselves and that she expects varying opinions on the issue and that we should all respect others' opinions.

Ms. Torres commented that the Board received emails that include questions about security on specific campuses and would like to receive an update on security measures at those locations.

There was discussion related to students' desire to participate in drills more often to be prepared in the event of potential situations and also discussion related to more situational training. Ms. Powell noted that many school divisions are waiting for direction from state agencies on how best to move forward with training and safety measures.

**9.2 Resolution on Gun Violence Prevention:** Ms. McKeever noted that following the school shooting in Parkland, Florida, the Fairfax County School Board passed a resolution related to gun violence prevention. Ms. McKeever read aloud a similar proposed resolution and made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, for the Charlottesville City School Board to approve the resolution. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Dr. Hastings, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Laufer, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

## **Items for Discussion**

**10.1 CLASS EXL Tuition Increase:** James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction and Bev Catlin, Coordinator of Gifted Programs, ESL Program, & CLASS, presented information on the proposed CLASS EXL Tuition Increase. Camp ExL is the city's six-week summer camp for rising Kindergarten through 4th grade students. It is a collaborative program that is operated and funded by Charlottesville Parks & Recreation and

CLASS. In February, the CLASS Parent Advisory Committee met to determine the fee structure for camp this summer. After a robust conversation, the following fee structure was approved. With it, Camp ExL will have a sliding scale that matches the new scale CLASS implemented for the after school program this year. The scale has worked well in reducing the financial burden for many of our families, especially those at the middle-income levels. Level 1 now includes families who make under \$25,000, not \$20,000, and the span between levels increases by \$15,000 whereas before it was \$10,000 increments.

For Summer 2018 a new fee structure is necessary because:

1. Last summer CLASS had to absorb \$13,627 of Camp ExL expenses related to office support; this was unexpected but came as a result of child day care licensure requirements.
2. After July 1, Camp ExL staffing costs will rise by approximately \$16,935 due to the salary increase for all CCS employees.

To determine the rates for the summer, staff used projected enrollment at each income level based on last summer's attendance. Last summer, like the year before, campers were primarily at levels 1–2 and level 6.

For Camp ExL 2018:

- The one-time registration fee will be \$15. This fee is for a family, not per child.
- The proposed rate for the first child attending camp will range from \$8 a week for a city family making under \$25,000 to \$190 a week for one making over \$85,000.
- The rate for non-city residents will be \$235 a week.
- At the highest rate, camp will cost a family \$6.71 an hour.
- All parents will receive a 25% discount for each additional child they enroll.
- Wrap around care from 7:30–9:00 AM and 4:00–6:00 PM will remain affordable.

Ms. Vest, member of the CLASS parent advisory committee and parent of a Burnley-Moran Elementary School student, addressed the Board in support of the proposed fee schedule, noting that it allows a reduction for families in the numbers 3 and 4 income levels. She noted that the CLASS Advisory Committee engaged in lengthy robust conversation at its February meeting and received consensus for the proposed fee schedule.

Mr. Wade noted that he and Ms. Laufer attend CLASS Parent Advisory meetings and that there was much discussion. Ms. Laufer noted that members had researched costs from other camps.

Ms. Puryear noted that testimonials from parents are helpful and hearing from families means a lot.

Ms. McKeever expressed concern related to raising fees in the numbers 2 and 3 income levels.

Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, to approve the CLASS EXL Tuition Schedule modified to keep Income Level 1 weekly fees at \$5. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Dr. Hastings, Ms. Laufer, Ms. McKeever, and Ms. Torres voting yes. 4 ayes, 2 nays, 1 abstention. Dr. Kraft and Mr. Wade voted no. Ms. Puryear abstained.

Dr. Atkins asked the Board to recommend how that funding deficit will be met. The Board recommended that intervention funds be used and that there be student alignment between intervention and Camp EXL.

**10.2 Social-Emotional Academic Classrooms (SEAL) 2018-2019 Proposal:** James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction, introduced Jodie Murphy, School Social Worker, and Patrick Farrell, Behavior Support Specialist and VTSS/PBIS Division Coordinator, who presented information on Social-Emotional Academic Classrooms (SEAL) 2018-2019 Proposal.

2018-19 Framework - Staffing

- 1 Classroom Teacher

- 2 Instructional Assistants
- Full time Programmatic and Clinical Student-Centered Social Work Support
- Integration of Gifted Services and Planning

#### Framework - Curriculum

- Academic curriculum aligned with Grade Levels
- Social / Emotional Curriculum
- Specials
- Lunch
- PLC with grade level +
  - 2X month after school with SEAL Team

#### Framework - Social Emotional Learning

- Continuation of Second Step
- Continuation of Zones of Regulation
- Continuation of MindUp
- Integration of GoZen
- Tier 1 Support - Classroom Teachers
- Tier 2 Support - Social Worker / Admin
- Tier 3 Support - Individualized Plans with case management (Social Worker, Admin, Community Team, School Team)

#### 2018-19 Tier 1 Mental Wellness Initiative - Preschool & Kindergarten

- 5 Prong approach: (3 staff directed/2 student directed)
  - Staff:
    - Youth Mental Health First Aid
    - Trauma Sensitive School Training (school based) or state VTSS trauma training
    - Mindfulness/Self Care
  - Students:
    - Social Emotional Learning - Second Step social emotional learning (SEL) curriculum, supplemented with MindUP
    - Executive Function Instruction - Zones of Regulation/Smart but Scattered

#### 2018-19 Tier 1 Mental Wellness Initiative - Preschool & Kindergarten

- Parent Engagement/Workshops:
  - YMHFA concept training/ SEL appropriate topics/Mindfulness
  - SEL books related to training
- Community Follow-Up/Connections:
  - Trauma Informed Community Network (TICN)
  - Region Ten

Ms. Murphy noted that the Seal 1 and Seal 2 classrooms will be located at Greenbrier Elementary School and that another location will house the 3rd classroom.

Ms. McKeever thanked Ms. Murphy and staff for their efforts noting that she would like to see Tier 1 students in the same classroom with the same teachers and student cohort if that's what research indicates.

Dr. Atkins thanked the Board, Ms. Murphy, and staff for taking on this challenge, noting that there has been a realization across the Commonwealth that there is a need for different structures to best serve student needs and this this program embodies that.

#### **Board Response to Written Reports**

**11.1 Employment Package and Recruitment Strategies:** There were no questions from the Board regarding this report that was prepared by Dr. Gary Blair, Director of Human Resources.

**12.1 Comments from Members of the Community:** Ms. Lashunda Bryson-Morsberger addressed the Board with concerns related to funding and the process for addressing safety concerns.

Jessica Taylor, Clark Elementary School and Charlottesville Education Association Representative, discussed the recent lockdown at Clark, noting how alarming it was following the recent events in Parkland, Florida. Ms. Taylor urged the Board to have teacher participation at the school safety forum on March 15.

Bekah Saxon, VEA Rep, urged the Board to make conscious decisions when selecting measures used related to safety as some measures actually exacerbate other issues and hamper important relationships within schools. She also noted that some measures disproportionately impact students of specific races.

Nadiya Khaydari, CHS student, addressed the Board to emphasize the need for good communications during school lockdowns and shelter in place events.

**13.1 Board Member Comments:** Ms. Laufer thanked everyone for speaking and provided an update on recent attendance at a PREP meeting, a Title 1 Parent Advisory meeting, and announced a Special Education Advisory Committee event.

Dr. Hastings announced that his family is expanding and they will be relocating outside the City limits, so therefore he will no longer be able to serve on the Board. He stated that he looks forward to being part of future discussions and is willing to assist the school division in any way he can.

Ms. Puryear noted that she was happy to hear about the passing of HB84, that she is heartened by the Board's resolution on gun violence, and that she is thankful for students and parents who provided comments.

Dr. Kraft thanked Dr. Hastings for his perspective and service to the Board, noted appreciation for the discussions held during the meeting, and thanked Ms. Saxon for her comments emphasizing that balance is important when considering the environment being provided for kids while at school.

Ms. McKeever congratulated Mr. Hastings, thanked the Student School Board representatives for their service, and suggested a short staff survey related to security and safety concerns. She gave updates regarding the Grace Tinsley Bash, CHS *South Pacific* production, Parks & Recreation Advisory Committee, and NSBA Equity Conference.

Ms. Torres provided an update on recent visits to the Lugo-McGinness Academy, Greenbrier, Walker, Clark, and Burnley-Moran. She attended a Rumi Forum event, Grace Tinsley Scholarship Bash, CHS Assembly. She thanked everyone who participated in the conversations held during the meeting. She noted that the community has been challenged on many levels throughout the year and that we must continue to encourage and support faculty and student engagement as we move forward.

**14.1 Superintendent's Comments:** Dr. Atkins provided information on the lockdown at Clark Elementary School, thanked Dr. Hastings for his service, noted that ASL has been an important part of CCS curriculum and encouraged ASL certified personnel in the community to contact the division. She also thanked Ms. Sylvia Elder for her support in attending the City Council meeting when funding for the CHS Track was discussed. Dr. Atkins also provided an update on the following activities (excerpts):

- Secretary of Education Atif Qarni and President of Virginia Early Childhood Foundation Kathy Glazer visit JABA Shining Stars on February 6, 2018
- Guest Reader at Johnson Elementary School on February 12, 2018
- Public Education Foundation of Charlottesville-Albemarle luncheon on Tuesday, February 13, 2018
- CHS/CFA Institute Finance Academy Ribbon Cutting on February 13, 2018

**15.1 Work Session Wrap-Up - Dr. Kendra King:** There was one request from the Board:

- Survey on school safety

**17.1 Upcoming Meetings:** Mr. Wade read the list of upcoming meeting and activities.

**17.1 Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

A video of the March 1, 2018 meeting can be located at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/126GXPyPO8MZHg\\_uUxrsDumbjHMd\\_5kyj/view?ts=5a9db7cc](https://drive.google.com/file/d/126GXPyPO8MZHg_uUxrsDumbjHMd_5kyj/view?ts=5a9db7cc)



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Juandiego R. Wade, School Board Chair



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Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk