



**MINUTES
SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Booker T. Reeves Media Center, Charlottesville High School
Thursday, March 2, 2017 (5:00 PM)**

1.1 Call to Order: 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. Sherry Kraft	Ms. Amy Laufer
Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Mr. Ned Michie
Dr. Adam Hastings	Mr. Juandiego Wade
Ms. Fré Halvorson-Taylor, Student Representative	

The following Board Members were absent:

Ms. Leah Puryear

The following Staff Members were absent:

Mr. James Henderson	Mr. Ed Gillaspie
Ms. Kim Powell	Ms. Carole Nelson
Mr. Jeff Faust	Ms. Leslie Thacker

The following Staff Members were absent:

Dr. Rosa Atkins	Dr. Kendra King
Ms. Jennifer Herring	

4.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hastings, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Dr. Hastings, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Laufer, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Michie, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Wade introduced Student School Board Representative Fré Halvorson-Taylor, who is an 11th-grade student at Charlottesville High School.

5.1 Comments from Members of the Community: Melvin Burruss, representative for the NAACP, addressed the Board, commenting that many single mothers rely on summer camps to keep their children safe while they are at work during the summer. Mr. Burruss pledged \$1,000 to the Charlottesville City Schools Camp XL Program to help low-income families afford summer camp.

Charlottesville High School Teacher Matt Shields recognized students from the BACON Club's Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Avoidcopter team, who took first place in the Virginia Department of Education's Student-Led Ideation Challenge (SLIC) regional competition at the University of Virginia earlier that day. Students James

Nachbar, Stephen Newman, and Jonah Weissman shared some of their experiences from the competition in which students developed an algorithm that was then used to guide a drone through an obstacle course. The team will compete in state finals on April 1, 2017.

6.1 Board Member Comments: Student Representative Ms. Fré Halvorson-Taylor noted that there have been concerns from CHS students related to the possibility of the implementation of school choice as well as the possibility of cuts to the Dreamers program and other programs that support immigrants.

Ms. McKeever thanked Mr. Burruss for his contribution to the CLASS EXL Program, congratulated Dr. Shields and students for their accomplishments, and provided updates on recent attendance at the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting and a Charlottesville Redevelopment and Housing Authority Committee meeting.

Dr. Kraft commended CHS for their production of *Into the Woods* and provided an update on recent attendance at a Tom Tom Festival meeting with a focus on early childhood education.

Mr. Wade noted that Ms. Puryear is not present as she is out of town attending a family funeral.

Ms. Laufer provided updates on recent attendance at the Pay for Success conference, an ELL service providers discussion, the Grace Tinsley Scholarship Bash, and a showing of a film related to massive resistance in Albemarle County.

7.1-5 Adoption of Consent Agenda: Items from the consent agenda included [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes from the February 2, 2017 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes from the February 7, 2017 School Board Budget Work Session](#), and [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#). Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hastings, 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, Mr. Michie, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Items for Discussion

8.1 iStem Update (Grades K-6): James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, introduced Ms. Susan Ramsey, Science Coordinator, who presented an update on Charlottesville City Schools' iStem pathway for grades K-6. Her report included 2016-2017 engineering enrollment data for Buford and CHS.

There was discussion related to the Computer Science pathway and AP Computer Science Principles.

Mr. Michie asked how much time elementary students get with iStem teachers. Ms. Ramsey responded that students are currently receiving approximately 100-120 minutes every two weeks.

Ms. Laufer recommended additional parent communication related to STEM pathways.

Ms. McKeever recommended a future discussion related to Buford early morning offerings. Mr. Henderson agreed, noting that Buford start time was pushed back to allow more sleep time and noted that equal access is important.

8.2 CLASS Program: Budget Recommendations for 2017–2018: James Henderson, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction introduced Ms. Bev Catlin, Coordinator of AVID Program, Gifted Programs, ESL Program, & CLASS, who presented the proposed CLASS Program: Budget Recommendations for 2017-2018. Information presented included:

- Overview of CLASS
- Financial Summary
- Three Recommendations to be self-sustaining

- Having Walker EDGE clubs be cost-neutral by setting the student fee at \$40 per semester (students who qualify for free/reduced meals program attend at no cost). The division will subsidize EDGE if expenditures exceed revenue (typically no more than \$16,000 a year)
- Charging a nominal fee for CLASS Full Days (offered three times a year on teacher workdays). \$10 per day for families at income levels 1–4 (under \$55,000) and \$20 per day for families at income levels 5–6 (over \$55,000)
- Increasing CLASS fee structure by 10% and setting the additional child discount at 35%

Dr. Kraft asked what input was gathered related to the recommendations. Ms. Catlin responded that these recommendations were reviewed with staff and the CLASS Advisory Committee. She added that despite efforts to notify members of the meeting times, only a few members have attended recent meetings.

There was lengthy discussion among the Board on how to best adjust the CLASS fee structure without burdening working and low-income families. The Board discussed leaving the Walker Edge fee at \$20 with the division subsidizing the difference, charging a nominal fee for CLASS Full Days such as \$5 per day for families at income levels 1–4 (under \$55,000), and \$25 for families at income levels 5–6 (over \$55,000). The Board also discussed adding another income category of \$80,000+ to the sliding scale with no increase to the \$20,000 income category.

Ms. Powell noted that staff will look at other options for different rate stratifications and what the subsidy ramifications could be, while keeping in mind that a subsidy could be funded from fund balance in 2017-18 but would need to be included in budget discussions so as not to budget from fund balance on an ongoing basis. The Board will take action on this item at the March 30, 2017 meeting.

Board Response to Written Reports

9.1 Employment Package and Recruitment Strategies: This report, prepared by Ms. Carole Nelson, Director of Human Resources, appears on the School Board Schedule of Reports for 2016-2017. Ms. Laufer asked if the division funded moving expenses for new employees. Ms. Nelson responded that the division reimburses moving expenses for principals and positions above that.

Ms. Nelson announced that the division will be hosting a recruitment event on April 22, 2017 and that information will be sent to the Board once the details are confirmed.

10.1 Comments from Members of the Community: There were none.

11.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Wade announced that the budget will be presented to City Council on Monday, March 6, 2017.

Ms. McKeever noted that there have been many discussions at the federal level related to discrimination and read the Charlottesville City Schools Discrimination Policy:

“The Charlottesville City School Division is an equal opportunity employer, committed to nondiscrimination with regard to sex, gender, race, color, national origin, disability, religion, ancestry, age, marital or veteran’s status, physical or mental genetic information, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, political affiliation, or any classification protected by applicable law.

This attitude commitment will prevail in all its policies and practices concerning staff, students, educational programs and services, and individuals and entities with whom the Board does business.”

12.1 Work Session Wrap-Up - Carole Nelson: There were three requests from the Board:

- Look at early morning options at Buford and whether it is a possibility to have other offerings, other than PE, as well providing transportation to ensure equal access for all students

- Update on School Board Retreat topics
- Future discussion related to CLASS and how it operates and is funded.

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

14.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

A video of the March 2, 2017 meeting can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BzjY_DSFRt3DTzRCRDIStTnrSXM/view?usp=sharing



Juandiego R. Wade, School Board Chair



Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk