

MINUTES
BUSINESS MEETING OF THE SCHOOL BOARD
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Booker T. Reaves Media Center, Charlottesville High School
Thursday, February 17, 2011 (6:00 PM)

1.1 Call to Order: Board Chair, Leah Puryear called the meeting to order at 6:08 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	Mr. Edmund Michie	Mr. Juandiego Wade
Members were present:	Ms. Colette Blount	Dr. Guian McKee
	Ms. Llezelle Dugger	Ms. Kathleen Galvin
	Ms. Leah Puryear	

The following Board	
Members were absent:	None

The following Staff	Mr. James Henderson	Dr. Faye Giglio
Members were present:	Mrs. Gertrude Ivory	Dr. Laurie McCullough
	Mr. Ed Gillaspie	Ms. Leslie Thacker
	Dr. Beth Baptist	Ms. Cass Cannon
	Mr. Dean Jadowski	Ms. Jennifer Herring

The following Staff	
Members were absent:	Dr. Rosa Atkins

4.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Mr. Michie, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Dr. McKee, Ms. Puryear, Mr. Wade and Ms. Galvin voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

5.1 Comments from Members of the Community: There were none. Students from Mr. Gore's CHS class were present.

6.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Wade gave an update from recently attended events including the Deltas' Read In, the Community Development Block Grant Task Force meeting, and the Jackson-Via Bully Not's Project show.

Dr. McKee also attended the Bully Not assembly and commended Jackson-Via for doing a wonderful job.

Ms. Galvin attended the CHS Orchestra Spring Concert that was combined with the chorus and drama departments and commended the students for a job well done.

7.1-4 Approval of Consent Agenda: The Consent Agenda included Personnel Recommendations, December 2, 2010 Work Session Minutes, and Financial, Routine Reports. Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the consent agenda. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Dr. McKee, Ms. Puryear, Mr. Wade and Ms. Galvin voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Educational Highlights

8.1 Buford Middle School - Buford's Community Connection through Service Learning: Dr. Beth J. Baptist, Director of Special Education and Student Services, along with Buford Middle School Principal Eric Johnson and Assistant Principal Pam Davis, introduced 8th grade student Bria Williams, who presented information about Buford's Community Connection through Service Learning and their work in the community.

8.2 CHS Coffee Shop Program Featured in International Textbook: Dr. Baptist and CHS Principal Dr. Thomas Taylor acknowledged the contribution of Special Education teacher Ellen Vigour who initiated the Black Knights Coffee Shop two years ago. The coffee shop is a nonprofit business, operated by students with disabilities, that delivers coffee and baked goods to faculty and staff at the beginning of each school day. It teaches a variety of skills and gives the students an opportunity to learn to work efficiently in a kitchen, to interact in the community, and to take responsibility in a business environment. Mrs. Vigour was asked to present at the 24th Annual Governor's Conference on Education, and was honored with the 2010 "Excellence in Education Award" from Virginia Tech School of Education. In January 2011, an article about the Coffee Shop was published in a major graduate level textbook, *Students with Severe Disabilities*, as an example of a successful modern vocational program in the chapter entitled, "Transitioning from School to Employment."

8.3 Henry Avenue Learning Center - Philosopher's Club: Dr. Baptist and Kathy Harris, Program Coordinator of the Henry Avenue Learning Center introduced Rhonda Pedigo, Jennifer Merritt, and Loren Intolubbe-Chmil who presented an overview of the Henry Avenue Learning Center-Women's Center Philosophers' Club. The weekly program, offered in collaboration with the University of Virginia, is designed to cultivate critical thinking skills and relationship-building through a discussion-based curriculum. The Henry Avenue Learning Center-Women's Center Philosophers' Club is designed to cultivate critical thinking skills and relationship building through a discussion based curriculum. The mission of the program is to provide Charlottesville City School students a unique learning opportunity in collaboration with University of Virginia students on a weekly basis. The curriculum is designed to inspire self-discipline, engage the mind and the imagination in the love of learning, promote academic excellence, and encourage and support the social skills necessary for life-long achievement.

Ms. Puryear expressed the Boards' appreciation for all that the Henry Avenue Learning Center and the Philosopher's Club coordinators do for their students.

Action Items

9.1 Approval 2011-2012 Proposed Budget: Edward C. Gillaspie, Director of Finance, presented this item to the Board for approval on second reading. At recent school board meetings and work sessions, members of the School Board and staff have been in the process of finalizing the 2011-2012 budget. Once the General Assembly and City Council have finalized state and city budgets, staff will provide updated information to the Board for deliberation and revision to the budget that was presented for approval. The School Board was asked to approve the 2011-2012 budget in the amount of \$68,500,567, a decrease of \$995,397 or -1.43% under the 2010-2011 revised operating budget. Included in the budget was a funding request to the Charlottesville City Council of \$41,820,475 an increase of \$1,739,952.

Mr. Gillaspie informed the Board that the proposed budget will be presented to City Council on March 7, 2011.

Mr. Wade commented that Staff and the Board worked on the budget since October of 2010, that it was another challenging year, and that board members, the public and staff have compiled a very good budget that meets the needs of the school division.

Mr. Michie agreed that it was a well run process with input from stakeholders and that we have ended up with a very good product that realizes efficiencies where we can but also expands programs as planned. Mr. Michie added that it's a tough budgetary time and we have to make cuts and realize efficiencies. The division has small class sizes and we are fortunate to be able to maintain them.

Ms. Dugger commented that the library instructional assistant positions that are being cut is a particularly difficult cut to make. The Board would rather not have to make that cut but when you're looking at a tough budgetary

year those are the decisions that have to be made. Ms. Dugger added that overall this budget keeps the excellence in our schools, supports our teachers, and keeps our students moving forward.

Dr. McKee agreed with previous comments from Board members and thanked Staff and Dr. Atkins for their efforts in developing the budget. Dr. McKee also noted that we are fortunate that we were able to continue to support the arts programs and maintain talent development positions in the lower grades.

Ms. Galvin concurred with previous comments from the Board and thanked Staff for their diligence in trying to cut as much as possible and at the same time maintain high quality programming.

Ms. Blount commented that she was grateful that we can continue with our enrichment programs, talent development as well as continued support of foreign language in the elementary schools.

Ms. Ivory added that the division appreciates the services of the instructional assistants in the library and that staff looked at how things could be restructured to fill this gap. Ms. Ivory noted there are ITRTs in the schools who can be a first line defense for some technical issues. The Technical Support Department wants to have that responsibility which will alleviate some of the librarians' responsibilities related to technical support.

Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Dr. McKee, to approve the 2011-2012 budget in the total amount of \$68,500,567. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Dr. McKee, Ms. Puryear, Mr. Wade and Ms. Galvin voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9.2 2011 - 2012 School Calendar: At the February 3, 2011 School Board meeting, James M. Henderson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration Services, presented the proposed 2011-2012 School Calendar for consideration by the Board on first reading. The calendar was developed in concert with the Albemarle County Schools at the request of the respective School Boards. Representing CCS on the calendar committee were administrators Tracie Daniels, Thomas Taylor, and Jim Henderson; teacher Leslie Diehl, and parent Jacqueline Brown. Mr. Henderson presented the 2011-2012 School Calendar for Board approval.

Mr. Michie made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dugger, to approve the 2011-2012 School Calendar. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Dr. McKee, Ms. Puryear, Mr. Wade and Ms. Galvin voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

9.3 Location of 6-8 Middle School: At the February 3, 2011 School Board meeting, Mr. Henderson presented a recommendation that the Buford site be selected as the location of the 6-8 middle school and it is presented at this meeting for action.

At its October 21 meeting, the School Board voted unanimously to move forward with Option 4 for our school facilities and grade configuration. When implemented, this option will bring 5th grade back into the six elementary schools and create a single middle school for grades 6-8. The plan also includes a comprehensive preschool center to house 3- and 4-year-olds and new housing for alternative education and central office administration. The School Board directed staff to engage the community in further discussion about how to repurpose our school facilities, starting with the selection of Walker or Buford as the site of a 6-8 middle school. Community forums were held November 22 and December 6 to discuss how City school buildings should be used to house students and staff in the coming years, particularly whether Buford or Walker school is the preferred site for the 6-8 middle school. Additional forums were held in elementary schools in January. Questions and answers were compiled and posted online from these forums. Throughout the process, discussion materials and schedules have been promoted on our web site, through our ListServ and AlertNow channels, and through local media outlets. An online survey was launched on November 23, 2010, to gather input regarding the selection of Walker or Buford as a middle school site. Flyers went home in December with all K-8 students promoting the online survey or offering a paper survey as an alternative. There were 197 paper surveys returned and 199 online responses. Public comment has been invited at each school board meeting. The school division held a "Telephone Town Hall" meeting on Monday, January 24, 2011, to gather community input on two topics: the upcoming school budget, and the repurposing of school facilities in creating a 6-8 middle school at either Walker or Buford School.

Ms. Blount stated that this was a long and amazing process to get to this point and thanked Dr. Atkins, staff and the community for all of their efforts. Ms. Blount added that the Walker vacated building would be an opportunity to increase partnerships with the University of Virginia and other agencies and allow for input in developing the proposed pre-school center.

Ms. Galvin expressed her appreciation to staff for their hard work and the community for their input. Ms. Galvin noted that after looking at the topography and layout of the sites, Buford would be easier to fully enclose. There are many additional opportunities with the location of the Boys & Girls Club, as well as Smith Pool.

Dr. McKee extended appreciation to staff and Dr. Atkins their intensive work on the process and also thanked the community for their input into the decision. Dr. McKee agreed with previous Board members' comments and added that there will likely be some that will disagree with the decision and noted that the Board acknowledges those feelings and hopes that through the rest of the process, people will give it a chance.

Ms. Dugger agreed with previous comments and added that the vision of what the Buford campus will look like when Buford is renovated, along with the newly renovated Smith Pool & Boys and Girls Club, is an exciting prospect and one the city could be proud of.

Mr. Michie commented that the Board did listen, that this was not a done deal and there was compelling logic to choose Buford due to the location of the Boys & Girls Club and Smith Pool. Mr. Michie noted that Walker has some positive points as well and his decision was based on what is best going forward.

Mr. Wade commented that this is a transformation decision that will have a long term impact on our most cherished asset, which is our students, and will transform Buford into a world class school when the renovations are done. Mr. Wade added that Board members wonderfully listed the reasons why Buford should be chosen and concurs with them all. During the information gathering phase, Mr. Wade noted that he made an effort to talk with many people, in particular some of those that were on the front line of integrating CCS, and that a very wise person said that "when children feel connected to a school, they achieve better" and that is what he used as the basis for his decision.

Ms. Puryear stated that this was a difficult decision and that her decision was based primarily on the quality of the education received.

Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blount, that the Charlottesville School Board select Buford as the School to host the 6, 7, 8 grades and that the Walker building host the consolidated Central Office and other division programs including the preschool program. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Dr. McKee, Ms. Puryear, Mr. Wade and Ms. Galvin voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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

11.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Michie reported on the VSBA Legislative Conference in Richmond, and added that he took a tour of the Boys & Girls Club and noted what a great facility it is. Mr. Michie also proposed a partnership with Smith Pool to get swimming lessons for Charlottesville City School children.

Ms. Dugger reported on the NSBA's Federal Relations Network Conference in Washington, DC.

12.1 Superintendent's Comments: Ms. Ivory noted that Parent University has been restructured and that Mr. Johnson, Dr. Taylor, the CHS College Counselor and two community members conducted the Parent University at Buford Middle School. It was outstanding and many parents commented that the information was worthwhile and could have stayed even longer. There were over 200 parents in attendance.

Ms. Ivory noted that the division is very proud of Dr. Atkins for representing Charlottesville and the State of Virginia as the Virginia Superintendent of the Year. Ms. Ivory also expressed appreciation of the Boards' support of Dr. Atkins recommendation regarding the budget, calendar, and middle school location.

13.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Puryear read the list of upcoming meetings and activities.

14.1 Adjournment: Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Blount, that the Board adjourn. Upon a roll call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Blount, Ms. Dugger, Mr. Michie, Ms. Galvin, Mr. Michie, Ms. Puryear and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays. Meeting adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

A complete podcast of this meeting can be accessed at:

<http://www.ccs.k12.va.us/podcast/media/CCSBoard17Feb2011.mp3>

Leah Puryear, Board Chair

Leslie Thacker, Clerk