



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS  
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road  
Thursday, June 1, 2023 (4:00 PM)**

Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on June 1, 2023 at 4:00 p.m., in the Division Annex/SPED Conference Room.

**PRESENT:** Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres  
**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Superintendent; Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer and Disciplinary Hearing Officer; Dr. Jill Dahl, Program Administrator at Lugo-McGinness Academy; and Maria Lewis, Director of Human Resources

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Student/Parent/Guardian

**1.1 Call to Order:** Mr. Bryant, Board Chair, called the closed session meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

**1.2 Closed Meeting:** At 4:00 p.m., Mr. Morse offered a motion to go into Closed Session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (2) for the purpose of discussing personnel matters and student disciplinary matters. Dr. Kraft seconded the motion, the motion passed with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. The motion passed 6/0. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this vote.

**1.3 Closed Meeting Certification:** At 4:51 p.m., Mr. Morse offered a motion that the Board certify by recorded vote that to the best of each board member's knowledge, only public business matters lawfully exempted from the open meeting requirements of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act and identified in the motion authorizing the Closed Meeting were heard, discussed or considered. Mr. McKeever seconded the motion, the motion passed with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. The motion passed 7/0.

Upon a motion by Ms. Dooley, seconded by Dr. Kraft, the Board voted to uphold the superintendent's recommendation to expel student EXP060123-01 for one calendar year from May 17, 2023. Charlottesville City Schools will provide instruction to the student at a location to be determined off of school grounds. Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse and Ms. Torres voted yes. The motion passed 7/0.

The board recessed from 4:52 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

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

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

#### **4.1 Roll Call of Board Members:**

The following Board Members were present:	Mr. James Bryant	Ms. Lashundra Bryson Morsberger
	Ms. Emily Dooley	Ms. Lisa Torres
	Mr. Dom Morse	Ms. Jennifer McKeever
	Je'Saun Johnson, Student Representative	

The following Board Members were absent: Dr. Sherry Kraft

The following Staff Members were present:	Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr.	Ms. Kim Powell
	Dr. Katina Otey	Mr. Pat Cuomo
	Ms. T. Denise Johnson	Ms. Beth Cheuk
	Ms. Maria Lewis	Ms. Carolyn Swift
	Ms. Renee Hoover	Ms. Julia Green
	Ms. Leslie Thacker	

The following Staff Members were absent: None

**5.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda:** Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

#### **6.1 Comments from Members of the Community:**

- Mr. Derek Hartline addressed the Board with comments of concern around the renaming schools process and noted that the attendance listed in the April 13, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes had an error in the role and associated actions.
- Mr. Andy Josselyn, CHS English Teacher, addressed the Board with comments of appreciation for the Board's attention around student cell phone use and for the progress already being made by the committee.

#### **Student and Staff Recognitions**

**7.1 Debate Team State Champions:** Beth Cheuk, Supervisor of Community Relations, introduced Debate Coaches Quinn Curtis and Kayla Edwards who invited those present to join them in recognizing Public Forum State Champions Nava Khurgel and Alison Bird, Public Forum third place winners Solly Goluboff-Schragger and Sophie Brissett, and Lincoln-Douglas eighth place winner Lily Curtis.

**7.2 AVID Successes and Scholarships:** Dr. Jeannie Pfautz, Coordinator of ESL, Gifted, and AVID, shared highlights from the 2022-2023 CHS AVID program, including the AVID seniors' university decisions and scholarships received. CHS Student Gloria Gay shared reflections of her AVID experience.

**8.1-7 Adoption of Consent Agenda:** The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes - April 13, 2023 School Board Meeting](#), [Business, Financial, Routine Reports, 2023-2024 School Board Meeting Schedule](#), [Authorization of Signature in Absence of Division Superintendent through June 30, 2024](#), and [Superintendent Contract Amendment](#).

Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley, to approve the proposed consent agenda. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Mr. Bryant shared a statement on the new Superintendent Contract and shared his appreciation for Dr. Gurley's tenure.

## **Action Items**

**9.1 [Approval - 2023-2024 Title I / IV Application](#):** Patrick Farrell (Title I and IV), Intervention and Support Supervisor, presented the 2022-2023 Federal Consolidated Application for Board review on May 4, 2023. The item was presented for action.

Ms. Torres made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever, to approve the Title I and IV as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this vote.

**9.2 [Approval - 2023-2024 Title II Application](#):** Maria Lewis (Title II), Director of Human Resources, presented the 2022-2023 Federal Consolidated Application for Board review on May 4, 2023. The item was presented for action.

Ms. Dooley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, to approve the Title II as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this vote.

**9.3 [Approval - 2023-2024 Title III Application](#):** Dr. Jeannie Pfautz (Title III), Coordinator of ESL, Gifted, and AVID, presented the 2022-2023 Federal Consolidated Application for Board review on May 4, 2023. The item was presented for action.

Ms. Dooley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, to approve the Title III Application as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this vote.

**9.4 [Approval - 2023-2024 Budget Update](#):** Renee Hoover, Director of Finance, presented the 2023-2024 Budget Update item for Board approval. The School Board, on February 23, 2023, adopted the fiscal year (FY) 2024 budget in the amount of \$107,128,647. Subsequently the Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) issued a Calc Tool on April 7, 2023 based on HB 1400 Substitute Budget approved by the General Assembly on February 25, 2023 including a correction of the formula to Basic Aid for the grocery tax hold harmless, the 5% salary action for teachers and staff, and updated estimate projections on State sales tax revenue dedicated to K12.

Because of the VDOE's error in calculating the Basic Aid due to not recognizing the grocery tax hold harmless payment for FY 2024 and other amendments based on the HB 1400 Substitute Budget, there is a State revenue shortfall of \$334,659. The health insurance expense had a significantly less renewal rate than adopted in the FY 2024 budget that the loss in State revenue can be off-setted with this savings.

Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley, to approve the budget update as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this vote.

**9.5 [Approval - 2023-2024 Program of Studies Revision](#):** Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, shared revisions for the 2023-2024 Program of Studies. The proposed revisions were in regards to AVID 9 and AVID 10. Students will receive an elective credit rather than a CTE credit for these courses. Course codes have also changed to indicate this change.

Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Torres, to approve the program of studies as presented. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

## Items for Discussion

**10.1 [2023-2028 Strategic Plan Update](#):** Beth Cheuk, Supervisor of Community Relations, presented an update on the 2023-2028 Strategic Planning process sharing that the schedule has been adjusted to allow for more detailed work before the Board receives the final plan with specific strategies and targets. It is anticipated that the completed document will be presented to the Board for information on June 27, 2023 and for action on August 3, 2023.

**10.2 [Middle School Modernization Update](#):** Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented an update on Middle School Modernization. Information presented included:

### Big News

- \$17.6 million dollar grant awarded in May to Charlottesville City Schools in support of middle school modernization!

### Big Decision

- The recommendation of the superintendent: When seventh and eighth-grade students begin using the new construction in the fall of 2025, the school transitions to the name Charlottesville Middle School.

### Charlottesville Middle School Renaming: the “Why” and the Process

- There are several items for the middle school that need to be ordered to stay on schedule, so this decision needs to be made at the beginning of the construction process
- This recommendation is in keeping with the trend toward moving away from names that honor an individual
- With the new facilities and the new grades served, this modernization will mark a new chapter in our history
- Since the middle school will be the place where all of Charlottesville’s students will come to as a unified sixth grade after leaving their neighborhood elementary schools, Charlottesville Middle School is a fitting name

### Big Creativity

- Environmental Graphics Working Group What are environmental graphics?
  - Interior and exterior building signage
  - Wayfinding signage
  - Emergency/ADA signage
  - Public art and graphicsCreating a sense of place Cville Schools is forming a working group to collaborate with the architectural design team. Look for public surveys and feedback opportunities!

### Big Release: Renderings

### Big-Picture of Construction Plan

- Phase 1
  - June 12 - Summer 2025
    - Students will learn in the old buildings while the new construction is built on athletic fields and building C
    - No access to athletic fields or gym during this time, but a plan is in place.
- Phase 2
  - Summer 2025 - Summer 2026
    - Students will learn in the new building while

### Big Milestones

- Ceremonial Groundbreaking: Friday, June 9 at 9 a.m.
- Construction Kick-Off: Monday, June 12

### Next Steps

- Recommended action for the June 27, 2023 School Board meeting:
  - The Superintendent recommends that when seventh and eighth-grade students begin using the newly constructed building in the fall of 2025, the school transitions to the name Charlottesville Middle School.

Dr. Gurley shared a recommendation that the Board move forward with changing the name to Charlottesville Middle School to allow sufficient time for the necessary building components to be manufactured (exterior gym wall mural).

Dr. Kraft asked how information on the naming recommendation has been communicated to the community. Dr. Gurley responded that the community relations team has been sharing the proposed name to the community via several avenues. Ms. Cheuk shared that there will also be a press release issued to bring additional attention to the proposed change.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger asked how students will be moved when the project is completed. Ms. Powell responded that the move could happen over a weekend since the new building will include new furniture and finishing so teachers will not have many items to move. Mr. Goddard added that there will be an abundance of help when the time comes to move to the new building.

Ms. Torres shared appreciation for those who secured grant funding that will allow for sufficient funding for the project.

**10.3 [Division Administration Offices \(DAO\) ADA Renovation Project](#):** Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented information on the Division Administration Offices (DAO) ADA Renovation Project. Information presented included:

#### Renovation Scope

- ADA Compliance:
  - Identified CIP project for many years
    - CIP Budget \$300K
  - Project planning & design started last year
  - ADA issues to be addressed:
    - Access from lobby to the offices area
    - Conversion of 1 restroom to be ADA compliant
  - Other Improvements:
    - Asbestos Removal
    - Secure Lobby
    - Daylighting (Solar Tubes) for areas with no windows
    - Updated/Uniform Finishes
      - flooring, lighting, ceilings, paint, etc.

Dr. Kraft asked if ongoing mice and other infestation issues will be addressed during the renovation. Ms. Powell responded that all of the issues should be addressed during the renovation.

Ms. Torres asked if telephones will be covered by transfer. Ms. Powell shared that all phones will be transferred to the appropriate staff for coverage.

**10.4 [Transportation Update](#):** Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented an update on student transportation. Information presented included:

#### **Pupil Transportation Overview (numbers provided - May 15, 2023):**

- 1,663 students transported
- 1,647 by City Pupil Transportation / 16 by contract service
- 527 Elementary (preK - 4)
- 577 Walker/Buford (grades 5-8)
- 559 CHS

Waiting list continues to fluctuate and has ~100 students remaining

- No high or medium need students waiting
- Remaining list is almost entirely split between elementary & middle grades

14 total bus routes + 3 total car routes/drivers per day

- Elementary Tier - 12 buses
- Middle Tier - 13 buses
- High Tier - 13 buses
- 3 Pupil car routes to alternative schools
- 12 Regular Pupil Drivers
- 3 Relief Pupil Drivers
- 4 CAT Drivers continue to assist in Pupil (1 daily & 3 part-time)

Type A Bus Update

- One of Two 14 Passenger Activity Buses Received
- HELP WANTED: CCS Staff with CDL-S or S-endorsement on regular license

Weekly Meetings:

- TRIP (Transportation Routing Improvement Project) ○
- Special Transportation
- Safe Routes
  - Continue Collaboration for Infrastructure Improvements with the City
  - Continue Walking School Bus Groups and Crossing Guard Supports

Support for City Driver Recruitment Efforts

- Expansion/Improvement of CAT Service to Increase MS & HS Ridership
- Continue Collaboration with City to Determine Optimal Transportation Model

Visit <http://charlottesvilleschools.org/transportation> for the latest information & updates

Ms. Bryson Morsberger asked if the school walk zones would change. Dr. Gurley responded that the assigned walk zones are here to stay and shared great appreciation for staff and community partners who assisted schools and shared that there will be continued support.

**10.5 [2022-2023 Safety Report](#):** Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented the 2022-2023 Safety Report for Board information. Information presented included:

Student Threat Assessments

- 22-23 School Year-to-Date as of 5/15/2023:
  - 183 full threat assessments
    - A single threat assessment can identify both a threat to self and to others
    - 90 threat to self (97 total for 21-22)
    - 94 threat to others (85 total for 21-22)
    - 51 transient
    - 132 substantive
  - 156 no threat - screened out based on screening questions and interview
- There is some overlap between the numbers above and the numbers reported in the threat category for first responder contacts; however:
  - Not all threat assessments involve first responders, such as most threats of harm to self
  - Not all threats on the first responder contact log involve students or threat assessments, for example the swatting incidents

Next Steps

- Review DCJS school climate & working conditions survey data when it becomes available
- Continue refining procedures and practices to promote school safety
- Integrate owning our school climate & culture with owning our safety
- Summer Safety Summit - June 14th
- Continue first responder meetings and collaborations
- Continue school safety audits and crisis plan reviews & updates
- Continue implementation of safety/security infrastructure improvements
- Pre-week safety training for all staff
- Engage with community leaders to evaluate current safety model, data & trends

Ms. Dooley asked if the Summer Safety Summit, being held earlier in the Summer, will allow for all staff to be fully informed as to upcoming changes. Ms. Powell responded that she will make sure that all staff are informed of the changes that are happening.

Ms. Torres asked if locks and access control points are being reviewed. Dr. Gurley responded these items will be something that each school will have administration sharing with their staff that everything has been checked and is working.

**10.6 [2023-2024 Policy Update](#):** Carolyn Swift, Director of Assessment and Accountability, and the Executive Leadership Team presented the 2023-2024 Policy Update for Board consideration upon first reading.

Virginia Code 22.1-253.13(7) requires that School Boards review all policies, at a minimum, every five years. In addition, the Board's policy service provider, The Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA), provides updates for consideration by the Board. Staff has reviewed a number of existing policies for revision, deletion, or review. A table summarizing the types of changes in each policy is attached.

Ms. Torres asked how policy EB - School Crisis, Emergency Management, and Medical Emergency Response Plan applies with regards to training staff on AED usage. Dr. Gurley replied that athletic staff and staff at each school are trained on AED usage.

Ms. Torres also asked for clarification on Narcan availability. Dr. Gurley responded that he didn't have that information on hand but will provide an update to the Board.

**10.7 [Communications Updates](#):** Beth Cheuk, Supervisor of Community Relations, presented Communications Update around ParentSquare and Smart Sites integrated website for Board information. Information presented included:

#### ParentSquare

- One Unified Platform
  - Mass Notifications
  - Classroom Comms
  - School Services
  - School Websites
- Make it Easier for Everyone to Communicate: Save time, streamline work. Send everything-mass notifications, classroom posts, one-to-one messages, forms, sign-ups-using tools built to work together, not pieced together.
- Smart Alerts!
- One Tap Participation
- Two-Way Communication
- How ParentSquare Works
  1. Teachers & staff share school-related news on ParentSquare.
  2. Parents receive, respond & sign up, and get automated reminders!
  3. Everyone has easy access to all interactions in one place.
- Extra Functionality (We May Roll This Out Slowly)
- Extra Functionality, Cont'd: Payments, Forms, & More All in One Place
- ParentSquare: Now with "SmartSites" integrated websites
  - Unified Website & Communications Tools
  - Easy-to-Use Interface
  - Create Once, Publish Everyone (COPE)
- In July, we'll ask families and staff to download the app.
  - First steps are to set up notification preferences.
  - ParentSquare offers training videos for administrators, staff, and families.
- Timeline



- ParentSquare Communications
  - 1-way communications launch in July
  - 2-way communications launch mid-August
  - Staff PL during pre-week
  - SmartSites Website Launch- July 1 expected launch date

Ms. Torres shared comments of concern around the addition of new communication systems that may require use of cell phones all while discussing the reduction/elimination of cell phone use in schools and advocated for making sure students have access to these tools on devices other than their cell phones (ex. Chromebook).

Dr. Gurley spoke in support of ensuring that student voice is included and reflected in cell phone use policy and highlighted the importance that policy does not disproportionately affect minority students as it relates to discipline. He also noted that students have expressed a desire to receive more communication as it relates to their learning experience.

Ms. Dooley asked about the cost structure for ParentSquare and SmartSites. Ms. Cheuk responded that she did not have that information on hand but it is comparable to prior website tools. She also noted that there will be additional costs as additional components/features are implemented.

#### **Motion to amend the Consent Agenda - April 13, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes:**

Ms. McKeever made a motion seconded by Mr. Morse to pull the April 13, 2023 School Board Meeting Minutes for correction to attendance and subsequent actions. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Dooley abstained from voting as she wasn't present at the April 13 meeting.

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

**11.1 [School Board Member Committee Reports](#):** Board members shared updates on recent activities in this written report.

**11.2 [Preschool Update \(Program and Enrollment\)](#):** Sheila Sparks, Coordinator for Preschool and Family Support, prepared the Preschool (Program and Enrollment) written report for Board information.

**11.3 [Gifted Annual Review 2021-2024](#):** Dr. Jeannie Pfautz, ESL, AVID, and Gifted Program Coordinator, reviewed the Local Plan for the Gifted and prepared the Annual Review written report for Board information.

Ms. McKeever shared comments around the importance of filling the Gifted position at Buford and at looking at the data points for programs.

Ms. Torres shared that as this year's cohort will be the first to be assessed with the new PALS test, she asked Sheila Sparks, Preschool Coordinator, to provide the Board with updates on Pre-K PALS testing. Ms. Torres also shared comments of concern that Buford did not have a Gifted staff member all year. Dr. Otey responded that the position has been posted again for the coming school year and shared that there are some good candidates in the applicant pool.

Ms. McKeever shared comments of concern around the efficacy of the current Gifted model. Dr. Gurley responded that he agreed and shared that there are difficulties at the middle school level around master scheduling as it related to Gifted services programming. He noted the importance of being creative when looking at what a service model delivery looks like.

Dr. Kraft shared comments highlighting the difficulty of measuring the effectiveness of the current model and is hoping that the coming year will allow staff to solidify and implement appropriate achievement measures. She



shared that other challenges were that the Gifted Resource Teacher was frequently pulled and used as a substitute for other classes.

**12.1 Comments from Members of the Community:** There were none.

**13.1 Board Member Comments:**

- Ms. McKeever shared an update on recent activities such as the band concert at Walker and Venable chorus concert.
- Ms. Dooley echoed comments of appreciation to staff and families, shared that she is looking forward to graduation and that she will be working the Burnley-Moran Field Day. She encouraged the community to wear orange on June 2 in recognition of "Wear Orange Day", approved by City Council via a resolution and sponsored Moms Demand and the B.U.C.K. Squad.
- Mr. Byrson Morsberger congratulated parents and families on completing the school year.
- Dr. Kraft expressed gratitude to those in the Division who helped make it through the difficult year. She also shared how wonderful it is that student art is located Downtown for the community to enjoy, reminded everyone of the deadline for declaring intent to run for election and congratulated Mr. Johnson for receiving the amazing amount of scholarships and wished him well.
- Ms. Torres congratulated the 2023 graduates and shared how wonderful the graduation ceremony is to attend each year.
- Mr. Bryant offered congratulations to 2023 graduates and wished them well. He also expressed comments of appreciation for teachers, staff, and counselors for their hard work.
- Mr. Johnson shared positive comments on his experience as a Student School Board Representative and encouraged fellow CHS students to apply and serve. He also offered his appreciation for the things learned during his service.

**14.1 Superintendent's Comments:** Dr. Gurley shared that hearing Mr. Johnson's comments remind him of the importance of just giving students a chance and making them feel heard. Dr. Gurley recognized the accomplishments of the debate team, soccer teams and staff for their work.

**15.1 Work Session Wrap-Up:** There were two requests from the Board:

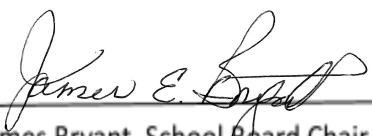
- Narcan information/update
- Pre-K longitudinal data (new PK PALS data)

**16.1 Upcoming Meetings:** Mr. Bryant read the upcoming meetings.

**17.1 Adjourn:** The meeting adjourned at 7:34pm

A video of the June 1, 2023 meeting can be located at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x19\\_HGkDawht7ETcl5QM\\_3wt3jAckDZi/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1x19_HGkDawht7ETcl5QM_3wt3jAckDZi/view?usp=sharing)

  
James Bryant, School Board Chair  
Julia Green, School Board Clerk