



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing Arts Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, September 23, 2021 (5:00 PM)
Reconfiguration Work Session**

1.1 Call to Order: School Board Vice Chair James Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Video was streamed live on the Charlottesville City Schools Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CvilleSchools/>).

1.2 School Board Member (Lisa Torres) Electronic Participation: Due to personal reasons Ms. Lisa Torres requested that she be allowed to participate in the September 23, 2021 meeting via electronic means (Zoom). Ms. McKeever made a motion to approve Ms. Torres' electronic participation, seconded by Dr. Kraft. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morseberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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
Dr. Sherry Kraft
Ms. Lisa Torres
Ms. Puryear

Ms. Lashundra Bryson Mosberger
Ms. Jennifer McKeever
Mr. Juandiego Wade

The following Board Members were absent:

None

The following Staff Members were present:

Mr. Jim Henderson
Mr. Pat Cuomo
Dr. Beth Baptist
Ms. Leslie Thacker

Ms. Kim Powell
Dr. Katina Otey
Ms. Renee Hoover
Ms. Julia Green

The following Staff Members were absent:

None

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

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

7.1 [September 23, 2021 Reconfiguration Work Session Documents](#): Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, introduced Wyck Knox, Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager for VMDO, who presented an update on School Reconfiguration - Walker & Buford Re-Design. Information presented included:

- What is this project trying to do?
 - Improve our school system
 - Improve our facilities
- Why reconfiguration, why now?
 - Better grouping of grades in better learning environments
 - Investing in the right ages.
 - Middle school transitions are disruptive.
 - Pre-K resources are scattered and limited
 - Our learning spaces are from 1966.
 - ...Now
 - Our school buildings are obsolete.
 - We said we would reconfigure.
 - Time is money.
 - It's the best way to accommodate growth.
 - Tomorrow is today.
- Who is this project for? Does it advance equity?
 - Racial/Ethnic Diversity
 - Socio-Economic Diversity
- What must be decided, and when?
 - Results of process to date
 - Establish Budget & Scope
 - Commit to Reconfiguration
- Bottom line: Budget Request from Community Design Team (CDT)
 - by 2026
 - Walker Building "A" Temporary Pre-K Facility \$1.35M
 - 5th Grade Furniture for Elementary Schools \$425K
 - Buford Option 3 with Heavy Renovation of Buildings A & B \$73M
 - after 2026
 - New Early Childhood Center at Walker \$22.3M
- What other districts are spending
 - Recent and planned public school construction projects in neighboring districts represent over \$700M of investment in public school facilities since 2011.
- What is required in new tax revenue?
 - If funded solely via real estate taxes, the project will require a five-cent increase. Or,
 - 1% special sales tax, which requires approval by General Assembly & Charlottesville voters
- Walker Site 2026
- Walker - Build Center to South while Building "A" is Occupied
- Walker Site - Early Childhood Center Proposal
- Walker Site - Proposed Two-Story Early Childhood Center
- EC Center - Upper Level with walkout access to courtyards
- EC Center - Lower Level at Rose Hill Entry Landscape
- Walker Site - Rose Hill Drive Entry Today
- Walker Site - Proposed Rose Hill Drive Entrance
- Addition Connects Entry Landscape to Upper Courtyards
- Walker Site - Blacktop/Courtyard Today
- Walker Site - Proposed Play & Learn Courtyard
- Walker Site - Connector Between New & Renovated Areas
- Buford Site - Existing

- Buford Site - Proposed
- Buford Site - Proposed Roof Plan
- Buford Site - Upper Level Floor Plan
- Buford Site - Entry Level Floor Plan
- Buford Site - Cafeteria Level Floor Plan
- Buford Site - Field Level Floor Plan
- Buford Site - New Building Entry
- Buford Site - Cut-away view of new circulation space
- Buford - Inviting spaces to connect all students, entry level
- Buford - Academic commons, cafeteria level
- Buford - Outdoor space between cafeteria level & field level
- Buford - Art and project spaces, field level
- School Board Resolution (text below)

There was discussion on ensuring that there will be enough room for the PreK program while demolishing and having new construction at the Walker campus as it is now. The Board noted that city councilors seem to be in support of these renovations.

Ms McKeever read the following Proposed School Board resolution – concept design:

CCS Reconfiguration

Proposed School Board resolution – concept design

Following over thirteen years of community discussion, the Charlottesville City Schools (CCS) School Board reaffirms the need to reconfigure the present allocation of grades in the elementary and middle schools, and to modernize the facilities on the Walker and Buford campuses, in order to further academic and equity goals. Currently, students in CCS transition from six neighborhood elementary schools to Walker Upper Elementary for grades five and six, and transition again to Buford Middle School for grades seven and eight before transitioning to Charlottesville High School for grade nine through twelve. Pre-K is available to a limited number of income and special needs qualified students within the neighborhood elementary schools. The School Board proposes a renovation and addition to Buford Middle school, allowing it to serve a planned capacity of 1,050 students in grades six through eight. Pre-K will be centralized into one location at the Walker site, and fifth grade will move to the existing elementary schools.

A plan to explore various design concepts with the citizens of Charlottesville was reviewed with the School Board at the May 21, 2021 School Board retreat, and again at a joint work session of the School Board and Charlottesville City Council on May 26, 2021. Potential scopes of work were developed and discussed over seven public meetings with the Community Design Team (CDT) and informed by numerous outreach and engagement efforts. The CDT's conceptual design recommendations were presented to a joint work session of the School Board and City Council on September 15, 2021. This recommendation includes:

- Grade level reconfiguration achieved by August of 2026
- A combination of demolition, construction, and heavy renovation at Buford resulting in approximately 187,000 square feet and based on the “Build in the Bowl” option
- Pre-K temporarily occupying “Building A” of Walker in 2026
- New furniture to accommodate fifth grade students at the elementary schools
- A plan for a new Early Childhood Center, based on the “Rose Hill Drive” option, to be built on the southern end of the Walker Campus that would be executed as soon as funding is available.

These recommendations were also presented as “Exhibit A” to the School Board as an information/action item on September 23, 2021. Having carefully reviewed the extensive input from the CDT, the design consultant, CCS

and City staff, and the community, I move that the School Board approve the recommendation of the CDT as generally described in Exhibit A.

By approving this motion, the School Board approves the following:

- A proposed scope of work and budget to achieve reconfiguration by August of 2026.
- A request that the City replace the fifty million dollar reconfiguration placeholder in the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) in FY 2025 with a seventy five million dollar total project budget, anticipating a construction start in FY 2024. If the stated reconfiguration is funded solely by real estate taxes, the School Board understands this would require a 5 cent increase.
- A request that the City plan for CIP funding of the Early Childhood Center as soon as possible, with a target date of FY 2027.

Ms. Puryear made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever to move forward with the Proposed School Board resolution – concept design as presented. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morseberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

8.1 Comments from Members of the Community: There were no comments at this time.

9.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres read the list of upcoming meetings.

10.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

A video of the September 23, 2021 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BarlATg8UqpiFOo7QZoG1Swpxlnwkgd0/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk