



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, September 1, 2022 (5:00 PM)**

Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on September 1, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., in the Division Annex/SPED Conference Room.

PRESENT: Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres

ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Superintendent

Ms. Torres, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m.

1.1 Closed Meeting: At 4:02 p.m, Mr. Bryant made a motion to convene into Closed Session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel matters. Mr. Morse seconded the motion, and the motion passed with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 5 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger arrived after this vote.

1.2 Closed Meeting Certification: At 4:57 p.m., Mr. Bryant made 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. Ms. Bryson Morsberger seconded the motion, and the motion passed with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays. There was no action.

The Board recessed from 4:57 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

1.3 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

2.1 Moment of Silence: Ms. Torres 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	Dr. Sherry Kraft
	Ms. Lisa Torres	Mr. Dom Morse

The following Board Members were absent:	Ms. Jennifer McKeever
	Observed via Zoom at home

The following Staff Members were present: Dr. Royal Gurley Ms. Kim Powell
 Ms. Carolyn Swift Dr. Katina Otey
 Ms. Maria Lewis Ms. Julia Green
 Ms. Leslie Thacker Ms. Beth Cheuk

The following Staff Members were absent: Mr. Pat Cuomo Ms. Renee Hoover
 Ms. T. Denise Johnson

5.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- Mr. Koenig, Lugo-McGinness Academy Teacher and parent of Greenbrier students, shared input on collective bargaining and stated that the Division should not limit what the bargaining unit can do.
- Charlene Greene and Myrtle Houchens from Piedmont Housing Alliance shared appreciation for keeping students and families informed on how to secure transportation to and from school.
- Nancy Deutsch shared her gratitude for a great start of the year and noted that the City approved the Buford reconfiguration project in April. She stressed the need for the Board to move forward with the project regardless of cost increases.
- Rich Felker, parent of a Burnley-Moran student, shared his concerns regarding masks in the schools.

Action Items

7.1-4 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes from the August 4, 2022 School Board Meeting](#), and [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#). Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft to approve the proposed consent agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Dr. Gurley introduced and welcomed new staff members Jessica Ford, Digital Knowledge and Planning Facilitator; Mr. Mathew Farley, Assistant Principal at Greenbrier Elementary School; Michael Mountjoy, Athletic Director; Kim Thompson and Holly Russell, Assistant Principals at Buford Middle School; Dr. Angela Bracey, Supervisor of Special Education. Dr. Gurley also recognized John Kronstein who will assume the role of Assistant Principal at Johnson Elementary School.

8.1 Transgender Policy: T. Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, and Beth Cheuk, Coordinator of Community Relations and Development, presented the updated Transgender Policy for Board review on August 4, 2022. Ms. Cheuk presented the policy for approval. Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the proposed transgender and non-binary policy. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

8.2 Admission of Non-Resident Students (JECC) Policy Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented an update on the Admission of Non-Resident Students (JECC) Policy for Board consideration on August 4, 2022. The policy was presented for action. Ms. Dooley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the proposed admission of Non-Resident Students JECC. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

8.3 Security Cameras and Video Recordings (JOF) Policy Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented the proposed Security Cameras and Video Recordings (JOF) policy for Board consideration on August 4, 2022. The policy was presented for action. Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the proposed security cameras and video recording policy JOF. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

8.4 COVID Update / Staff Masking Recommendation: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Division Superintendent, and Dr. Beth Baptist, COVID Coordinator, presented a COVID Update and Staff masking recommendation. In preparation for developing a recommendation, the superintendent solicited input from the Charlottesville Education Association (CEA) to develop the staff masking recommendation for the 2022-2023 school year.

Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley to approve the staff masking recommendations. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, and Mr. Morse, voting yes and Ms. Torres voting nay. 5 ayes, 1 nays.

Dr. Kraft questioned if UVA students were a contributing reason for the high level of transmission levels in Charlottesville. Dr. Baptist responded that UVA students are considered a part of the community so they should be included in Charlottesville's numbers. The Board discussed testing at schools and asked if on-site testing will continue.

Dr. Gurley noted that his recommendation includes language urging staff to continue to mask but that it will be optional.

Ms. Dooley noted that while the recommendation includes that the staff should have the option of wearing masks, staff should have a choice while depending on their students' needs and how they are best able to teach and connect with their students.

Dr. Kraft noted that the Board prioritizes safety and that she feels staff should have a choice of wearing a mask or not.

Mr. Bryant asked what the backup plan for staff absences will be given the recommendation of optional masking. Dr. Gurley responded that there will likely be consequences that the Division will need to overcome. Strategies include expanding the sub pool and having teachers or other staff personnel covering classes.

Ms Bryson-Morseberger asked if the Board could change the recommendation to have to wear a mask during high transmission. Dr. Gurley responded that the Board can absolutely recommend that change if it so wishes.

Ms. Torres noted that she would like to see all other mitigation efforts continued.

Items for Discussion

9.1 2022-2023 Student Representatives to the School Board: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, and Mr. Rashaad Pitt, CHS Principal, introduced the 2022-2023 Student Representatives to the School Board. After widely advertising the search for Student Representatives to the School Board at Charlottesville High School, the Student Council Association (SCA) reviewed applications and selected Allison Bird, Vivien Wong, and Jesaun Johnson who will be presented to the Board for approval.

Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the student representatives as presented. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

Allison Bird will serve in October, November and December. Vivien Wong will serve January, February and March. Jesaun Johnson will serve April, May and June.

9.2 Middle School Project Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, and VMDO Architects provided an update regarding plans for the Middle School project including schedule, construction phasing and updated estimate information. Information presented included Design Development Plans & Estimate.

Ms. Dooley stressed the importance of the Board pushing forward with the Buford renovation to make sure the project stays on target.

9.3 2022-2023 Enrollment Update: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, provided an update on student enrollment from the first week of school.

Dr. Gurley shared that staff is looking at all the enrollment numbers at the schools whether they are low in number and we have to collapse the class or if they are over enrollment and we have to add an additional class.

9.4 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Calendar: On behalf of Ms. Renee Hoover, Director of Finance, Ms. Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar for Board information. The budget calendar sets meeting schedules for the budget development process and defines the time frame under which the proposed budget will be prepared, discussed, and approved. The fiscal year 2024 budget calendar generally follows the same format as the prior year budget calendars. Some changes in the calendar are the School Board Work Session on budget priorities in October and the presentation of the Superintendent's recommended changes will be during the week on Thursday, 1/19/2023. This item will be presented for approval on October 6, 2022.

9.5 School Reassignment: Westhaven Community: On behalf of Ms. T. Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, Ms. Beth Cheuk, Coordinator of Community Relations and Development, presented information on School Reassignment for the Westhaven Community to attend Venable Elementary School.

Mr. Bryant expressed appreciation for the apology given to the community and shared his disappointment on how he was moved from Jefferson School to McGuffey School and how black students were humiliated while going to school there.

There was discussion on how Out-of-Zone Applications will work for students that still want to attend Burnley-Moran Elementary.

9.6 Accreditation Update: Carolyn Swift, Director of Assessment and Accountability, presented an update on Accreditation. Information presented included 2022-23 Preliminary Accreditation results by school based on the 2021-22 Standards of Learning data (SOLs), including performance levels on school quality indicators (overall and by student groups).

Dr. Gurley noted that he takes ownership of this data and the work that needs to be done to help students achieve. Strategies include requiring culturally responsive teaching to facilitate relationships in the classroom and to show students that they are loved. He added that the data shows that black students are not performing on the level that is needed.

Mr. Bryant agreed with Dr. Gurley that we need to own this and get to work.

Ms. Bryson Morseberger stated that the data for Walker and Buford is unacceptable. Dr. Gurley responded that all of the Division schools need to be held accountable as the scores reflect what is happening before students get to Buford and Walker.

Ms. Dooley stated that she would like to see and review plans that are going to be put in place to get schools back on track.

Ms. Torres noted that she would also like to see what changes will be made, adding that the impact that COVID has had on students has been overwhelming and that there is much work to be done. She added that the Board is ready to move forward to make improvements on the testing scores.

Board Response to Written Reports

10.1 Human Resources Update: Maria Lewis, Director of Human Resources, answered questions from the Board related to the attached Human Resources Update written report.

10.2 School Board Member Committee Reports: Board members shared updates on recent activities in this written report.

10.3 2022-2023 Advisory Committees to the School Board: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, and staff prepared the 2022-2023 Advisory Committees to the School Board, for consideration. According to School Board policy, the School Board is to review proposed membership lists of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), School Health Advisory Board (SHAB), Gifted Education Advisory Committee, CTE Advisory Committee, Mentor Teacher Advisory Committee, and Parent Advisory for Title 1 and Title III at the September meeting and then approve membership at the October meeting. The lists are attached for the Board to review. Some of the committees have not met for the 2022-2023 school year and may have recommendations for change prior to the October meeting. If changes are recommended, those will be highlighted prior to seeking approval in October.

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

12.1 Board Member Comments:

- Ms. Dooley shared that she has heard lots of buzz around the community of a great start of the school year.
- Dr. Kraft expressed appreciation for everyone who works with transportation and helps get students to school.
- Mr. Bryant expressed appreciation to teachers for a great start of the school year and also thanked central office staff for their behind the scenes work and noted appreciation to Dr. Gurley for being out in the community and helping students get to school.
- Ms. Torres thanked the community for letting the Board know when there are issues and problems.

13.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley expressed appreciation to community members for their help in getting schools open and stressed that we are better together.

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

- Review school improvement plans
- Examples of what the Division will be doing differently

15.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres read the upcoming meetings.

16.1 Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 8:03pm

A copy of the September 1, 2022 meeting video can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nnaMrkBvrfFVALsFJ0d9DptCao4RWfL6/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk