



MINUTES
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center (CATEC)
Thursday, October 15, 2024 (5:00 PM)

1.1 Call to Order: Ms. Larson-Torres, School Board Chair, called the closed session meeting to order at 5:03 p.m.

2.1 Roll Call of Board Members:

The following Board Members were present:

Ms. Amanda Burns	Ms. Shymora Cooper
Ms. Emily Dooley	Mr. Dom Morse
Ms. Nicole Richardson	Ms. Lisa Larson-Torres
Mr. Chris Meyer	

The following Board Members were absent: None

The following Staff Members were present:

Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr.	Dr. Katina Otey
Ms. Kim Powell	Ms. Carolyn Swift
Mr. Pat Cuomo	Ms. Rachel Rasnake
Ms. Renee Hoover	Ms. Maria Lewis
Ms. Beth Cheuk	Dr. T. Denise Johnson
Ms. Julia Green	Ms. Leslie Thacker

The following Staff Members were absent: None

3.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Ms. Dooley, to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote, the motion carried with Ms. Burns, Ms. Cooper, Ms. Dooley, Mr. Meyer, Mr. Morse, Ms. Richardson, and Ms. Larson-Torres, voting aye. 7 ayes, 0 nays

Items for Discussion

4.1 Legislative Priorities for the 2025 General Assembly: Lisa Larson-Torres, School Board Chair, led discussion with Senator Creigh Deeds and Delegate Katrina Callsen around the School Board's Legislative Priorities for the 2025 General Assembly.

Based on the excerpts provided from the SB Legislative Priorities_October 15, 2024 SB Meeting.pdf file, I can create a bulleted list of the contents of the legislative priorities presentation:

- **2023-2028 Strategic Plan Goals**
 - Priority Area 1: Increase Academic Achievement
 - Priority Area 2: Provide a Culture of Safety, Wellness, and Belonging
 - Priority Area 3: Support Our Staff
 - Priority Area 4: Ensure Effective and Efficient Operations
- **Legislative Priorities: Why this Matters?**

- Recognition of the importance of setting legislative priorities
- Aims to influence education policy on key issues
- Focus on shaping policies for lasting improvements and student success
- **Legislative Priorities - Funding**
 - Combine funding for preschool programs (3 and 4-year-olds)
 - Renew the 1% sales tax for education
 - Implement recommendations from the Joint Legislative Review Committee
 - Grant school boards more authority to raise revenue
- **Legislative Priorities - Student Well-Being**
 - Increase funding for substance abuse and mental health counseling
 - Support legislation promoting gun safety measures
 - Advocate for fair assessments for ELL students
- **Legislative Priorities - Board of Education**
 - Change the selection method of State Board of Education members
 - From gubernatorial appointment to election by local school board members
 - Election on a Congressional district basis
 - Impact of this change:
 - Greater accountability
 - More diverse perspectives

Key points discussed included:

Preschool funding: There was discussion about changing how preschool slots are allocated to provide more flexibility, rather than tying funding to specific ages (3 vs 4 year olds).

1% sales tax for school construction: This policy came close to passing last year but was vetoed by the governor. There's interest in reintroducing it this year, though bill limits may affect its priority.

Student well-being: Increased funding for substance abuse and mental health counseling was discussed. The legislators acknowledged the importance but noted funding challenges.

Gun safety measures: Several gun safety bills were introduced last year but most were vetoed. There may be renewed efforts this year on issues like safe storage and background checks.

English language learner assessments: Concerns were raised about how ELL students are assessed and how that impacts school accreditation.

State Board of Education appointments: There was discussion about changing how members are selected to ensure more education experience.

Sustainability and solar energy: Interest in more support for schools to implement solar and other sustainability initiatives. Challenges with Dominion Energy were noted.

Math education: A new "math numeracy act" was mentioned as a potential focus for the upcoming legislative session.

UVA payments in lieu of taxes: There was brief discussion of the idea of UVA making payments to support local schools and housing, though constitutional issues were noted.

The legislators encouraged continued communication from the school board on key issues and expressed appreciation for the organized presentation of priorities. They also noted the constraints of the 15-bill limit for the upcoming session and the need to prioritize legislation that has a chance of passing and being signed into law.

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

6.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

A video recording of the October 15, 2024 meeting can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1rSnJ1f1KhFwldY-7j2xufQJZJpSljmgZ/view?usp=drive_link

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Leslie Thacker, School Board Clerk