



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, October 6, 2022 (5:00 PM)**

Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on October 6, 2022 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

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, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 6 ayes, 0 nays. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for 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, Ms. McKeever, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres voting aye. 7 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
	Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Student Rep Allison Bird

The following Board Members were absent: None

The following Staff Members were present:

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

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 being taken, 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:

- Alex Zan shared reflections of the school board meeting where the Charlottesville 12 were introduced. Mr. Zan noted that he and the others from the Charlottesville 12 were in support of keeping the name of Venable Elementary and if a change is made they support the name Venable 9.
- Jessica Taylor, Clark Teacher and CEA President, thanked Dr. Gurley for his ongoing work on Collective Bargaining and shared that CEA is reviewing the proposal and is hopeful that they can come to a quick resolution together.
- Christine Esposito, a gifted teacher at Johnson school, shared her experience with the new model of the gifted program. The new gifted model has given the opportunity to staff and students to push everyone to a new level.
- Jonathan Tillack, parent, shared concerns around the new transgender policies that the governor is proposing and encouraged the Board to maintain the current policies to protect transgender students.

Ms. Torres read a statement from the school board concerning transgender and the stance that the board is collectively standing on.

Student and Staff Recognitions

7.1 Resolution on Disability History and Awareness Month 2022: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the Resolution on Disability History and Awareness Month for Board approval. Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever to approve the proposed Resolution on Disability History Month 2022. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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

7.2 Dyslexia Awareness Month 2022: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, will present the Dyslexia Awareness Month Resolution for Board approval. Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morse to approve the proposed Dyslexia Awareness Month 2022. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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

7.3 Virginia School Boards Association Bullying Prevention Month 2022: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, will present the Virginia School Boards Association Bullying Prevention Resolution for Board approval. Virginia School Boards Association has declared October 2022 as Anti-Bullying Month and is encouraging all school divisions to adopt resolutions designating it as such. Additionally, VSBA is encouraging all Virginia schools to plan activities to talk about bullying and strategies to stop bullying within our schools. All principals will be given a copy of this resolution if it is adopted and asked to work with school staff members to plan activities during the month of October. Each principal will be asked to report back about activities and results of the efforts. Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft to approve the proposed Virginia School Boards Association Bullying Prevention Month

2022. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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

Dr. Kraft shared that she appreciates the work on having activities at each school. She asked if the student rep could share about CHS. Ms. Bird shared that communication is key to helping

8.1-4 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#), and [2022-2023 Advisory Committees to the School Board](#). Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the consent agenda with the new modifications to the personnel agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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. There was discussion regarding duplicates on the personnel agenda. A new recommendation was uploaded before the motion was made.

Action Items

9.1 2023-2024 Proposed Budget Calendar: Ms. Renee Hoover, Director of Finance, presented the 2023-2024 Budget Calendar for Board information on September 1, 2022. Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the proposed budget calendar 2023-24. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, and Ms. Torres, voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

There was a discussion regarding ensuring student input on the budget. Beth Cheuk, Community Relations Supervisor, shared that survey messages are tricky and that staff is working on whether to include student emails in communications as some parents are not reading the emails that have been sent out.

9.2 School Reassignment: Westhaven Community: T. Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, presented information on School Reassignment for the Westhaven Community to attend Venable Elementary School on September 1, 2022. Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant to approve the proposed School Reassignment for the Westhaven Community. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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 School Naming Committee Update: The Naming of Facilities Committee met on September 20, 2022 and reviewed the proposed plan to review and make recommendations regarding the names of six Charlottesville City Schools during the 2022-23 school year. The plan will be shared with the Board.

10.2 Equity and Family Engagement Update: T. Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, and Bianca Johnson, Family Engagement Coordinator, presented an update on Equity and Family Engagement in Charlottesville City Schools.

10.3 Transportation Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, provided an update regarding transportation including bus drivers and timing for new routes. Information presented included:

- Driver Update
 - Numbers as of September 29, 2022:
 - 8 Pupil Drivers (including 2 leads)
 - 2 CAT Drivers helping
 - 9 bus routes running per tier
 - 7 regular & 2 alternative for elementary and middle
 - 8 regular & 1 alternative for high
 - 4 Drivers in training
 - 1 driving with experienced drivers

- 3 completed classroom portion
- Up to 4 additional drivers in the hiring/onboarding process
- New route set to start November 9th
- All current routes are re-evaluated/adjusted in order to optimize the new route set (like the beginning of a new school year)
- The waitlists are dynamic, but should have less than 100 students per tier when this new route set goes in effect

Dr. Kraft asked if there was any update on the purchase of Type A buses. Ms. Powell responded that there are no updates but that Staff is hopeful that the buses will be available by the proposed March date given by the vendor.

10.4 [Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 2023 General Assembly](#): School Board members will meet with Delegate Sally Hudson and Senator Creigh Deeds on Wednesday, October 12, 2022 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 2023 General Assembly. The Board reviewed and discussed these proposed priorities in preparation for that meeting.

Board Response to Written Reports

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

12.1 [Comments from Members of the Community](#):

- Janet Miller, parent of CHS students, shared concerns around recent school lockdowns and noted that drills and safety audits have not yet been completed this year and requested that they be completed within two weeks.
- Bekah Saxon, parent of a CHS student, shared concerns around safety noting that she would not want safety and security details shared with the public.
- Andrew Manning, teacher at CHS, shared concerns around safety and security and teacher burnout.
- Katrina Cooper, parent of a CHS student, shared concerns about safety at CHS and noted that students should be able to have cellphones in school.
- Dede Smith shared concerns about the achievement gap.

13.1 [Board Member Comments](#):

- Dr. Kraft shared concerns around scheduling the PSAT on Yom Kippur as Jewish students observe the holiday and were unable to participate in testing.
- Mr. Morse highlighted the importance of continuing to innovate and address concerns using a new set of solutions.
- Mr. Bryant applauded Student Representative Allison Bird for starting an anti-bullying campaign. He also thanked Bianca Johnson and Denise Johnson for their community engagement and Ms. Powell for the update on student transportation.
- Ms. Bryson Morsberger shared her sadness that staff, students, and families are having to deal with the stress and anxiety around safety given recent threats and lockdowns.
- Ms. McKeever encouraged students to apply and serve as student representatives on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board.
- Ms. Allison Bird, Student Representative, noted that her fellow students were happy and encouraged to see the Board's stance on Governor Youngkin's Transgender Policy revisions. Ms. Bird also shared the student perspective on lockdowns at CHS sharing how unscheduled announcements unnerve students given the recent threats.
- Ms. Torres commended Ms. Bird on her comments and also stressed the importance of students being able to trust teachers and staff and stressed the importance of providing ongoing mental health support to students and teachers. Ms. Torres also noted support for not scheduling events, including sporting events, on religious holidays.

14.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley recognized Student Representative Allison Bird noting the power of student voices and shared that he reached out to Mr. Manning regarding his concerns. Dr. Gurley noted that while the Division is fortunate that the recent threats were hoaxes they have been learning opportunities and each experience results in better preparation. Dr. Gurley recognized all staff for their work.

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

- Share results from the CHS bullying survey
- Would like to see more elementary representatives on the Special Education Advisory Committee
- Possibly reopen the Budget survey for more student responses
- Calendar committee - keep in mind of religious holidays

16.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres shared the schedule of upcoming meetings.

17.1 Adjourn: The Board adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

A video of the October 6, 2022 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vWLto7-TtCJvy1Q1zHckpq5wuSG7Mpxu/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk