



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, March 2, 2023 (4:00 PM)

Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on March 2, 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 and Maria Lewis, Director of Human Resources
OTHERS PRESENT: Collison F. Royer, Attorney at Law, Royer Caramanis PLC

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 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 for the purpose of discussing personnel matters. Ms. Dooley 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.

1.3 Closed Meeting Certification: At 4:48 p.m., Mr. Morse 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. McKeever 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 4:48 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	Dr. Sherry Kraft
	Ms. Lisa Torres	Mr. Dom Morse
	Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Student Representative
		Vivien Wong

The following Board Members were absent: None

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: Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Morse, 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 Disclosure of a personal interest in a transaction under Virginia Code Sections 2.2-3112(B)(1) and 2.2-3115(H): At the recommendation of Bradford King, Attorney with Sands Anderson, and as required by Virginia Code Section 2.2-3112(8){1}, Ms. Dooley read a statement regarding personal interest in a transaction of the Charlottesville City School Board. This disclosure will be reflected in the public records of the Clerk of the School Board for five years. A copy of the full statement can be found on the Board's [Electronic School Board site](#).

7.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- David Koenig, Lugo-McGinness Teacher and parent of two Greenbrier students, shared comments around the process of collaboration for a Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Allison Duggar, Charlottesville High School senior, shared concerns around recent violence in schools and urged the Board to meet with CHS students to hear from them how the violence is affecting them.
- Derek Hartline, community member and a graduate of Charlottesville City Schools, shared concerns around the process of the renaming of schools and in particular Johnson Elementary. Mr. Hartline shared a petition to retain the current name of Johnson Elementary School with the Board

8.1-4 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes - January 19, 2023 School Board Meeting](#), and [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#). Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the adoption of the 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.

Action

9.1 Approval - Collective Bargaining Agreement: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Superintendent, presented the Collective Bargaining Agreement for Board consideration on February 2, 2023 and the item was presented for action. Dr. Gurley shared comments of recognition for the school board, teachers, central office staff, and education association who worked tirelessly to craft a document that is reflective of the values and needs of the proposed bargaining units.

Before asking for action, Dr. Gurley shared that CEA has asked the committee to review two sections of the resolution:

Section 4(A)(2): regarding authorization cards, and
Section 7(B)(4) representation of the bargaining unit.

In an effort to not delay the action of accepting the resolution, Dr. Gurley asked the Board to accept the resolution as presented. The collective bargaining committee will reconvene to discuss the two proposed sections. If minimal modifications are made, Dr. Gurley asked that the Board allow him to add the revised resolution to the consent agenda in the future for approval.

Ms. McKeever shared comments on the importance of being transparent and sharing information as to not keep things behind scenes.

Mr. Morse expressed his appreciation for being able to receive valuable input from the community including teachers and staff. He also shared appreciation for Ms. Duggar's comments.

Ms. Torres stated that there are still a lot of unknowns as the Division moves forward with Collective Bargaining and that she hopes that the representative that is chosen will serve with an equitable lens.

Dr. Kraft shared that she is excited to reach a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that she looks forward to moving forward.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger shared that Charlottesville City Schools is one of the boards that has voted for a Collective Bargaining Agreement and that she would like to see more student involvement.

Mr. Bryant thanked all those who shared in the journey of getting to a Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Ms. Torres made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement as presented and to allow Dr. Gurley to work with the collective bargaining committee regarding Section 4(A)(2) and Section 7(B)(4). If any modifications are made they will be added to the Consent Agenda for approval. 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 [School Naming: Johnson and Burnley-Moran](#): Dr. Beth Baptist, Consultant, presented the School Naming: Johnson and Burnley-Moran item for Board information. Dr. Baptist shared that the Naming of Facilities Committee began the reviews for Burnley-Moran and Johnson in early January 2023. During the process, a community survey was conducted, followed by an election of the third and fourth grade students at each school. Lastly, a survey was completed by staff members at each school. The committee reviewed all information and recommendations for both schools before being presented to the Board for consideration. Information presented included:

- Activities Following January Report
 - January/February: Survey for Burnley-Moran and Johnson
 - January 26: Community Forum
 - January 30: Student Voting at Both Schools
 - January 31: Committee Meeting
 - February 9: Staff Voting for Both Schools
 - February 21: Committee Meeting
- Information for Burnley-Moran
 - Survey
 - Student Vote
 - 103 votes received (3rd & 4th graders)
 - Blue Mountain Elementary: 49
 - Blue Ridge Mountain Elementary: 7
 - Rivana Elementary: 17
 - Abstain: 7
 - Write-In: 29
 - Write-ins getting more than 1 vote
 - Burnley Moran/Stay Same: 21
 - Staff Vote
 - 42 Votes
 - Blue Mountain Elementary: 33

- Rivana Elementary: 7
 - Abstain: 2
- Information for Johnson Elementary
 - Survey
 - Student Vote
 - 103 votes received (3rd & 4th graders)
 - Cherry Avenue Elementary: 17
 - Forest Hills Elementary: 21
 - Landmark Elementary: 17
 - Write-In: 46
 - Write-ins getting more than 1 vote
 - Johnson/Keep the Same: 29
 - Staff Vote
 - 36 votes received
 - Cherry Avenue Elementary: 23
 - Forest Hills Elementary: 13
 - Abstain: 0
- Recommendations from the Committee
 - Rename Burnley-Moran Elementary School as Blue Mountain Elementary School
 - Rename Johnson Elementary School as Cherry Avenue Elementary School

There was Board discussion on the naming process with comments of support for staying away from naming schools after people.

10.2 [2023-2028 Strategic Plan Update](#): Amanda Korman, Community Relations Liaison, presented an update on the 2023-2028 Strategic Planning process. Information presented included:

- Stakeholder Engagement
 - Steering Committee
 - Leadership Team
 - Focus Groups/Public Survey
- Community Survey Setup
 - Big-picture, 5-minute survey asking about priorities for division
 - English, Spanish (and auto-translation in other Google-supported languages)
 - Open 2/15-2/27
 - 2 mass communications to all staff/families
 - Social media
 - Posts on Canvas and outreach for student input at Walker, Buford, CHS
 - Press release/media coverage
- 1,173 total responses
 - 544 parents
 - 283 students
 - 217 employees
 - 72 employee-parents
 - 57 community members
- What's next
 - Survey data analysis (Insight)
 - Feedback gathering continues via Steering Committee-led focus groups
 - Steering Committee and Executive Leadership start to draft priorities & goals
- Key Board Dates
 - March 18, 2023: Core Values, Vision, Mission
 - May 20, 2023: Full Plan Workshop
 - June 1, 2023: First Reading

- July, 2023?: Final Approval

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

- Bid Schedule
 - 2/6 Invitation to Bid
 - 2/21 Pre-Bid Meeting
 - 3/4 Bid Substitution Requests Due
 - 3/7 Questions Due
 - 3/10 Final Addendum Issued
 - 3/14 Bids Received
- Bid Schedule with City Budget Schedule
 - 3/4 Bid substitution requests due
 - 3/6 Proposed City & School Budgets presented to Council
 - 3/9 Council work session: revenue & expenses
 - 3/7 Bidder questions due
 - 3/10 Final addendum issued
 - 3/14 Bids received
 - 3/22 Community Budget Forum
 - 3/30 Council work session: CIP
 - 4/3 First reading FY24 Budget
 - 4/11 FY24 Budget approval

10.4 [Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center \(CATEC\) Update](#): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented an update on the Charlottesville-Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC). Information presented included:

- Why acquire CATEC?
 - CATEC is an incredibly valuable community resource that diversifies learning opportunities for students and adults, operated for over 50 years through a partnership between ACPS and CCS
 - A June 2022 letter of intent to purchase from ACPS offered slots but did not address how operations would be maintained to ensure access for CCS students
 - Two days before winter break in December 2022, ACPS initiated the process under the 1969 agreement to dissolve the partnership, requiring a decision by CCS within 60 days to buy or sell at the price set by ACPS
 - The value established in the offer was more than \$1.2 million below independent valuations received by CCS
- Timeline
 - December 2022: ACPS initiates process to dissolve the 1969 partnership
 - February 2, 2023: CCS School Board votes to buy instead of sell CATEC
 - February 2023: Transition discussions & meetings begin
 - 2023-2024 school year: CATEC continues to operate under joint governance as transition work continues
 - July 1, 2024: CATEC continues to operate under sole ownership of CCS
- Transition
 - Accounting/Finances Includes:
 - Structure & Systems
 - Slots & Tuition
 - Human Resources/Personnel Includes:
 - Time & Attendance System
 - Benefits

- Programming & Partnerships
- Infrastructure/Facilities Includes:
 - Security
 - Maintenance
- Technology Includes:
 - Network
 - Accounts
- Other/Miscellaneous (VDOE, etc.)
- CCS Goal
 - Working together to ensure continuity of operations and programming for staff and for adult and high school students in Charlottesville, Albemarle, and the area.
- What's in a name?
 - CATEC is a recognized name & brand for our region.
 - RECOMMENDATION Effective July 1, 2024:
 - Charlottesville Area Technical Education Center

The Board engaged in discussion related to the importance of CATEC to the Charlottesville community and surrounding areas and the need to gain further understanding of how CATEC will continue to offer the same programs. It was also noted that the CATEC Center Board has yet to meet since the decision was made.

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:

- Chuck Moran, descendant of Sarepta Moran and Charlottesville community member, shared concerns around the process of renaming Burnley-Moran noting that the survey was problematic in that it was only up for a very short time. He also shared concerns around the tone of the research to guide the change. Mr. Moran shared that if the name is changed, the Moran family would like any memorabilia related to Sarepta Moran be returned to the family.
- Bekah Saxton, Blue Ridge Uniserv and CHS Parent, thanked the Board for voting in support of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- David Koenig, Lugo-McGinness Teacher, thanked the board for voting in support of the Collective Bargaining Agreement.
- Emily Yen thanked the board for voting for the Collective Bargaining.
- Jennifer Horne, CHS Teacher, thanked the board for voting in support of the Collective Bargaining Agreement and also addressed the Board with comments of support to remove cell phones from schools.

13.1 Board Member Comments:

- Vivien Wong, Student Representative, shared concerns around removing cell phones from CHS.
- Dr. Kraft thanked Mr. Moran for coming and sharing his concerns on the naming process and thanked Ms. Duggar for her comments around school safety and violence. Dr. Kraft also shared concern around the ongoing mental health of students.
- Ms. Dooley thanked Staff for coming and staying until the end. She is excited about the next step in the process of Collective Bargaining.
- Ms. McKeever stated that she would like to see a committee convened to study what can be done to remove cell phones from schools.
- Mr. Bryant agreed with Ms. McKeever's suggestion to start a committee about eliminating cell phone use. He noted that something should be done to address the cell phone issue as teachers and staff have shared concerns that they cannot compete with the distraction cell phones cause.

14.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley expressed his appreciation for being a part of the Collective Bargaining Agreement process and added that as an instructional leader this process allowed him to grow and learn.

Dr. Gurley also recognized Ms. Duggar for her comments of concern around the recent school violence and agreed that BKT is a good time to gather student input.

Dr. Gurley stated that he accepts Ms. McKeever's challenge to further address the cell phone practice sharing that CHS Teachers Jennifer Horne and Andrew Josselyn put a lot of work into drafting and piloting the current cell phone policy but due to inconsistent implementation it has been problematic. He also highlighted the importance of stakeholders holding each other accountable.

15.1 Work Session Wrap-Up: There were no requests from the Board.

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

17.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:49 p.m.

A video of the March 2, 2023 meeting can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/10Uv08_4NVqkXJpfgm7Z7lwxvwGycB4An/view?usp=sharing

James Bryant, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk