



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING with Legislators
CHARLOTTEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road, 1400 Melbourne Road
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 (5:00 PM)**

1.1 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:02p.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. Emily Dooley
	Dr. Sherry Kraft	Ms. Lisa Torres
		Student Rep Alison Bird

The following Board Members were absent:	Ms. Jennifer McKeever	Mr. Dom Morse
	Ms. Lashundra Bryson Morsberger	

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:

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 carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, and Ms. Torres voting yes. 4 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 2023 General Assembly: School Board members met with legislators Delegate Sally Hudson and Senator Creigh Deeds to discuss Proposed Legislative Priorities for the 2022 General Assembly. The Board also shared copies of the Virginia School Boards Association (VSBA) Legislative Priorities. Items discussed included:

**Proposed Legislative Priorities for the
2023 General Assembly**

Legislative Topic	Charlottesville City School Board Position
Top Four Priorities	
Special Sales Tax and Needs for School Construction	Reintroduce the special sales tax legislation to allow localities to present before local voters the opportunity to approve a limited-time, locally defined sales tax up to 1% to support school construction projects. (See VSBA legislative priorities, below, for details.)
Staffing Ratio for School Based After-Care Programs	Raise the staff-to-student ratios for school-based after-care programs during the transitional time from the end of school operations to the beginning of after-care operations.
Staffing: Second Chance Programs	Implement “second chance” procedures for job applicants with specific non-violent felony records. With an eye always on student safety, these changes could broaden the application pool for positions such as custodian or school bus driver.
School Transportation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allow greater flexibility for activity buses (not necessarily yellow) to serve daily transportation needs • Last year, there was a change to allow an S endorsement on a regular (not CDL) driver’s license to also allow driving Type A buses for up to 14 passengers in Virginia. We’d like to extend this to include Type A or Type B buses carrying up to 20 passengers.
Budget and Funding	
Salary increases	If the Governor’s proposal for a staff salary increase is approved, include funding for all positions, not just state “Standards of Quality” positions.
Educational Employment	
Fact-Finding Panel for Grievances/Dismissals	Return to the pre-2013 legislation regarding the grievance/dismissal procedure that allowed school boards to utilize either a three-member fact-finding panel or a hearing officer. As a result of the 2013 General Assembly, a hearing officer must be appointed for all grievance/dismissal proceedings.

Senator Deeds noted that it was going to be an interesting year in the General Assembly as Governor Northam and his party have announced plans for tax cuts in the budget even though K12 education is not fully funded. Senator Deeds also noted that he is confident that there will be efforts to promote school choice through charter schools or other methods. He noted that there may not be support for those efforts to pass but that there are some Democratic representatives that may now be interested in some type of school choice.

Delegate Hudson noted the importance of being very clear about requests as it’s easy for things to get lost in the budget and that the size of the proposed tax cut that Governor Northam is interested in promising is almost identical in size to how far the Commonwealth is on fully funding the Standards of Quality (SOQs) and it really is a direct trade off. She added that they can either cut corporate taxes and investment income taxes or meet the commitment to public schools.

There was discussion related to the Special Sales Tax and Needs for School Construction item with Senator Deeds and Delegate Hudson stating that the bill would have likely passed if it had made it out of committee. They also noted that there wasn't strong opposition and that the failure of its passing was due to political maneuvering.

Ms. Powell noted that the Division has been struggling to meet the required Staffing Ratio for School Based After-Care Programs given that Instructional Assistants and other school personnel are being utilized both during schools and in the after school program managed by the YMCA. There is a small amount of time between dismissal and the beginning of aftercare in which students are supervised but not quite at the required ratio. A small amount of grace during that transition period would be helpful.

Staffing: Second Chance Programs:

Delegate Hudson shared that Senator Rob Bell has been working with the Albemarle County School Board on this and suggested the Board reach out to him to support those efforts.

Dr. Gurley shared that the Division allows visitors in the building after screening of the Virginia Sex Offender Registry.

School Transportation:

Senator Deeds shared that he is currently working on a bill to revise how the Virginia Retirement System (VRS) handles retirees to allow them to reenter the workforce in efforts to help boost the number of school bus drivers.

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

8.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 5:52pm

A video of the October 12, 2022 meeting can be located at:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XZzS1BOgMbmA1wWmJMTVGAMSBU_Y603k/view?usp=sharing

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk