



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, March 3, 2022 (5:00 PM)

A Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on March 3, 2022 at 4:00 p.m., in the Division Annex/SPED Conference Room.

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

ABSENT: Ms. McKeever

STAFF PRESENT: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Superintendent and Ms. Leslie Thacker, Deputy Clerk of the School Board.

1.1 Closed Meeting: At 4:00 p.m, Dr. Kraft 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. Bryant 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.

At 4:00 p.m., Ms. Dooley made a motion seconded by Mr. Bryant to allow Ms. Bryson Morsberger to attend the Closed Session virtually due to personal medical concerns. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr. Morse, Ms. Torres, voted yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

1.2 Closed Meeting Certification: At 4:53 p.m., Dr. Kraft 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. Torres 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.

The Board recessed from 4:53 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

1.3 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:02 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.

Dr. Kraft made a motion seconded by Mr. Bryant to allow Ms. Bryson Morsberger to attend the meeting virtually due to personal medical concerns. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr Morse, Ms. Torres, voted yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

4.1 Roll Call of Board Members:

The following Board Members were present:

Mr. James Bryant	Ms. Lashundra Bryson Morsberger
Ms. Dooley	Dr. Sherry Kraft
Mr. Dom Morse	Ms. Lisa Torres
Ms. Rachel Rugumayo	

The following Board Members were absent: Ms. Jennifer McKeever

The following Staff Members were present:

Dr. Royal Gurley	Dr. Beth Baptist
Mr. Pat Cuomo	Dr. Katina Otey
Dr. Beth Baptist	Ms. Renee Hoover
Ms. Leslie Thacker	Ms. Julia Green

The following Board Members were absent: None

5.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda: Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, 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, Ms. Torres, voted yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- Rae Regan, Walker Upper Elementary School, provided information on collective bargaining.
- Holly Kiessling, parent of a Clark student and Charlottesville United representative, provided an update on efforts around advocating for Reconfiguration.

7.1-6 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes - February 3, 2022 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes - February 15, 2022 School Board Budget Work Session](#), [Minutes - February 24, 2022 School Board Meeting \(Budget Approval\)](#), [Expenditure Report](#), [Projection Report](#). Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to approve the 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, Ms. Torres, voted yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

8.1 School Nutrition and Community Partnership: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer and Carlton Jones, Coordinator of Nutrition, introduced Jordan Johnson, City Schoolyard Garden Program Director, who presented the School Nutrition and Community Partnership item for Board information. Information presented included:

What Have We Been Doing?

- Emergency Response work during COVID Pandemic
- After School programs at Friendship Court, Hearthwood and Hardy Drive
- Healthy School Meals Initiative development
- School Break Meal distribution
- Return to In-School Programming with limited engagement
- Collaboration with the new Urban Farming program at Buford
- REN Event

Current CSG Priorities

- creating a safe space of familiarity and sense of normalcy recognizing that outdoor is good
- creating space for students to engage in social activities
- creating a space of welcome, care and safety

City Schoolyard Garden: Where We Are

- Garden Programming
 - Spring 2022 School Garden Programming
 - Spring Seedling Project
 - Collaboration with New Urban Farming Teacher

- Recruit new CSG Food Justice Intern Cohort
- Continual Development of Community Engagement
- Healthy School Meals Initiative •
- NEW Farm to School Coordinator Shamera Banks
- NEW Farm to School Week March 7-March 11
- Harvest of the Month
- Nutrition Committees
- Taste Test Planning
- Collaboration with the CHS Students to promote school meals engagement

Program Impacts

- July 2020-December 2021: 7,704 student garden interactions
- 3 REN Events: 800 Produce Bags distributed to community members totalling 3,600 Meals
- 17,000 School Break Meals Served
- 3,530 Paid Food Justice Internship Hours for 19 High School Students (summer 2020/2021)

Challenges

- Mid-Year transition of Urban Farming Teacher at Buford
- Healthy School Meals Initiative Re-framing for 2.5 years
- Hiring Challenges for a full time Garden Coordinator position
- Renovation of Buford Middle School

Moving Forward: What we are Considering

- Future of the Healthy School Meals Initiative: Upcoming Training Planning for the Nutrition Team in collaboration with Carlton Jones and Antwon Brinson of Culinary Concepts, AB
- Renovation of Buford with the currently plans of building over the garden space
- Prioritizing in increasing student engagement in the gardens

Mr. Johnson answered questions from the Board around how programming worked during the pandemic while students were attending school virtually. There was also discussion around staffing issues Cultivate Charlottesville has experienced this school year and the internship program for students in grades 9-12.

8.2 COVID Update: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, presented a COVID Update that included information on the Level of Transmission Across Virginia, Monthly Case Counts for City of Charlottesville, Latest UVA Model for Charlottesville, and an update on the CCS COVID Dashboard.

The Board engaged in discussion around the testing opportunities available in the Division.

8.3 Policy Update - Mask/Face Covering for Students, Staff and Visitors (EK): Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, presented an updated policy for Mask/Face Covering for Students, Staff and Visitors (EK).

Mr. Morse made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, approve Policy EK with the removal of two bullets under the Student Section at the bottom of page one and top of page two. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Dooley, Dr. Kraft, Mr Morse, Ms. Torres, voted yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays.

8.4 Budget Updates: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, provided an update regarding a technical adjustment to alleviate compression in steps 1 to 3 of the teacher scale, and regarding the sales tax for construction legislation in the current General Assembly session. Information presented included:

- Two Updates
 - Teacher Scale Technical Adjustment to Address Compression in Steps 1 to 3
 - Sales Tax for School Construction Update
- Salary Action Portion of Budget Changes
 - Salary increases are “step plus” so the total action of advancing a step on the scale plus the raise is in line with the total budgeted allowance for salary actions

- The average step across all CCS pay scales is ~1.25% (excluding support staff scales that had the living wage adjustment and compressed to 1% average step)
- The average step increase for steps 0 to 5 is currently 1.12% with steps 0 to 3 at an average of only .96% (less than one percent).
- The average step increase on the current base 200 day teacher scale is 1.48% (1.37% excluding the bigger step up on to top of the scale at 29).
- The compression in steps 1 to 3 was caused by the push to get step 0 to \$50K.
- Proposed technical adjustment brings base starting teacher salary with no advanced degree supplements to \$52,000 while providing consistent steps 0 to 5 (smoothing)
- Recommendations Looking Ahead:
 - Continued evaluation of teacher scale for competitiveness (a continuous process)
 - Evaluation of degree supplements
- Sales Tax Update
 - February 25th - SB298 was unsuccessful again in House Finance Subcommittee #3
 - Speakers representing Isle of Wight, Charlottesville, Prince Edward, VACORP, VML and VSBA all gave great supportive testimony
 - No testimony in opposition
 - 4/3 Party-Line Vote to “lay on the table”
 - You can view the subcommittee session from February 25th here: <https://virginiageneralassembly.gov/house/chamber/chamberstream.php>
 - Next Steps
 - There is still a week and a half left in the session and there is still strong bipartisan interest in support for school construction.
 - There is still significant discussion happening about school construction in the context of budget.
 - At this time our consultant does not recommend state advocacy – we will let you know when/if this changes. We should know by Friday March 11 if the bipartisan effort is still advancing.
 - Upcoming Meetings

9.1 School Board Member Committee Reports: Board members shared a written report on recent activities.

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

11.1 Board Member Comments:

- Dr. Kraft provided an update on a recent tour of Buford Middle School that included Mr. Bryant, some city council members, and a VMDO representative. She noted how shocking the conditions at Buford are and how important renovation is.
- Mr. Morse provided an update on the Charlottesville Scholarship Program and shared that this is a scholarship opportunity for school staff as well as students.
- Mr. Bryant provided an update on the recent tour of Buford Middle School and shared his sadness and disappointment in the conditions there. He encouraged the community to come together to advocate for renovation and help make sure the project is completed.
- Ms. Dooley shared appreciation for Charlottesville United’s efforts advocating for Reconfiguration.
- Ms. Ruguymayo shared information that she has only seen 7 students without masks at Charlottesville High School.
- Ms. Torres shared appreciation for Charlottesville United and noted that she has yard signs if anyone would like one.

12.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley thanked Mr. Johnson from Cultive Charlottesville and Mr. Jones for the hard work that goes into the program and announced that the Preschool registration deadline is March 18. Dr. Gurley also shared some staff celebrations including:

- David Becker (CHS), selected to be the Virginia state representative to the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

- Maelys Croce (Johnson), honored among the “best elementary teachers” in the Charlottesville Family Ultimate 2022 Go-To Guide.
- Cicely Shelton-Barnes (Venable), winner of the 2022 JMU Literacy Alumni Award.
- Laura Mulligan Thomas (CHS), winner of the American String Teachers Association 2022 Elizabeth A. H. Green School Educator Award.

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

- Apply language correction to Policy EK
- Share information with Staff regarding Charlottesville Scholarship Program opportunities.

14.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres shared the list of upcoming meetings.

15.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

A video of the March 3, 2022 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1X8wqDeCCbMEG4xOknMg80mFXnjRGqOWL/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk