



SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, December 2, 2021 (5:00 PM)

1.1 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:00p.m. Video was streamed live on the Charlottesville City Schools Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/CvilleSchools/>).

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
Dr. Sherry Kraft
Ms. Lisa Torres
Ms. Puryear

Ms. Lashundra Bryson Morsberger
Ms. Jennifer McKeever
Mr. Juandiego Wade
Ms. Rachel Rugumayo

The following Board Members were absent:

None

The following Staff Members were present:

Dr. Royal Gurley
Mr. Pat Cuomo
Dr. Beth Baptist
Ms. Leslie Thacker

Ms. Kim Powell
Dr. Katina Otey
Ms. Renee Hoover
Ms. Julia Green

The following Staff 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 carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

6.1 Special Recognition - Leah Puryear: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Division Superintendent, and Ms. Lisa Torres, School Board Chair, shared a resolution honoring Ms. Puryear for her many years of service.

6.2 Special Recognition - Juandiego Wade: Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Division Superintendent, and Ms. Lisa Torres, School Board Chair, shared a resolution honoring Mr. Wade for his many years of service.

Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear shared their appreciation for the special recognitions.

7.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- Eric Johnson expressed his appreciation for Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear and their many years of service and shared personal reflections on his experiences with them both.
- Llezelle Duggar expressed her appreciation for Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear and their many years of service.
- Pam Brown, Charlottesville High School Teacher, offered remarks of appreciation for Ms. Puryear on behalf of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority.
- Wynne Stuart thanked Ms. Puryear for her service to the Board and for her service to the Upward Bound Program at the University of Virginia.
- Paula Puryear shared remarks with Ms. Puryear related to her many years of service.
- Alphonso Taylor expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.
- Amigo Wade shared remarks thanking Mr. Wade for his service.
- Je'Saun Johnson, Charlottesville High School Student, thanked Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.
- Luella Anderson, Charlottesville City Schools Instructional Coach, shared remarks thanking Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.
- Rodney Jiggetts expressed his appreciation to Mr. Wade for his service.
- Fred Scott, from Alpha Alpha gave remarks thanking Mr. Wade for his service.
- Betty Jo Fortune thanked Ms. Puryear for her service and shared personal reflections.
- David Clemmons thanked Ms. Puryear for her service.
- Alexis Mason thanked Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.
- Glenda Best shared remarks thanking Mr. Wade for his service.

8.1 Board Member Comments:

- Lashundra Bryson Morsberger expressed her appreciation to Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service and thanked Ms. Puryear for taking her under her wing and showing her how to become a school board member.
- Ms. Puryear provided an update on the Public Education Foundation (PEF) meeting noting that PEF has a lot of exciting things happening around health and wellness. She also thanked those who provided comments of appreciation.

9.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda, Personnel Recommendations, [Minutes from the September 2, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes from the September 21, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), and [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#). Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever, to approve the consent agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Bryson Morseberer, Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

Items for Discussion

10.1 Culture of Care / Employee Wellness: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Human Resources, presented information on Culture of Care / Employee Wellness for Board information. Dr. Baptist introduced Anna C. DeLong, LCSW, CEAP, Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Consultant, who presented information about one of the resources available to Charlottesville City Schools employees.
Faculty and Employee Assistance Program

- FEAP offers quality, and comprehensive services, tailored to your individual needs. For employees and their families, we offer assessment, brief counseling, referral, and follow-up at no cost to the employee for a wide variety of personal concerns. Our program is confidential. With 27 years of service, 9 licensed counselors and they have served over 11 thousand clients.
 - Personal Services
 - Assessment
 - Counseling
 - Referral

- Follow-up
 - Organizational Services
 - Consultation
 - Training
 - Critical incident debriefings
 - Workplace interventions
 - Substance abuse education
 - Mediation services
 - Appointments

IMPORTANT UPDATE REGARDING COVID-19:

Effective March 20, in compliance with University measures taken in response to, Cov-19, FEAP appointments will be offered virtually, through a HIPAA-compliant Zoom platform.

10.2 [Transportation Update](#): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, shared key points from the Transportation Update provided by Mr. Garland Williams, Director of Transit. Information presented included:

City Transportation Snapshot

- 30 drivers needed for regular routes
- 40 is the goal to address relief & special needs
- Currently planning for 3 new routes after winter break
- 3 Routes will potentially serve an additional 378 students preK-12
- We are monitoring our immigrant student population and the additional impact this may have on transportation demands

Attendance Snapshot

Year to Date:

- Assigned to Bus: 93.2 %
- Assigned to Waiting List: 96.4 %
- Not Requesting: 96%
- Entire Division: 95%

The board thanked Ms. Powell's efforts to support and increase ridership and to increase attendance.

10.3 [Special Education \(SPED\) Update](#): Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Students Services and Achievement and Human Resources, introduced Katrina Lee, Supervisor of Special Education, who presented an update on Special Education services. Information presented included:

Charlottesville City Schools offers a continuum of Special Education Services

- Students are served in their Least Restrictive Environment
 - General Education
 - Collaborative
 - CO-Teaching
 - Resource
 - Special Education
- Specialized Programs
 - Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE-Pk)
 - Structured Teaching Autism Resource (STAR)
 - BEST (Behavior & Emotional Supports & Teaching)
 - LEAP (Life skills Education and Adaptive curriculum Program)
 - Leap Beyond
- Other educational services offered
 - Speech Services

- Services for the Hearing Impaired
- Services for the Vision Impaired
- Occupational Therapy
- Physical Therapy
- Psychological Services
- Adapted Physical Education
- Nursing
- Special Education Department Teaching, Assessment & Related Services Staff
 - Special Education Teaching Staff
 - 59 Teachers & 47 Special Education Instructional Assistants
 - Psychology Department
 - 4 School Psychologists
 - 1 Clinical Psychologist
 - Speech Pathologists (SLP)
 - 8.5 Speech Pathologists
 - Occupational Therapists (OT): 1
 - Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant (COTA): 1
 - Physical Therapists (PT): 1
 - Autism & Behavior Consultant: 1.5
 - Assistive Technology: 1
 - Adaptive Physical Education: 1

Special Education Student Enrollment

Disability	Total Students with Disabilities	Students served in a Charlottesville City School location
Autism	81	69
Deaf-Blind	2	0
Developmentally Delayed	52	52
Emotional Disturbance	61	31
Hearing Impairment	2	2
Multiple Disabilities	7	7
Intellectual Disability	31	28
Other Health Impairment	127	119
Orthopedic impairment	1	1
Specific Learning Disability	160	158
Speech/Language Impairment	70	70
Traumatic Brain Injury	1	1
Visual Impairment	6	6
Total	601	544

Students with Disabilities Served Outside of Charlottesville City Schools

Type of Program	2021-22
Private Day Programs	44
Ivy Creek	10
Residential	2
VSDB (Virginia School for the Deaf & Blind)	3
Total	59

Goals for the Department

- Continuous
 - Provide supportive, inclusive opportunities and services for students with disabilities.
 - Advocate for continued support for students with disabilities at the local and state level
- Short Term
 - By Spring 2022, improve Math & Literacy pass rate by 6%.
 - 2020-21 Math SWD SOL Pass Rate was 19% (state average 31%).
 - 2020-21 Reading SWD SOL Pass Rate was 34% (state average 40%).
- Long Term
 - By 2024, increase capacity from serving 18 students up to 30 students who require intensive social, emotional and behavioral instruction and supports
 - By 2024, an increase in students served in CCS public school setting from 90 to 95%.

Mr. Bryant wanted to know if the instructional assistants get any special training. Ms. Rasnake stated that they do get training throughout the year, some of them being virtually.

Dr. Kraft asked if they are fully staffed with all the staff that they have? Ms. Lee stated that we do have a few openings but they are actively looking for qualified staff for the openings that they have.

10.4 2022-2023 Program of Studies: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Dr. Eric Irizarry, CHS Principal; Rodney Jordan, Buford Principal; Dr. Adam Hastings, Walker Principal; Ms. Jill Dahl, Program Administrator for Lugo-McGinness Academy; and Ms. Stephanie Carter, Director of CATEC, presented the 2022-2023 Program of Studies for Board information. Proposed changes presented included:

Walker Upper Elementary

- Elective Courses
 - Art and Spanish
 - Revised course description to reflect updated course content and pacing
 - Course description adjusted to reflect classroom-based differentiation for prior coursework experience
 - Band and Orchestra
 - Course descriptions adjusted to reflect classroom-based differentiation and grouping for prior coursework experience
 - Students may begin these courses in 5th or 6th grade
 - Introduction to Engineering
 - Course name adjusted from Pre-Engineering
 - Course description adjusted to reflect classroom-based differentiation for prior coursework experience

Buford Middle School

- Fine Arts

- Revised course descriptions to reflect updated course content, pacing, and prerequisites in Art, Band, Chorus, and Orchestra
- Adds Theater Arts exploratory and full-year course

Charlottesville High School

- Urban Farming
 - Currently coded as 9093 and 9094
 - Moving to Agricultural Education
 - Urban Farming 1 - 8022 - Agricultural Business Fundamentals
 - Urban Farming 2 - 8024 - Agricultural Business Operations
 - Buford already has Urban Farming (8022) established this school year
- Sports Medicine
 - Proposing Sports Medicine be moved to CTE
 - New condensed 140 hour version available to teach
 - Creates a new career cluster and new pathways available for students to explore
- Spanish for Fluent Speakers I
 - Designed for fluent speakers of Spanish and provides an opportunity to strengthen skills in their native language
 - Students will develop a deeper awareness and understanding of Hispanic cultures, customs, language variations, geography, history, and current events
- Digital Art II
 - Expansion of Digital Art/Illustration course
 - This course differs from Digital Art I by including the use of computers as a form of art-making. Students will use creative software, such as Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator to explore digital illustration techniques, graphic arts, animation, commercial advertising, and the fine arts.

Lugo-McGinness Academy

- Leadership Development & Leaders for Tomorrow
 - Currently coded as CTE courses at CHS
 - Adding as Non- CTE Credit for Locally Award Elective Credits at LMA for Social Emotional Learning grades 11 and 12

Charlottesville Albemarle Technical Education Center (CATEC)

- Culinary Specialization
 - Recommending removal from the Program of Studies
 - Course offered for 3 years without enrollment
- Salon Assistant
 - Recommending removal from the Program of Studies
 - Course offered for 3 years without enrollment

A copy of the proposed 2022-2023 Program of Studies can be viewed [here](#).

10.5 [2022-2023 School Year Calendar Presentation](#): Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2022-2023 School Calendar for Board information. Annually, the Charlottesville City School Board is charged with the development and approval of a calendar which must incorporate 180 days or 990 hours of instruction for students served in the school division. A draft of the 2022-2023 school calendar was posted on our website for review and comment. All comments received were taken into consideration when developing the proposed calendar. The calendar which is proposed for the 2022-2023 school year was developed in concert with the Albemarle County Schools at the request of the respective School Boards.

Ms. McKeever expressed concern about the multiple long weekends in January, October, and November. Dr. Gurley replied that he appreciated Ms. McKeever's comments and that similar concerns were discussed during the committee planning meeting. He also noted that the calendar is developed around the 9-week blocks based on when school begins and that many of those dates cannot be controlled since they are holiday or non-school days to support election polling. Dr. Gurley expressed appreciation for the Charlottesville City Schools and

Albemarle County Public Schools Calendar Committees for collaborating and developing the proposed 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.

10.6 COVID Update: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, presented an update on COVID infections within the Division. Information presented included:

Blue Ridge Health District Information

- For the week of 11/14-11/20: 89 cases involving minors
- For the week of 11/21-11/27: 45 cases involving minors
- Cases ages 5-11 and 12-18 both down slightly from the week before
- 385 cases overall in the health district which is very similar to the week before.
- Testing schedule is on BRHD web page

Cases by Site

- Burnley-Moran 7
- Clark 6
- Greenbrier 6
- Jackson-Via 28
- Johnson 19
- Venable 8
- Walker 33
- Buford 15
- Charlottesville High School 31
- LUGO 10
- CO1/ CO2 4

Vaccinations

- Clinics for Ages 5-11
 - Jackson Via: November 8 and November 29
 - Jackson Via: November 11 and December 2
 - CHS: November 13 and December 4
 - CHS: November 23 and December 14
- BRHD: 35% of ages 5-11 have their first shot.
- Charlottesville/Albemarle: Approximately 45% of 5-11

Testing

- We continue to have testing 3 days per week at all school sites through the VisSTA program. Fortunately we have only identified three positive tests from the beginning.
- We also have Binax Rapid Tests for the schools and “Let’s Get Checked” PCR tests that are shipped out.

Recommendations for Continued COVID Plans

Continue with

- all school-based mitigation,
- masking and
- vaccination efforts and/or testing requirements while we are in a small uptick and entering colder weather with more people clustered inside.

VDH Statement RegardingOMICRON Variant

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/news/virginia-department-of-health-on-alert-for-omicron-variant-working-with-cdc-and-federal-partners-in-monitoring-for-new-variant/>

For now, continuing to encourage vaccinations and boosters as well as testing, masking, and staying home when sick.

Board Response to Written Reports

11.1 Annual Special Education Student Count: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, prepared the Annual Special Education Student Count report for Board information. Annually, the number of Students with Disabilities is completed and submitted to the Department

of Education in December. The count of students on that date is a primary factor in determining the funding for special education in future years. There were no questions from the Board.

12.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- Mitsuko Clemmons-Nazeer, Charlottesville City Schools employee, shared remarks of appreciation to Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their many years of service and shared personal reflections on her experiences with them both.
- Wes Bellamy shared remarks of appreciation to Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.

13.1 Board Member Comments:

- Dr. Kraft shared appreciation for Ms. Puryear and Mr. Wade for their many years of service and for their leadership and modeling how board members should work together.
- Mr. Wade thanked all those that provided comments and remarks of appreciation.
- Ms. McKeever thanked Ms. Puryear and Mr. Wade for their service to the board.
- Mr. Bryant thanked Mr. Wade for his service to the Board and stated that he looks forward to working with him in his new role as a City Councilor. Mr. Bryant also thanked Ms. Puryear for her friendship over the past 40+ years and for her service to the Board and community.
- Ms. Puryear shared personal reflections on her tenure with Mr. Wade and also shared appreciation for those who spoke on her behalf.
- Ms. Bryson Morsberger thanked Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service and thanked Ms. Puryear for supporting her as she joined the Board.
- Ms. Torres thanked Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service and shared personal reflections on her experiences with them both. Ms. Torres also encouraged the community to continue COVID mitigation practices, to wear masks, and get vaccinated. She also shared information on the upcoming meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee.

14.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley gave an update on upcoming school events and thanked Mr. Wade and Ms. Puryear for their service.

15.1 Work Session Wrap-Up: There was **one** request from the Board:

- Information about EAP when questions are provided.

16.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres read the list of upcoming meetings.

17.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:22pm.

A video of the December 2, 2021 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1OuQiq13LfbLr3Vxtzx4t7ltXxiPOLuKp/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk