



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, November 4, 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. Laila Abdulsalam

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: 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, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried. Ms. Bryson Morsberger was not present for this action.

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

7.1 Board Member Comments:

- Dr. Kraft provided an update on a recent Gifted Advisory Committee organization meeting and the recent School Health Advisory Board (SHAB) meeting.
- Ms. Puryear provided an update on the recent Public Education Foundation meeting and CATEC Board meeting.

8.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda, Personnel Recommendations, [Minutes - May 6, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes - September 23, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [October 7, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), Business, Financial, Routine Reports- [YTD ADM](#), [Projection Report](#), [School Board Monthly Disbursement Report](#), [Accept Gift from Pierce Benefit Group](#), [2022-2023 Budget Development Calendar](#). 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. The motion carried.

Ms. McKeever questioned the budget calendar and wondered if it should change. Ms. Powell shared that they are communicating with the city about all the dates. We will also have to look at what the governor will have in their new budget.

Items for Discussion

9.1 [Transportation/Attendance Update](#): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, shared key points from the Transportation Update provided by Mr. Garland Williams, Director of Transit. Ms. Powell and Pat Cuomo, Director of Technology, presented an update on [Attendance](#).

The Board discussed that 40 bus drivers will be needed to provide optimal support and meet student transportation needs while also eliminating the need to use outside sources for transportation needs. Ms. Powell noted that the Division is constantly strategizing to reduce the waitlist and has decreased the list to about 100 students.

9.2 [Equity Update](#): Denise Johnson, Supervisor of Equity and Inclusion, presented an update on Charlottesville City Schools equity work. Information presented included an Equity Committee Update, Community/Family Engagement Updates, Inclusive Excellence Framework Overview, Inclusive Excellence Dimensions, Data Dashboard Overview, Tying Data to Equity Goals, and Recommended Categories of Metrics.

The Board expressed their appreciation for Ms. Johnson and her team for all their work around Equity and noted that they are looking forward to receiving feedback and metrics from the work that they are doing.

9.3 [Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) / Mental Wellness Update](#): Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Patrick Farrell, Intervention and Support Supervisor, and Jodie Murphy, Mental Wellness Coordinator, as well as Dr. Eric Irizarry, Dr. Adam Hastings, and Mrs. Summer Thompson. who provided an update on Social-Emotional Supports. Information presented included an Overview of School Mental Wellness Needs, OverView of School Mental Wellness Capacity, OverView of School Mental Wellness Capacity - 2020-21 School Year, School Mental Wellness Capacity - What does this look like at each school for 2021-22?, School mental wellness - practice, and Mental Wellness Ahead.

The Board expressed appreciation to the presenters and asked if schools have enough mental health staff in their schools. The principals responded that they would like to have more mental health staff in their buildings but they are still learning how to best structure staffing for the greatest impact.

There was discussion related to what mental health supports are being provided for staff.

9.4 [General Fund Transfer: Social Emotional Support](#): Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, presented information on the General Fund Transfer: Social Emotional Support item for Board action.

Per School Board Policy, Section D, Fiscal Management, DA - Management of Funds, number 3, transfer of funds greater than \$100,000 must be approved by the School Board.

Charlottesville City Schools received a donation of \$500,000 from an anonymous private foundation in August, 2020. This funding was used to create 5 full-time equivalent (FTEs) social worker positions for the Student Social Emotional (SEL) program. Based on the 2021 fiscal year end close and the first projection report for fiscal year 2022, there is not sufficient donated funds to cover the SEL program for the remainder of fiscal year 2022.

For the continuation of the SEL program, the Finance Department recommends a one-time transfer up to \$500,000 from projected 2022 fiscal year end General Fund to Designated Programs/Grants. The General Fund is projected to have sufficient revenue available to cover the SEL program due to current unfilled positions (vacancy savings).

The source of the transfer would be City Appropriation. Staff does not recommend use of Coronavirus Aid Relief Economic Security (CARES) funding towards this transfer. Finance is requesting that the School Board approve a one-time transfer up to \$500,000 from the General Fund to Designated Programs/Grants - SEL Program to support continuation of these positions.

Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft, to approve the transfer for social and emotional support. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

9.5 [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 include:

- Changes for CCS Since October School Board Meeting
 - Cases for the City of Charlottesville were down in October: September-675 cases and October-264 cases
 - Level of Transmission was in the red (high) zone but changed to orange (substantial) November 1, 2021
 - Cases within CCS were down: September-77 and October-31
- Update for Testing
 - We received 1036 Binax Rapid Tests from the ViSSTA program.
 - 162 “Let’s Get Checked” PCR Tests were received from BRHD-each school is receiving 18 tests.
 - The ViSSTA program starting date was moved to 11/3/21. This program has changed and is no longer a “pooled” approach but individual PCR tests. The vendor will be in the school division 3 days per week.
 - BRHD and local pediatricians are collaborating to hopefully develop a “Test to Stay” program. More information will be provided as the protocols are created.
- Vaccination Update
 - As seen in the news:
 - Children 12-up are eligible for the two-dose Pfizer vaccine.
 - Children 5-11 are now eligible for the two-dose Pfizer vaccine!
 - For Charlottesville City Schools:
 - CCS has dates for clinics for elementary school drive-through clinics. Dates and other info will be shared with families as plans continue.
 - Vaccine will be limited initially.
 - There will not be any vaccination clinics for staff as we did in January/February.

9.6 [FY 2023 Budget Priorities:](#) Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, led discussion around FY23 Budget Priorities. Information discussed included Overarching Themes from the September 21st Work Session, Reconfiguration, Student Programs, and Staff Compensation & Benefits. The Board also discussed three focus areas of the Strategic Plan including Safe and Supportive Schools, Academic Excellence, and Organization Supports.

9.7 [Assessment Update:](#) Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, presented an update on Assessments. Information presented included:

- Assessments Administered in 2021-22
 - PALS
 - MAP (Measures of Academic Performance)
 - Growth Assessment-grades 3-8
- MAP-Math by Grade-Shown in Quintiles
- MAP-Reading by Grade-Shown in Quintiles
- Growth Assessment
 - Mathematics Vertical Scaled Score Reference Points
 - Reading Vertical Scaled Score Reference Points
- Interpretation of the Growth Bands
 - Students who score at or above the Low Proficient point (red line) indicate that they have a good baseline knowledge of last year's grade-level content and generally are prepared for new grade-level content.
 - Students who score at or above the High Basic point (purple line), but below the Low Proficient point (red line), would indicate that scaffolds may be necessary to support students with grade-level instruction.
 - Students who score below the High Basic point (purple) would indicate that they will need scaffolds and supports in order to be successful with new grade-level content.
- CCS Averages with High Basic and Low Proficient
- Sample of data provided for each grade and content
- Determining Growth for 2021-22
- Reading Progress Table
- Example for Grade 3 Growth Determination
- Example for Growth--Fall to Spring
- Example of Growth- Spring to Spring
- New Tool for Families
 - Beginning with the Growth Assessments, DOE will offer a Parent Portal.
 - This portal can be accessed for families to see the results of the Fall Growth Assessment, the Student Detail By Question (SDBQ) Report and a video to explain the results.
 - As more information (SOL scores) are available, families will be able to access this information as well.
 - The portal is scheduled to open November 15.
 - DOE will provide information to school divisions to share with families.
 - Families will need to create their own accounts using demographic and "Claim Code" information school divisions will provide.

9.8 [Literacy Update:](#) Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Stephanie Tatel, Division Literacy Coordinator, who presented an update on Literacy. Information presented included:

- Fall PALS 2021
- Literacy Updates K-5
 - Year 1 of full Implementation of new curricular resource K-5 grounded in the science of reading
 - Foundational Skills
 - Range of text includes genres, complex, easier, digital
 - Writing
 - Connections with Science/Social Studies
 - Intervention Resources
 - Lexia Core5 and PowerUp for individualized practice for mastery
 - Reading Specialists serve students and improve first instruction
 - Bookroom purchases increase diversity + representation in text

- Literacy/English Updates 6-8
 - Year 1 of full Implementation of new curricular resources 6-8
 - Range of text includes genres, complex. trade Books, digital
 - Writing
 - New at Walker PowerUp (6th Grade)
 - Bookroom purchases increase diversity + representation in text
- Literacy/English Updates 9-12
 - Year 2 implementation of High School Writing Portfolio as alternative assessment to replace EOC Writing SOL
 - Ongoing refinement of cross-curricular English - History/Geography curriculum
 - Reading specialist support in BKT and English classes
- Bookroom purchases increase diversity + representation in text
- Professional Learning (PL)
 - LETRS Course to teach the science of reading
 - PK-8 Division Literacy Course
 - “On-Demand” PL competency modules for K-5 teams
 - Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Training for PK-1 teachers and IAs
 - Reading Specialists and Instructional Coaches collaborate on PL
 - 20-21 Buford English Department workshop series with Dr. Sarah Lupo (JMU) on Scaffolding Complex Text for Every Learner
 - CHS: Writing Portfolios VDOE Alternative Assessment
 - Other Division PL: VA Tiered Systems of Support, data tools and systems, Reading Specialists + ESL Teacher collaboration, VAScl Rethinking Secondary Literacy Intervention 3 Part-Series
- L.E.T.R.S. Course
 - “Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling” is professional development that provides teachers with the skills they need to master the fundamentals of reading instruction—phonological awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, writing, and language. LETRS is authored by literacy experts Dr. Louisa Moats and Dr. Carol Tolman.
 - VDOE funds training for 1 division staff member to build capacity for LETRS training. Each year VDOE will fund 10 teachers to complete LETRS. 53% of VA school divisions are participating in LETRS.
- L.E.T.R.S. Participants
- Next Steps....
 - Expand LETRS Course and CCS Facilitation
 - Continue PK-8 CCS Literacy Course
 - Continue to build capacity of Reading Specialists as literacy leaders for schools and the division
 - Continue to enhance the diversity and representation of characters and authorship in texts we offer (libraries, classrooms, resources)
 - Ongoing targeted teacher training and coaching

9.9 [Substitute Update](#): Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, provided an update on efforts to increase the number of substitutes. Information presented included Qualifications, Recruitment, Compensation, and Next Steps.

Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Mr. Wade, to approve the increase in substitute pay to \$20 per hour. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

9.10 [Modifications - 2021-2022 School Calendar](#): Dr. Royal A. Gurley, Jr., Division Superintendent, presented recommended modifications to the 2021-2022 School Calendar. Information presented included:

- Revisions to the SY 21-22 Calendar
- What’s Been Done So Far?

- Professional Learning Days on 10/30 and 3/4 were changed to virtual learning or work-from home days.
- VDOE Requirement
 - Requires school divisions to provide instruction for a minimum of 180 days or 990 hours each school year.
 - Currently, CCS has 180 days which equals 1049 hours. (+10 days)
- Next Steps: Calendar Revision Recommendations
 - 1/21/2022: Currently an early dismissal day -- will become a full day in school for students. (This adds instructional time to allow for the rest of these changes; January is a month that already has breaks for staff and students.)
 - 2/21/2022: Currently a full day of classes -- recommend that all schools and offices be closed (President's Day).
 - 3/18/2022: Currently a full day of classes -- recommend that it become a Teacher Work Day (student holiday). Teachers may elect to work from home; further guidance will be provided by the building principal.
 - 4/01/2022: Currently an early dismissal day-- will become a full Teacher Work Day (student holiday). Teachers may elect to work from home; further guidance will be provided by the building principal.
- What does this mean?
 - CCS will have 177 days in the SY 21-22 calendar.
 - CCS will have an average of 1,031 hours, which gives an allowance in case of snow days or other closures.

Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to approve the calendar revisions as listed above. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Mr. Bryant, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. 6 ayes, 0 nays. The motion carried.

Board Response to Written Reports

10.1 Enrollment and Class Sizes Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, and Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Student Services and Achievement and Human Resources, prepared the 2021 Enrollment and Class Sizes written report for Board information. There were no questions from the Board.

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

12.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Bryant and other board members shared appreciation to Staff for their reports and presentations and also thanked Dr. Gurley for his Culture of Care and recommended calendar revisions.

13.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley shared a list of upcoming events such as the CHS Band Fall Concert, the Buford Orchestra Concert, CCS Trailblazers Day, and a Response to Essential Needs (REN) event. Dr. Gurley also thanked his smart and responsive team. He also provided an update on a PTO Leaders meeting and an event hosted by the Chris Long Foundation.

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

- Provide additional information on the bus waitlist
- Provide additional information on Mental Health Supports for staff

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

16.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:28 p.m.

A video of the November 4, 2021 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TD1L0TiLZBrClFKInaqfn4FuAErqzf1u/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk