



**SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
Charlottesville High School Media Center, 1400 Melbourne Road
Thursday, December 1, 2022 (5:00 PM)**

Closed Meeting of the Charlottesville City School Board was held on December 1, 2022 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

OTHERS PRESENT: None

Ms. Torres, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

1.1 Closed Meeting: At 4:00 p.m, Mr. Bryant made a motion to convene into Closed Session as authorized by the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, sections 2.2-3711 (A) (1) (3) of the Code of Virginia to discuss personnel and property 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.

1.2 Closed Meeting Certification: At 4:45 p.m., Mr. Bryant 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. Dr. Kraft 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 4:45 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

1.3 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:00 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.

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 Rep Allison Bird

The following Board Members were absent: None

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. Denise Johnson	Ms. Beth Cheuk
	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. Bryant to approve the proposed agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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 Comments from Members of the Community:

- Jessica Taylor, Clark Elementary Reading Specialist and Charlottesville Education Association (CEA) President, expressed appreciation for Ms. Torres and Ms. Dooley's time and work in collaborating with CEA around Collective Bargaining Resolution and noted that she looks forward to coming together again. Ms. Taylor also spoke in support of allowing administrative assistants to be included in the agreement.
- Dr. Emily Yen spoke in support of a Collective Bargaining Resolution.

7.1-7 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Business, Financial, Routine Reports](#), [Minutes - September 1, 2022 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes - October 6, 2022 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes - November 3, 2022 School Board Meeting](#), and [Updated 2022 School Board Member Committee Assignments](#). Ms. McKeever made a motion, seconded by Dr. Kraft to approve the proposed consent agenda with the new modifications to the personnel agenda. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, 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

8.1 History Standards Statement: Ms. Torres shared a statement requesting that the State Board of Education return to its usual process of consideration and approval of the state's K-12 history standards as developed and recommended in August 2022 by history educators, professors, historians, parents, and others.

8.2 FY22 Capital Improvement Projects and Update: Kim Powell, Chief Operations Officer, introduced Mike Goddard with the City Facilities Development Team. Mr. Goddard will provide an overview of school projects completed, underway and upcoming as well as information on the CIP Process and Lump Sum Process.

Ms. McKeever and Ms. Bryson Morsberger thanked Mr. Goddard for all of his hard work in supporting the school division.

8.3 School Naming Committee Recommendations: On behalf of the Naming of Facilities Committee, Dr. Beth Baptist presented the naming recommendations for Clark and Venable. Dr. Baptist noted that since the October School Board update, the School Naming Committee continued to meet, review survey results and conducted a Community Forum on October 19, 2022. Following these events, the committee selected names to be used on the ballots at Venable Elementary and Clark Elementary Schools with voting to be completed by students in grades 3 and 4. Voting was conducted at Venable Elementary on November 10, 2022 and at Clark Elementary on November 21, 2022. All students who participated were given an "I Voted" sticker. The results were as follows:

- Venable Voting: Ballot-14th Street and Trailblazers
 - 67 votes received (3rd & 4th graders)
 - Trailblazers Elementary: 32
 - 14th Street Elementary: 7
 - Write-In: 23
 - Write-ins getting more than 1 vote
 - Venable 9: 17
 - All Star: 2
- Clark Voting: Ballot-Friendship Elementary and Summit Elementary
 - 81 votes received (3rd & 4th graders)
 - Friendship Elementary: 33
 - Summit Elementary: 28
 - Write-In: 15
 - Write-ins getting more than 1 vote
 - Clark: 4

Dr. Baptist noted that the new two schools up for discussion will be Johnson Elementary and Burnley-Moran Elementary.

Mr. Bryant and Dr. Kraft both shared that they served as committee members and that it was an emotional task for the committee. They also thanked Dr. Baptist for her leadership.

Ms. McKeever questioned the voting for Clark since it was so close to a tied outcome and stated that she preferred the name Summit as it is more aspirational. Dr. Baptist responded that the committee considered keeping or modifying the names Venable and Clark and members decided that maintaining the original names in any way would continue to uphold the original, problematic namesakes.

There was Board discussion about whether to return the two names voted on at Clark back to the school for another vote. After discussion the Board asked for further community input before the proposed January 5, 2022 action.

8.4 [2023-2024 Budget Development and ESSER Funds Update](#): Renee Hoover, Director of Finance, provided an update on the 2023-2024 Budget Development process. Information presented included information on the FY 2022-2023 Budget Book Award, Timeline for Budget Process, Budget Priorities for FY 2024, Review Plans: ARP ESSER Spending and Safe Return to In-Person Instruction and Continuity of Services.

Ms. McKeever asked about the possibility of allocating ESSER funds to help with CIP projects. Ms. Powell responded that the Division is working in partnership with the City to best determine how funds can be allocated without applying for waivers.

Ms. Dooley commented that her main priority is to ensure competitive (or beyond competitive) wages.

8.5 [2023-2024 Program of Studies](#): Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Rashaad Pitt, CHS Principal; Rodney Jordan, Buford Principal; Dr. Adam Hastings, Walker Principal; and Ms. Stephanie Carter, Director of CATEC, who presented the 2023-2024 Program of Studies for Board information. The Board will be asked to approve the 2023-2024 Program of Studies at the January 5, 2023 meeting.

Ms. McKeever addressed the Board with comments of concern related to removing AP Physics C from the CHS Program of Studies. There was discussion regarding the inclusion of calculus in the class and how that is a barrier to many students being able to access the course. Tonya Coffee, Coordinator of STEM, noted that the course change came at the recommendation of the teacher.

Ms. Bird also noted concerns about the removal of the course.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger shared that she appreciates that the Division has been able to provide many options to students.

Mr. Bryant asked if the Career Investigations addition at Buford will be offered as a year-long or half-year course. Mr. Jordan responded that it is difficult to know until the master schedule is finalized but that he anticipates that it will likely be a half-year course. Board members all expressed a preference for in-person delivery versus an online course.

Ms. Dooley thanked Mr. Pitt for proposing a more robust schedule to allow more offerings to students and noted that, as a member of the CTE Committee, she appreciates the number of options. Ms. Dooley highlighted the importance of making sure the Division is able to hire and retain teachers to teach the courses.

Dr. Kraft asked how the proposed course additions were chosen. Mr. Pitt responded that the amazing staff and leadership at CHS proposed the additions.

Mr. Morse, who also serves on the CTE Committee, shared appreciation for the offerings and stated that he wished he was able to choose from such a schedule when he attended CHS.

Ms. Bryson Morsberger shared appreciation to Mr. Pitt for his work and noted the importance of guidance counselors helping students create the best course selections.

8.6 [2023-2024 School Year Calendar](#): Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2023-2024 School Year 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 will be presented for action on January 5, 2023.

- Information presented included:
 - Planning Process
 - Survey Data
 - Voices from various stakeholders (over 1200)
 - Interest in moving in a new direction at some point
 - More advanced notice may be needed for the changes represented in Draft #1A
 - May need to slow down and get more data
 - Calendar Recommendation
 - Draft #1C
 - More traditional calendar (later start and end to year)
 - Three day Thanksgiving Break
 - Next Steps
 - Seek feedback about calendar draft “1C” (more traditional) and then move forward with approval for 2023-24
 - Continue work with the Calendar Committee
 - More community outreach for additional input on changes to calendar for 2024-25
 - Check in with childcare facilities (ex: YMCA, Boys and Girls Club, Parks and Recreation)
 - Return to Board in April 2023 with additional data regarding a possible 2024-25 calendar

Ms. McKeever asked why Yom Kippur is no longer proposed as a professional learning day. Dr. Otey responded that there have been concerns that teachers who observe Yom Kippur have had to choose between worshiping or attending professional learning opportunities and noted that the proposed option allows those teachers to use religious holiday leave while also taking part in the professional learning.

Mr. Bryant shared appreciation for the committee being cautious in changing the calendar and allowing for additional input for the 2023-2024 calendar as well as considering larger changes 2024-2025.

8.7 Special Education (SPED) Update: Dr. Angela Bracey, Supervisor of Exceptional Education, Dr. Pattye Leslie, and Rachel Rasnake, Coordinators of Special Education, presented the Special Education (SPED) Update for Board information. Information presented included:

- Introductions of Special Education Department Staff
- Continuum of Special Education Services
- Related Services
- Staffing
- Disability Category Rates
- Disability Categories Per School
- Student with Disabilities Served Outside of CCS
- Special Education Department Goals
- Federal Indicator Report
- Initiatives
- Questions/Closing

Board Response to Written Reports

9.1 School Board Member Committee Reports: Board members shared updates on recent activities in this written report.

10.1 Comments from Members of the Community:

- David Koenig, Lugo-McGinness Teacher, expressed appreciation for the Board's statement on the history standards and also suggested that history teachers also sign onto the statement. Mr. Koenig also spoke in support of Collective Bargaining.

11.1 Board Member Comments:

- Board members expressed appreciation for Ms. Bird's service as a Student Representative and for her valuable feedback.

12.1 Superintendent's Comments: Dr. Gurley recognized and congratulated former Student Representative Je'Saun Johnson for receiving the Greg and Elizabeth Allen Opportunity Scholarship and shared appreciation to the Chris Long Foundation for their partnership on the EdZone initiative. Dr. Gurley also thanked Ms. Bird for her service as a Student School Board Representative.

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

- School naming committee to get community input (via email) about choices for Clark
- Algebra 3 course description
- Number of CATEC students taking academic courses
- Number of Teacher instructional days and work days
- Special Education - after high school success of our special education students

14.1 Upcoming Meetings: Ms. Torres read the upcoming meetings.

15.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:57pm.

A video of the December 1, 2022 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1mCwPd0DPx48efiuiJuouEvJk5ZXNlCs/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk