



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

1.1 Call to Order: School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the meeting to order at 5:0p.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 its 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
Mr. Juandiego Wade

Ms. Lashundra Bryson Morsberger
Ms. Jennifer McKeever
Ms. Leah Puryear

The following Board Members were absent:

None

The following Staff Members were present:

Mr. Jim Henderson
Dr. Katina Otey
Mr. Pat Cuomo
Ms. Julia Green

Ms. Kim Powell
Ms. Beth Baptist
Ms. Renee Hoover
Ms. Leslie Thacker

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 was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voted yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

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

7.1 Adoption of Consent Agenda: The following items were included in the consent agenda; [Minutes from the April 1, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes from the May 21, 2021 School Board Retreat](#), and [Minutes from the May 22, 2021 School Board Retreat](#). Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms. McKeever, to approve the adoption of the consent agenda. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.1 Blue Ridge Health Department COVID Update: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Human Resources and Student Services, introduced Dr. Denise Bonds, District Health Director for the Blue Ridge Health Department. Dr. Bonds who provided an update on COVID statistics. Information presented included:

- Current COVID vaccine highly effective at preventing hospitalization and death, even against Delta Variant
- More people vaccinated = Lower risk for community transmission
- Few transmissions in the community = Less risk for development of other variants

Updated August 4, 2021

People with at least One Dose	Percentage with at least One Dose	People Fully Vaccinated	Percentage Fully Vaccinated
28,346	60% (adults: 67.5%)	25,684	54.3% (adults: 61.5%)

What (else) can you do?

- Get Vaccinated!
 - Vaccines are the best way to end the pandemic
 - Safe and effective
 - More individuals vaccinated = less chance for additional variants to develop
- Wear a mask when out and about
 - Who?
 - Students, faculty and staff in school
 - Those who are unvaccinated or ineligible for vaccine (children under 12)
 - Vulnerable, vaccinated adults/children (older adults, those with compromised immune systems, those with many chronic medical conditions)
 - Adults who live with or frequently see either unvaccinated individuals or vaccinated individuals who would be considered medically vulnerable
 - Anyone who feels more comfortable regardless of vaccination status

The Board discussed COVID testing, concerns around variant strains that are present now. They also discussed what funding is available for schools to provide Covid testing. Dr. Bonds shared that she does not recommend using this program but the state is recommending schools to test.

8.2 Reconfiguration Update: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, introduced Wyck Knox, Principal-in-Charge and Project Manager for VMDO, who presented an update on Reconfiguration. Information presented included:

- Updates from the August 3, 2021 Community Design Team Meeting
 - 60 attendees
 - Presentations from:
 - Cultivate Charlottesville Food Justice Intern Program
 - Carolyn Schuyler, Wildrock
 - Nancy Duetsch, UVA Ed School Youth-Nex
 - Middle School Learning Spaces Should...
 - Message that students are valued
 - Affirm diverse ways of being and knowing
 - Provide opportunities for physical movement
 - Promote social interaction and collaboration (formal and informal)
 - Foster student-centered and self-directed learning
 - Encourage exploration and self-expression
 - Allow for focus and reflection
 - Integrate technology for learning
 - Engage multiple senses

- What we heard
 - Experience
 - Lack of natural light/outdoor connection, no sense of arrival/place in interiors, overly ordered space
 - “Hallways are dungeons”
 - Disjunct between science labs (renovated) vs. rest of spaces—“here’s what you could have but don’t.”
 - Not a welcoming place: overcrowded, confusing, institutional, depressing—lacks positive energy
 - Inaccessible, cramped, disgusting toilets
 - Gym “feels like a basement, even though it’s not”
 - Outside of garden, landscape is not well-used
 - Budget
 - Can we increase the budget beyond \$60m? We really can’t have an all-new building?
 - Program
 - What wrap-around services should be accommodated (expanded?) at Buford?
 - The garden is important both as a teaching space and a decompression/regulation space. It’s a critical part of the new campus, and the work put into the current one should be honored.
- Buford Site: Existing Conditions
 - What we heard:
 - Cafeteria "too big and too small" (too small to fit everyone, but too big to be comfortable and calm for eating....too loud and chaotic and lots of drama)
 - Toilets are too few and crowded
 - More outdoor space for learning and eating
 - Wish the corridors had more views to outside and “places” in buildings
 - More natural light! It feels good to be in a space with lights turned off and just daylit
 - Current classrooms seem out of date
 - Update on peer engagers status
 - First Peer Engager hired! Nidia Washington, CHS ’19
 - 4 additional roles open; applications starting to come in
 - Tap your networks & encourage folks to apply
 - Capacity Study: 2017
 - 2017 cost numbers, escalated. 1 year delay = \$2.7M - \$3.2M
 - Math Exercise: May 2021. Plan for 1,050 / Explore full wants
 - Test Fits: June 2021 – “dream versions”
 - Test Fits: June 2021
 - Why does it cost so much? Understanding total project costs
 - Will prices stay this high and still inflate per normal? Perhaps.
 - Buford A / \$86.3M / Complete in early spring of 2026
 - Buford B / \$92.5M / Complete in late summer of 2026
 - Buford C / \$88.7M / Complete in summer of 2025*
 - The Design Process: where we are now
 - July 2021: \$35M New Wing and Renovations. 125 sf/student
 - July 2021: \$44M New Wing and Renovations. 125 sf/student
 - July 2021: \$50M New Wing and Renovations. 144 sf/student
 - July 2021: \$58M New Wing and Renovations. 139 sf/student
 - Math exercise on square footage costs
 - 7/21 Working Group discussion
 - Current City CIP

The Board thanked Mr. Knox for his presentation and highlighted the importance of community involvement to help make this happen for the students of the Division.

Ms. McKeever made a motion to remove the CCS Reconfiguration Funding Committee item from the agenda, seconded by Mr. Wade. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.3 Bus Driver Update: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, presented the Bus Drive Update, prepared by Garland Williams, Director of Transit for the City of Charlottesville, for Board information. Included in the update were the current number of drivers, the number of drivers in training, how many routes are required to serve the community, and an update on recruiting efforts.

The Board highlighted the importance of families being proactive in making sure they have communicated their transportation needs to their students' schools.

8.4 Opening of Schools - Guidance / Recommendations for COVID 19 Prevention: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Human Resources and Student Services, led discussion around the Opening of Schools - Guidance and Recommendations for COVID 19 Prevention.

- Ms. Torres announced that the Division is planning to hold vaccine clinics at school buildings during upcoming Open House events and encouraged community members to practice mitigation strategies such as masking, social distancing, vaccinations, and testing.
- Ms. McKeever shared her concern on having testing in the Division and noted that she would like to see the Division require that staff provide either a negative Covid test or proof of vaccination as recommended on the CDC website and that she would feel unprepared to return students to school if the Division doesn't have some type of testing/vaccination regimen in place. Dr. Baptist noted that she will continue to look at outside Covid testing contractors who are part of the pilot offered by the Virginia Department of Education.
- Mr. Henderson stressed the need for the Board's direction on how to move forward with requiring that all employees be vaccinated

Ms. McKeever made a motion to require COVID vaccinations for all employees in the Division except in limited circumstances where employees are unable to be vaccinated. Those employees should be tested at regular intervals and provide evidence of results to their supervisors. Mr. Wade seconded the motion. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.5 Revision of Policy EK - Masks/Face Coverings for Students, Staff, and Visitors: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Human Resources and Student Services, presented a revised policy EK - Masks/Face Coverings for Students, Staff, and Visitors for Board consideration. She noted that Policy EK for masks/face coverings is being revised for clarity beyond the earlier Governor's Order for Masks. It was requested that the Board review and approve this proposed policy revision.

Dr. Kraft made a motion to approve the policy with the recommendations that were discussed to change seconded by Ms. McKeever. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.6 2021-2022 Return to Learn Update: Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2021-2022 Return to Learn Update for Board information. Information presented included:

- Sum and Substance
 - Moving safely forward
 - Models of instruction

- Building upon strengths
- Continuing the work and next steps
- Moving safely forward
- Model of instruction: In-person learning
 - Majority of our CCS students will return to in-person learning five days a week
 - We believe in-person instruction is best for most students, given that students miss much more than academics when not in school
 - Focus areas
 - Academics
 - Mental Wellness
 - Relationships
 - Model of Instruction: CCS Virtual
 - Grades 3-8 as a focus (application based)
 - Minimal number of applicants (approx 53)
 - Principals have reviewed applications and communicated decisions with parents
 - Draft guidance for successful virtual instruction
 - Focus areas
 - Academics
 - Mental Wellness
 - Relationships
- Building upon strengths
 - We can come out better and stronger as a result of this pandemic.
 - We can transform our teaching and our students' learning, through our purposeful preparedness, patience, kindness, and our willingness to be flexible.
 - Together we will seize the opportunities to improve our pedagogy, while letting our students' needs guide us.
 - We can continue to use tools (ex: Canvas) learned / used during the pandemic and during remote instruction as teachers and students transition back to in-person instruction
- Continuing the work and next steps
 - Principals have been planning for a great start to the year (ex: student and teacher learning opportunities)
 - Division staff have been working to provide solid curriculum, assessments, training, and supports for principals, teachers, and schools
 - Continue to prepare for a safe reopening, following CDC and VDOE guidelines
 - Continue to focus on relationships, mental wellness, and academic growth
 - Continue on our journey to developing life-ready CCS graduates

8.7 [Safety Model Update - Charlottesville City Schools and Charlottesville Police Department Protocols](#): Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented the Safety Model Update and Charlottesville City Schools and Charlottesville Police Department Protocols for Board consideration. Information presented included:

- Plan Elements
 - People/Positions
 - Training/Communications
 - Systems/Relationships
- People/Positions:
 - Care & Safety Assistants (CSA's)
 - 3 at Buford (1 new position, 2 existing positions)
 - 4 at CHS (all new positions)
 - 1 at LMA (existing position)
 - Social Workers/Social Emotional Support Counselors (as proposed in the FY 2022 Budget)
 - 1 per Elementary School (Walker will have 2)

- 2 at Buford
 - 3 at CHS
 - .5 at LMA (offered - pending acceptance as of 7/30)
 - Restore CHS AP Position eliminated for FY20 (as proposed in the FY 2022 Budget)
 - Redefine existing operations supervisor position to include additional safety oversight responsibilities (WELCOME MR. JASON LEE)
 - CSA's will be hired & managed by the building principals - This position will support and coordinate training working with the Intervention & Support Supervisor and Mental Wellness Coordinator.
 - Crossing Guards will report to this position (shifting from CPD to CCS employment in FY 2022 - at least 2 additional need to be hired)
 - New Support Position for Facilities Safety & Operations - assists in monitoring campus/facility conditions and supporting the performance of duties of custodial, crossing guard and bus aid staff.
 - Hourly Staff Remaining to Hire as of 7/30/2021:
 - Crossing Guards - 5 transitioned from CPD (at least 2 additional needed)
 - Community Bus Aides - Assist at large community bus stops and ride the bus to support safety & a positive rider experience for all (up to 7 needed)
 - Part-Time Positions (4 hours or less) @ \$15 - \$16 per hour
 - Visit charlottesvilleschools.org/jobs for more information!
- People - Care & Safety Assistants (CSA's)
 - Essential Duties:
 - Regularly monitor hallways, common areas and all exterior doors to address any unauthorized visitors or intruders, unsafe or unexpected behaviors, and unsecured entrances.
 - Assist school administration, staff and students to uphold the school's code of conduct and CCS safety policies
 - Provide assistance/direction to visitors to the school
 - Assist school administration with serious and routine incidents and security matters
 - Build positive, prosocial relationships with students
 - Serve as a liaison between students and school administration
 - Identify situations between students and between students and staff that could escalate into conflict, and engage/intervene to de-escalate
 - Resolve disputes between students using de-escalation techniques, encouraging positive communications and working to minimize conflicts
- Training & Communications
- CCS & CPD Protocols
- Other System Elements

Ms. McKeever made a motion to approve the Charlottesville City Schools/Charlottesville Police Department protocols document, second by Mr. Bryant. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.8 Policy KNAJ - Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities: Dr. Beth Baptist, Interim Director of Human Resources and Student Services, presented Policy KNAJ (Relations with Law Enforcement Authorities) for Board consideration. It is recommended that Policy KNAJ be revised to reflect the changes in the revised Safety and Security Model for Charlottesville City Schools. Additional language is marked as bold.

Ms. McKeever made a motion to approve policy KNAJ, seconded by Mr. Wade. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. McKeever, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voting yes. Ayes: 7 Nay: 0. The motion carried.

8.9 American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) / Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER) III

Financial Use: Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Operations, presented information on the planned uses for the \$10,065,919 appropriation to Charlottesville City Schools under the American Rescue Plan (Act) - Elementary & Secondary School Emergency Relief (ARP ESSER III). This outline of this plan was originally presented at the May 21, 2021 School Board Retreat. This presentation will provide additional details in the context of the application and the planned uses of these funds to address learning loss, social, emotional and mental health needs, technology, COVID mitigation, and other student needs. This presentation is also available on the charlottesvilleschools.org/returntolearn, and the public is invited to provide input via the website and/or during meeting public comment.

Dr. Kraft made a motion to approve the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), seconded by Mr. Wade. Upon a roll call vote the motion was carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, Mr. Wade voted yes and Ms. McKeever voted no. Ayes: 6 Nay: 1. The motion carried.

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

10.1 Board Member Comments: Mr. Bryant shared excitement about schools being fully open and having students back.

Ms. Puryear shared appreciation to those who assisted in getting schools open with mitigation measures in place.

11.1 Superintendent's Comments: Mr. Henderson shared that schools will open on August 25 for the first day of school.

12.1 Work Session Wrap-Up: There were **four** requests from the Board:

- Check availability of MOBI for testing
- Updated enrollment information
- Consider changing January 15 Board meeting
- Get information for ICU bed and percentages for COVID

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

14.1 Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 9:39pm.

A video of the August 5, 2021 meeting can be located at:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1V7HU6h-rgentta4X8LDNz8pRMzokWoIP/view?usp=sharing>

Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

Julia Green, School Board Clerk