



**EMERGENCY SCHOOL BOARD MEETING (COVID-19)  
CHARLOTTESVILLE CITY SCHOOLS  
Electronic/Zoom Virtual Meeting  
Thursday, March 4, 2021 (5:00 PM)**

**1.1 Call to Order:** School Board Chair Lisa Torres called the March 4, 2021 meeting to order. The meeting 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 Roll Call of Board Members:**

The following Board Members were present:

|                    |                                 |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. James Bryant   | Ms. Lashundra Bryson Mosberger  |
| Dr. Sherry Kraft   | Ms. Jennifer McKeever           |
| Ms. Lisa Torres    | Ms. Leah Puryear                |
| Mr. Juandiego Wade | Mr. Je'Saun Johnson student rep |

The following Board Members were absent: None

The following Staff Members were present:

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Dr. Rosa Atkins    | Dr. Katina Otey  |
| Ms. Gertrude Ivory | Ms. Kim Powell   |
| Mr. Pat Cuomo      | Dr. Kendra King  |
| Dr. Keith Hubbard  | Ms. Julia Green  |
| Ms. Renee Hoover   | Ms. Beth Baptist |
| Ms. Leslie Thacker |                  |

The following Staff Members were absent: None

**4.1 Approval of Proposed Agenda:** Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Ms Puryear, 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 voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

**5.1 Comments from Members of the Community:**

- Chris Meyer shared an update of the PTO Reopening fund.
- Rachel Baker shared her concern of not opening Buford and CHS.
- Emily Dooley shared an opportunity for a scholarship through Nest realty and Blue Ridge Homebuilders Association.
- Kristen Pate shared her concern of not opening Buford and CHS.
- Mary McKenzie shared her concern of not opening CHS
- Holly Hatcher shared her concern of student transportation.
- Courtney Coker shared her concern of not opening CHS.
- Jocelyn Johnston shared her concern of not reopening all schools.
- Niq Scott, a student at CHS, shared her concerns about the support from CHS and with the school not reopening.

- Shymora Cooper shared her concern of no plans for return to learn options for Buford and CHS.
- Becky Lynch with her daughter Molly Lynch shared her concern with virtual school and all the school work that is put on them.
- Suzanne Slingluff shared her concern of not having an in person option for all.
- Sarah Myhre shared her concern of not having a hybrid model for our schools to get as many of the students as possible in person.
- Lidia Shimer, CHS student, shared her concerns for in person instruction at Buford and CHS.
- Erica Uhlmann shared her concern of the virtual learning and not opening of Buford and CHS.
- Rachel Thielmann shared her concern of the virtual learning and not opening of Buford and CHS. Rachel's daughter Zoey shared her issues of virtual learning.
- Gina Engel, a family physician, shared her concern of not opening CHS. We need to get these students back into the school.
- Richard Feero shared his concern on transportation.
- Andrew Manning, a teacher at CHS, thanked Dr. Irizzary for all his work. He shared that whatever the division decides the teachers will get through it. Thanks for everything the division has done.

**6.1-6 Adoption of Consent Agenda:** Items from the consent agenda included: [Personnel Recommendations](#), [Minutes - January 7, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [Minutes - January 16, 2021 School Board Budget Work Session](#), [Minutes - February 4, 2021 School Board Meeting](#), [Financial](#), [Routine Reports](#). Mr. Wade made a motion, seconded by Ms. Puryear, to approve the adoption of the consent agenda removing the February 4, 2021 minutes. 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, and Mr. Wade voting yes. 7 ayes, 0 nays.

## Action Items

**7.1 2021-2022 School Calendar:** Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, presented the 2021-2022 School Calendar for Board information on February 4, 2021. The calendar is now being presented for action.

Background: 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 2021-2022 school calendar was posted on our website for review and comment. All comments received were taken into consideration when developing the proposed calendar.

Dr. Kraft made a motion, seconded by Mr. Bryant, to approve the adoption of the calendar. Upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion carried with Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Dr. Kraft, Ms. Puryear, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes and Ms McKeever voting no. 6 ayes, 1 nays.

The Board engaged in discussion regarding the calendar and Ms. McKeever shared that she was going to vote no because of the three Mondays in January.

## Items for Discussion

**8.1 Gifted Education Update:** Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Beverly Catlin, Coordinator of Instruction, who presented an update on Gifted Education.

- The Board engaged in discussion regarding the model that the Division is currently using that includes providing services to all students but the state still requires the Division to identify students that are gifted.
- Ms. Bryson Morsberger noted that she would like to see what testing alternatives could be used to identify gifted students.

**8.2 [Grades 6-12 Health Curriculum Adoption](#):** Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Jessica Brantley, Coordinator of Coordinator of Health and PE, who presented information on the proposed Grades 6-12 Health Curriculum Adoption.

- Ms. Puryear would like to know if any changes were made in the six year subscription how would the division get the changes? Ms. Brantley shared that they would update yearly and we would be able to get the updates at no extra costs.
- Dr. Kraft expressed her approval of this new curriculum.
- Ms. McKeever asked how parents could review this material. Ms. Brantley stated that she can share the link of the curriculum if anyone would like to review them.
- Ms. Torres noted that there was a spanish version and was wondering if they had any other versions? Ms. Brantley stated that she was not aware that there were any other versions but she would look into it.
- Mr. Bryant shared that he was excited that we are finally getting an upgraded curriculum.

**8.3 [Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Safety and Security Report](#):** Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, presented the Superintendent's Advisory Committee for Safety and Security Report for Board information.

- The Board discussed the work of the committee and what it means moving forward. The Board noted the importance of matching policies to the committee recommendations and discussed training and recruiting needs.

**8.4 [Transportation Update](#):** Kim Powell, Assistant Superintendent for Finance and Operations, introduced Garland Williams, Director of Transit for the City of Charlottesville; Sherri Eubanks, Assistant Director of Transit for the city of Charlottesville; and Kyle Rodland, Safe Routes to School Coordinator, City of Charlottesville, who present information and answered questions from the Board.

| <b>Ridership Snapshot</b> |               |              |                         |                        |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
|                           | <b>Routes</b> | <b>Seats</b> | <b>Ridership 3/1/21</b> | <b>Waitlist 3/4/21</b> |
| <b>Burnley-Moran</b>      | 2             | 40           | 49                      | 0                      |
| <b>Clark</b>              | 2             | 40           | 58                      | 29                     |
| <b>Greenbrier</b>         | 2             | 40           | 57                      | 25                     |
| <b>Jackson-Via</b>        | 3             | 54           | 65                      | 18                     |
| <b>Johnson</b>            | 1             | 20           | 29                      | 22                     |
| <b>Venable</b>            | 1             | 20           | 24                      | 2                      |
| <b>Walker</b>             | 6             | 114          | 125                     | 46                     |
| <b>Buford</b>             | 3             | 60           | 47                      | 0                      |
| <b>CHS</b>                | 7             | 134          | 200                     | 0                      |
|                           |               |              | <b>653</b>              | <b>142</b>             |

\*Clark has a double run to achieve 2 routes

The board highlighted the need to reach out to VSBA and local legislators regarding the issues of new drivers not being able to get tested at DMV in a timely manner (mostly due to COVID). They also discussed other options such as using CAT buses and/or CAT drivers to help with pupil transportation.

**8.5 [Buford Middle School and Charlottesville High School Return to In-Person Instruction Update](#):** Dr. Katina Otey, Chief Academic Officer, introduced Dr. Jesse Turner, Buford Middle School Principal, and Dr. Eric Irizarry, Charlottesville High School (CHS) Principal, who provided an update on Return to In-Person Instruction at Buford and CHS.

- The Board discussed capacity at Buford and CHS since teachers still have virtual learning. Dr. Atkins provided an overview of what a hybrid model looks like for teachers and students. The Board had discussion on moving towards a hybrid model for Buford and CHS. They presented the [hybrid model](#) that was presented to the board in December.
- The Board would like to come back and look at the hybrid model whether it is a block schedule or the schedule that you put forth in the hybrid model shown in December. The Board would like to see more social interaction with our students that was shown in the presentation tonight.
- Je'Saun Johnson was wondering about clubs, orchestras and other fine arts able to meet since athletics are in full swing at this time. Dr. Irizarry stated that the departments and teachers need to start the process of getting all of these started. Mr. Johnson also thanked the principals for all their work on opening the schools. He indicated that with it being this late in the school year it would be hard to change and would be problematic since I am getting used to what my schedule is. He said he was facilitating a webinar event for the black student body including some members of the community Dr. Bellamy and Mayor Walker are a few that will be on March 24 at 6 p.m.

**8.6 [Mental Health Supports for All](#):** Dr. Rosa Atkins, Division Superintendent, introduced Jodie Murphy, Mental Wellness Facilitator, and Patrick Farrell, Intervention and Support Supervisor, who presented information on Mental Health Supports.

The board engaged in further discussion on seeing Buford and CHS going into a hybrid model. Dr. Atkins shared that the division wants as many students in the buildings as the board will move forward with. We have set all the mitigation in place and have tiers of help with mental health.

The Board thanked Mr. Ferrell and Ms. Murphy for their work on this and getting this information out to the community.

### **9.1 [Comments from Members of the Community](#):**

- James Burnett shared to the Board that Dr. Atkins is asking for guidance and support and that the Board needs to do what she is asking.
- Bekah Saxon shared her concern of Charlottesville being in a red zone for COVID so CCS needs to stay virtual.
- Kathryn Laughon shared her thoughts on the "Toronto Model" that was presented to the Board.
- Courtney Coker thanked the parents and students for speaking tonight. Ms. Coker also wanted to see more students back into the building.

### **10.1 [Board Member Comments](#):**

- Dr. Kraft noted that she would like to see the Board move forward with transitioning as many students as possible back to face to face instructions. She also thanked those who presented items for Board information. She noted concerns around student isolation and mental health concerns.
- Mr. Wade stated that he would like to move forward with the model that was approved for March 8. He shared that these are difficult decisions to make and there will be many community members upset with the board.

- Ms. McKeever noted that COVID infection numbers are down and with teachers being vaccinated she supports transitioning students into a hybrid model after Spring Break. She also advocated for using outdoor spaces as much as possible.
- Ms. Torres shared that PreK registration is open. She also shared information on recent tours of school buildings.

After a lengthy discussion the Board took action on transitioning students at the secondary level (grades 7-12) to a hybrid model of face to face learning.

Additional discussion can be viewed via the recording of this meeting:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8WoUqxyiuG\\_Ugt6VWY5AmGJ3h6lYu9m/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8WoUqxyiuG_Ugt6VWY5AmGJ3h6lYu9m/view?usp=sharing)

Ms. McKeever made a motion to implement a hybrid model for grades 7-12 following Spring Break. Ms. Torres seconded the motion. Dr. Kraft offered an amended motion to include flexibility to Principals in the implementation of the hybrid model. Ms. McKeever accepted the amendment and upon a roll-call vote being taken, the motion was carried with Dr. Kraft, Ms McKeever, Ms. Torres, and Mr. Wade voting yes and Mr. Bryant, Ms. Bryson Morsberger, Ms. Puryear voting no. 4 ayes, 3 nays.

**11.1 Superintendent's Comments:** There were none.

**12.1 Work Session Wrap Up:** There were three wrap up items from the Board:

- Share Gifted Education Data from 2019
- Provide a list of nationally normed and approved assessments for Gifted Identification
- Provide breakdown of transportation waitlist

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

**14.1 Adjourn** The meeting adjourned at 11:11 p.m.

A video of the March 4, 2020 meeting can be located at:

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8WoUqxyiuG\\_Ugt6VWY5AmGJ3h6lYu9m/view?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1k8WoUqxyiuG_Ugt6VWY5AmGJ3h6lYu9m/view?usp=sharing)

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Lisa Torres, School Board Chair

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Julia Green, School Board Clerk