

Lexington City Schools
School Board Meeting Minutes
March 9, 2022

The Lexington City School Board met on March 9, 2022, at 5:30 pm, in the Lylburn Downing Middle School Cafeteria at 302 Diamond Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Present: Dr. Timothy Diette, Ms. Tammy Dunn, Dr. Mollie Fox, Ms. Katie Shester, Mr. Michael Saunders, Ms. Rebecca Walters, Superintendent, and Ms. Julie Nicely, Deputy Clerk.

Dr. Diette, School Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 pm.

Approval of Agenda:

Ms. Walters requested an amendment to the Agenda to add two names to Personnel under the Consent Agenda.

Upon motion of Mr. Saunders, seconded by Ms. Dunn, the Board approved the Agenda with the aforementioned amendment.

Communications:

Ms. Colleen Drake, H. Waddell Elementary School Secretary, recognized 5th grader Langdon Detwiler for his invaluable main office assistance over the course of the school year.

Ms. Walters recognized Ms. Angier Rader, H. Waddell Elementary School Music/Band Teacher, and Ms. Karen Doyle, Lylburn Downing Middle School Music/Band Teacher, for their contributions to their schools' music programs. Ms. Doyle presented a student's work with a music mini controller to produce digital music. Ms. Doyle also shared a pre-recorded presentation from the Lylburn Downing Middle School Jazz Band.

Ms. Walters recognized Ms. Mary Carson Worley and Ms. Tracy Bond, art teachers, for their contributions to the art programs.

Delegations/Public Comment:

Ms. Carolee Taylor addressed the Board regarding explicit content in literature at Lylburn Downing Middle School. Ms. Taylor asked for evaluation and accountability for literature in the library.

Consent Agenda:

Upon motion of Dr. Fox, seconded by Ms. Shester, the Board approved the following Consent Agenda:

- Approval of Minutes (2/16/22; 2/17/22)
- Approval of February Payroll and Expenditures
- Petty Cash Reports
- Enrollment Report
- 3/09/22 Personnel
- Approval of LCS Strategic Plan 2022-2028
- VSBA Policy Updates

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Instruction:

Dr. Abbott Keesee, Lylburn Downing Middle School Principal; Ms. Margaret Swisher, Lylburn Downing Middle School Teacher; and Ms. Theresa Bridge, Lylburn Downing Middle School Media Specialist/Librarian, gave a presentation on “Selecting Books for Instruction” which outlined the process of labeling and selection for books and reading at Lylburn Downing Middle School. At the end of the presentation, Dr. Keesee referenced the Lexington City School Board Policy Manual Policy KLB/KLB-R for challenging materials. During the Question and Comment section of the presentation, Mr. Saunders, Board Member, expressed concern regarding a book with explicit content that was part of a class assignment for his son at Lylburn Downing. Board and presenter discussion ensued. Ms. Walters thanked all parties and emphasized that discussion and conversation remained ongoing.

Finance:

Ms. Erin Gregg, Lexington City Schools’ Business Manager, gave an FY 23 Budget Update regarding proposed/estimated Lexington City Schools’ cost increase for employee health insurance (employee +1 and family plans). Upon motion of Dr. Diette, seconded by Mr. Saunders, the Board proposed to modify the approved budget by an increase of \$166,423.76.

School Board:

Dr. Fox and Ms. Walters gave an update on the Rockbridge County School Board Meeting.

There were no Ad Hoc Committee reports.

A joint meeting with Lexington City Council will take place in April 2022. A time, meeting date and location will be determined.

The Lexington City School Board will meet on April 6, 2022, at 5:30pm and on May 18, 2022, at 5:30pm.

Adjournment: Upon motion of Ms. Shester, seconded by Ms. Dunn, the Board adjourned at 6:51pm.

Dr. Timothy Diette, Board Chair

Ms. Julie Nicely, Deputy Clerk