

# Heritage High School and The Future of Secondary Education in Lynchburg

## **Task Force Charter**

### **Mission**

The Task Force shall gather information, engage the public in conversation, analyze options and forward recommendations to the School Board regarding the goal of ameliorating the challenges posed by Heritage High School within the 2018 timeframe set by City Council. The Task Force has no authority to make any final decisions in this regard, and is designed to facilitate the effort of identifying options, clarifying the implications of selecting options, and analyzing the impact of possible future courses of action. It remains the sole authority of the Lynchburg City School Board to make decisions regarding Heritage High School and associated issues, and the sole authority of Lynchburg City Council to make funding decisions based on the School System's recommended course of action. The Task Force is designed to continue the work of the four-person joint steering committee that was formed by City Council and the School Board in the fall of 2010.

### **Scope of Activity**

The Task Force will create five subcommittees that will carry out the effort of gathering information and analyzing implications. Subcommittee work will be forwarded to the Task Force where it will be synthesized into a final work product. The completed analysis that is generated by the Task Force will consider the needs of Heritage High School and the consequences of available options and their impact throughout the entire Lynchburg educational system. The Task Force will be a recommending body only and will have no authority to make final decisions. Task Force leadership will make periodic reports to City Council and the School Board to keep those bodies apprised of its progress. The Task Force and its subcommittees may engage content experts on specific issues and engage in community dialogue as it deems appropriate to this effort.

### **Composition and Membership**

**Task Force:** The Task Force will be composed of eleven members chosen by the Steering Committee to provide a diverse mix of perspectives and expertise. The two members of City Council and two members of the School Board who served on the Steering Committee shall continue as Task Force members. Two additional at-large members will be appointed along with five subcommittee chairpersons.

**Subcommittees:** The initial subcommittees will include A) Community Impact, B) Educational Plan, C) Extracurricular Activities, D) Facilities, and E) Finances. Each subcommittee will be charged with analyzing issues presented to it by the Task Force from its own particular perspective. Subcommittees are free to share information and engage in dialogue as the work progresses. The Task Force will work with the subcommittee chairpersons to assign subcommittee members. Subcommittee

chairpersons are free to organize their subcommittees as they see fit, to convene meetings at their own discretion, and to work with content experts as necessary. Any request for funding must be made of the Task Force which will then forward the request to the appropriate staff members or governing body.

### **Leadership**

The Steering Committee chairperson and vice chairperson, as appointed by City Council and the School Board, will continue in those positions with the Task Force. All members of the Task Force have equal input into the conclusions and recommendations of the Task Force. The chairperson and vice chairperson will have organizational duties only, with no additional authority on the Task Force.

### **Work Product**

The Task Force shall have no authority to make final decisions regarding Heritage High School and associated issues. The Task Force will develop an analysis of the challenges Lynchburg faces in dealing with this issue, and a discussion of the alternatives, benefits and detriments of all reasonable options. While the Task Force does have the ability to make recommendations to the School Board, it can also create a final report that outlines options. The fundamental goal of the Task Force is to assist in a reflective discussion of relevant issues in order to facilitate a 2018 solution to Heritage High School issues.

### **Intended Schedule**

The Task Force will charge its subcommittees in March, 2011, collect data and input from the subcommittees by late spring or early summer of 2011, and generate its report by the end of summer or early fall of 2011. It hopes to provide its work product to the School Board in sufficient time for the School Board to consider its options and make a recommendation to City Council by January, 2012. While this is the intended schedule, departure from the delineated timeline may become necessary if the scope of effort or complexity of information changes.

### **Staff Support**

The Task Force will rely upon appropriate staff support from both the City Manager's Office and the Lynchburg City School System as assigned.