

City of Lynchburg  
Task Force on the Future of Education in the City of Lynchburg: PreK-12 and Beyond  
Steering Committee  
July 29, 2019 Meeting Notes, 9:30 am

Members in attendance

Dr. Michael Gillette, Chair  
Ms. Gloria Preston, Vice Chair  
Mr. Randy Nelson  
Mr. Beau Wright  
Ms. Susan Morrison  
Dr. Atul Gupta

Staff

Dr. Reid Wodicka, Deputy City Manager  
Ms. Alicia Campbell

Review of Charter: Goals and Schedule

Dr. Gillette reviewed the timeframe for the Task Force outlined in the Charter. Dr. Gillette noted that we are slightly behind schedule, but felt that there was still ample time to complete the work of the Task Force on time.

Review of Information Obtained, Discussion of Additional Informational Needs

Dr. Gillette reviewed requested information already received from the Lynchburg City Schools and asked the Steering Committee for suggestions for additional information to request. The following items were reviewed:

- Current Lynchburg City Schools (LCS) Budget
- 2012 School Efficiency Study
- Individual School and Division-Wide Demographics and Performance Data
- School Zones: Lists and maps of school attendance zones; relevant regulation regarding attendance zones; full report on the 1993 rezoning effort.
  - Dr. Gillette noted that the geographic shapes of elementary districts are more unusual while middle and high school are more straight forward.
  - Ms. Morrison stated that the most recent school redistricting (1993) was conducted when LCS was considering the construction of a new elementary school.
- Miscellaneous: Final report from the Heritage High School Task Force, 2011
- Task Force Charter

The Steering Committee identified the following additional informational items they would like to receive. The responsible party for collecting the information is listed in brackets.

- Demographic projections, 10-15 years in the future by zones if possible [Wodicka]
- Underlying financial data beyond the published budget – Financial information by school, i.e. the cost to run each school, including but not limited to staff positions and corresponding salaries/benefits. This will include a clear definition of “administrative staff”. [Morrison]
- Comparable school performance data from surrounding counties and Virginia’s First Cities [Morrison and Wodicka]
- List of existing support programs managed by City departments that address special needs for students [Wodicka]
- Historical trends of children who require special services [Morrison]
- LCS two-year post-graduation outcomes [Morrison]
- History of deferred maintenance by building [Morrison]

#### Discussion of Subcommittees: Topic Areas, Potential Additional Subcommittees

The Steering Committee reviewed the subcommittees outlined in the Task Force Charter. In the case that there was discussion surrounding the scope of each subcommittee, notes are listed below.

- Enrollment Trends and Demographics
- Operations, Facilities and Consolidation
- Leading Practices in Education – What kinds of programs and technology do you need in a school in the future? This could include instructional plan issues, the future of education, and the nature of the future student body.
- Programming and Collaboration Opportunities – How can we link the Lynchburg City Schools with City departments that have similar missions, as well as local businesses that can provide opportunities for students and graduates?
- Finance

After discussion of the Steering Committee surrounding the importance of attracting and retaining high quality teachers, it was determined that an additional subcommittee should be formed to address long-term talent management issues. There was consensus among the Steering Committee to add an additional subcommittee, called Talent Management, to address recruitment and retention, training and support, and particularly helping teachers adapt to the challenges of our particular school system.

#### Executive Session:

The Steering Committee convened in closed session to discuss and consider prospective additional candidates for appointment to the Task Force.

#### Next Meeting Date

August 28<sup>th</sup>, 2:00 pm in the City Hall Second Floor Training Room

SCHOOL TASK FORCE MEETING OF JULY 29, 2019

// On motion of Councilmember Nelson, seconded by Ms. Morrison, The Task Force on the Future of Education in the City of Lynchburg: Pre-K-12 and Beyond by the following recorded vote elected to hold a closed meeting to discuss and consider prospective additional candidates for appointment to the Task Force pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia."

Ayes: Gillette, Preston, Nelson, Wright, Morrison, Gupta 6

Noes: 0

// The meeting was re-opened to the public.

// Councilmember Nelson made the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Task Force on the Future of Education in the City of Lynchburg Pre-K-12 and Beyond has convened a closed meeting on this date, pursuant to an affirmative recorded vote and in accordance with the provisions of The Virginia Freedom of Information Act; and

WHEREAS, Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia requires a certification by the task force that such closed meeting was conducted in conformity with Virginia law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Task Force on the Future of Education in the City of Lynchburg Pre-K-12 and Beyond certifies that, to the best of each member's knowledge, (i) only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements by Virginia law were discussed in the closed meeting to which this certification resolution applies, and (ii) only such public business matters as were identified in the motion convening the closed meeting were heard, discussed or considered by the task force.

The motion was seconded by Councilmember Wright and the task force by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

Ayes: Gillette, Preston, Nelson, Wright, Morrison, Gupta 6

Noes: 0