

City of Lynchburg
Task Force on the Future of Education in the City of Lynchburg: PreK-12 and Beyond
November 14, 2019 Meeting Notes,
Central Virginia Governor's School - 1:00 P.M.

Members in attendance

Dr. Michael Gillette, Chair
Ms. Gloria Preston, Co-Chair
Mr. Randy Nelson
Mr. Beau Wright
Ms. Susan Morrison
Dr. Atul Gupta
Dr. Roger Jones
Ms. Julie Doyle
Mr. Charlie White
Dr. Owen Cardwell
Dr. Steve Smith
Ms. Pat Price
Ms. Elise Spontarelli
Dr. Rachel Gagen
Ms. Kathy Williams

Unable to attend: Mr. Joe Tucker

Staff Present

Dr. Reid Wodicka, Deputy City Manager
Dr. Ben Copeland, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Alicia Campbell, Administrative Support

Introductions

During the Task Force meeting held October 1st, members asked Dr. Gillette to reach out to key businesses to assist in recruiting a Finance Committee chairperson. Dr. Gillette introduced Kathy Williams, Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Framatome, Inc. who has agreed to the task.

Committee Reports

Subcommittee chairs gave a brief status report of work accomplished so far and touched on what the general scope of work will be going forward.

- Enrollment Trends and Demographics (ETD); chair, Ms. Julie Doyle: Ms. Doyle reviewed the information requests previously submitted to the staff liaisons. The requests are as follows:
 - Public school enrollment data for surrounding counties - Bedford, Campbell, Amherst (10 years)
 - Lynchburg homeschoolers numbers (10 years)
 - Lynchburg religious exemption numbers (10 years)

- Private school enrollment numbers (10 years)
 - List to include James River Day, VES, LCA, New Covenant
 - Possibly others to follow
- Immigrant population numbers
- Significant state and national demographic trends impacting K-12 school enrollment
- # of Lynchburg residents attending county schools (Bedford, Campbell, Amherst)
- # of Bedford, Campbell, Amherst resident attending LCS
- Current policy re: non-resident tuition
 - Do LCS teachers residing in the counties get to send their children to LCS for free?
 - What is the current non-resident tuition for LCS?
 - What is the non-resident tuition charge for Lynchburg residents to attend Bedford, Campbell or Amherst schools?
- What is the current LCS policy re: non-resident/tuition paying students attending LCS magnet programs (GO Center, Dearington, TC Miller, Dunbar)?
- How is the 1971 court ordered desegregation ruling (Jackson v. LCS) monitored for compliance? How would any redistricting recommendations need to be reviewed to ensure compliance with the ruling?
- What options (methods, costs, logistics) would be available for community-wide surveying?
- Comparison of Weldon Cooper projections to actual LCS enrollment numbers (10 years).

Ms. Doyle referenced the charter stating, the purpose of the ETD subcommittee is to provide information to other subcommittees to inform their recommendations. As such, the ETD subcommittee has assigned its members to each of the Task Force subcommittees to serve as a primary point of contact. The liaisons are as follows:

- Operations, Facilities and Consolidation – Kim Payne
- Leading Practices in Education – Paul McClure
- Programming and Collaboration Opportunities – Keith Anderson
- Finance – Charlie White
- Talent Management – Rachel Gagen

Dr. Gillette recommended that all subcommittees assign Task Force liaisons stating that each committee needs to be connected to each committee in some capacity.

Ms. Doyle expressed the need for a community outreach component and stated interest in surveying the public to form an idea of what should be done differently in order to improve student retention. A few options were considered including the National Citizen Survey and writing letters to families who are either considering leaving LCS or have recently left. However, it was determined that cost, survey-fatigue, and overall low participation would hinder results and not produce usable data. After discussion, it was decided that a targeted survey sent on a postcard to families that are no longer in Lynchburg City Schools would produce the best results.

Dr. Gillette commented on the key pieces of cost associated with enrollment:

- Per capita from income from state sources
- The make-up of student body in reference to the services students may need that would require additional funding, i.e. learning disabilities and English as a Second Language students.

At its previous meeting, the ETD subcommittee made the recommendation of recruiting a representative from private schools to serve as a liaison to the ETD subcommittee. There was discussion among the Task Force regarding advisors sitting in subcommittee meetings to provide information, but not actually joining as official members. There were some concerns about conflict of interest among administrative staff and the amount of information they would be able to disclose, but overall, chairpersons have the autonomy to make that decision. Dr. Gillette reiterated that these are corporate citizens and fit into the environment of education and that there are some scenarios in Lynchburg City where public and private school systems (New Vista Schools) need to coordinate to best serve all children in the community.

- Leading Practices in Urban Education (LPUE); chair, Dr. Roger Jones: Dr. Jones reviewed with the Task Force three questions he asked of the LPUE subcommittee; 1) What are your priorities and areas of concerns as we begin this process; 2) What additional information do you need to know; and 3) What questions do you have. This information was then incorporated into six themes: Culture, Climate, Discipline, Professional Development, Equity of Opportunity, and Instruction. Dr. Jones previously requested from staff the Lynchburg City Schools and City of Lynchburg strategic plans and will be going over these in depth during a future meeting. The intent is to better understand where the City is going, where the schools are going, and how best to align these visions. Dr. Jones stated that his subcommittee will be reviewing the data gathered from other subcommittees since there is significant overlap with the LPUE subcommittee themes.
- Programming and Collaboration Opportunities (PCO); Dr. Owen Cardwell, chair: Dr. Cardwell discussed the direction the PCO subcommittee is taking by looking at existing programs and collaborations. From this, the question was raised, are the partnerships in developmental youth lives making a difference? Dr. Cardwell discussed how there is no methodology to determine impact of these collaborations so the PCO subcommittee is working to create a collective impact framework. During the Task Force meeting held on October 1, 2019, the PCO subcommittee discussed a national project through the Search Institute, “Measure What Matters”. This work will essentially lay the foundation for a collective impact framework. The PCO subcommittee will be going forward with these surveys and they will be administered in the City of Lynchburg Parks and Recreation programs, at the Empowerment Academy, and at Beacon of Hope.

There was discussion among the Task Force about community-wide resources and how the intentionality of distribution can have a great impact on the development of children. The idea of bilateral arrangement was discussed; the focus has primarily been on how the City can reallocate resources to help the schools, but there should also be an equal push on reallocating schools resources that can be applied to the general youth in the

community. Dr. Jones stated that culture exists around community, not necessarily around the school system. Mr. Nelson mentioned that our public schools are geographically distant, and this could lead to families feeling disconnected from the school system. He proposed the idea of using city run neighborhood centers as satellite school buildings.

- Talent Management (TM); Ms. Pat Price, chair: Ms. Price reviewed the information already requested from the TM subcommittee, which includes: any information regarding recruitment, retention, professional development, and other issues related to personnel management. Ms. Price mentioned that the TM subcommittee has received some information regarding these requests but would like a more thorough analysis. Ms. Price noted that LCS is averaging about 100 teachers lost per year and that the TM subcommittee will be going through the data collected in the exit interviews, but would like to conduct a survey on teacher confidence. Dr. Gillette reviewed the proper protocol that in order to conduct a survey, subcommittee chairs will need to first bring it to the Task Force for approval.

A motion was made and unanimously approved to amend the description of the TM subcommittee with the following changes; “will study current and potential efforts to recruit, retain, train, and support talented educators, ~~and~~ administrators, and staff through professional development in order to ensure that the Lynchburg City Schools is able to maintain educational standards consistent with the goals and recommendations that are developed by this Task Force. Pay issues will be addressed.”

- Finance Committee (FC); Ms. Kathy Williams, chair: According to the charter, “The Task Force has the authority to expand its subcommittee structure, objectives, and deliverables as necessary.” Ms. Williams is in agreement with the charge written as-is and had no revisions, at present. Ms. Williams stated that she will be assembling the FC subcommittee and will begin data collection.
- Operations, Facilities, and Consolidation (OFC); TBD, chair: Due to work obligations, Mr. Kelvin Moore, previous chair of the OFC subcommittee, had to step down. The Task Force will convene in a closed session to discuss possible replacements.

Executive Session

The Task Force convened in closed session to discuss a) nominations to the Finance Committee and b) nominations to chair the Operations, Facilities and Consolidation Committee.

Discussion of next steps and scheduling of future meetings

The Task Force discussed timeframe and decided to allow subcommittees optimal time to conduct their work. The next Task Force meeting has been scheduled for January 30th, at 1:00 p.m. at the Central Virginia Governor’s School.

Adjourned

2:55 p.m.

// On motion of Ms. Price, seconded by Ms. Doyle, 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 the appointment of a chairperson for the Operations, Facilities, and Consolidation Subcommittee of the Schools Task Force and the discussion and consideration prospective candidates for appointment to the Schools Task Force Finance Committee, pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia.

Ayes: Gillette, Preston, Nelson, Morrison, Jones, Doyle, White, Cardwell, Smith, Price, Spontarelli	11
Noes:	0
Absent: Tucker, Wright, Gupta, Gagen	4

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

// Mr. 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 Ms. Price and the task force by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

Ayes: Gillette, Preston, Nelson, Morrison, Jones, Doyle, White, Cardwell, Smith, Price, Spontarelli	11
Noes:	0
Absent: Tucker, Wright, Gupta, Gagen	4