

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

Members in attendance

Dr. Michael Gillette, 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
Mr. Joe Tucker
Mr. Kelvin Moore

Unable to attend: Ms. Gloria Preston, Co-Chair

Staff Present

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

Introductions

Dr. Gillette reaffirmed and reviewed the mission charged to the Task Force: to serve as a high level strategic visioning and recommending body for the School Board who will ultimately discuss any final decisions with City Council. Dr. Gillette reiterated that the Task Force will have no authority to make any final decisions, will not be able to write policy, and will make no personnel decisions.

Dr. Gillette reminded the Task Force members that they have been appointed through a local governing body process; all Task Force meetings are official and are subject to the Freedom of Information Act and all correspondence is discoverable, even if unsolicited.

Dr. Gillette also reiterated that meeting locations aren't limited to City owned property and can be any publicly accessible location as long as proper notice of at least 3-days is given. Task Force members who have an interest in attending subcommittee meetings should feel welcome to do so. However, members were cautioned to remain impartial as to the direction of the subcommittees work during this stage of the process.

Committee Reports

Subcommittee chairs gave a brief status report indicating the present make-up of each committee and the direction each chair is hoping their subcommittee will take. Task Force members were able to communicate any recommendations to the chairs.

- *Enrollment Trends and Demographics; chair, Ms. Julie Doyle:* Ms. Doyle stated that the preliminary committee has been assembled; Mr. Charlie White and Dr. Rachael Gagen both at-large members of the Task Force; Dr. Keith Anderson, Executive Director of Student Health Center and Wellness Initiatives at Liberty University and former School Board member; Mr. Kimball Payne, former City of Lynchburg City Manager; and Mr. Kevin Smith, Chief Legal Officer of Life Business at Genworth Financial. Ms. Doyle is currently seeking out a seventh member, but no commitments have been made at this time. The Enrollment Trends and Demographics subcommittee will conduct its first meeting on October 9, 2019. Goals for this initial meeting are to disseminate the information that has already been gathered and identify any other potential material still needed.
- *Operations, Facilities and Consolidation; chair, Mr. Kelvin Moore:* Newly appointed chair and Task Force member, Mr. Kelvin Moore, stated that he is deferring assembling the Operations, Facilities, and Consolidation subcommittee until after he better understood the scope of work and the charge to the subcommittee. Mr. Moore specified that he had one member, Linda Jones, principal at Dominion Seven Architects, who has committed. Mr. Moore stated that he will be amassing the rest of his subcommittee, following this meeting.
- *Leading Practices in Urban Education; chair, Dr. Roger Jones:* Dr. Jones informed the Task Force that the Leading Practices in Urban Education subcommittee conducted its initial meeting on September 26, 2019. The members and affiliations of the subcommittee are as follows; Santria Brown, parent of students in Lynchburg City Schools; Antonio Davis, Program Director, Jubilee Family Development Center; Chris Glover, Director of Strategy and Programs, Beacon of Hope; Merrill Mickles, Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs, Central Virginia Community College; Taylor Morgan, Senior, Heritage High School/Central Virginia Governor's School; Tamara Rosser, Director of Human Services, City of Lynchburg; Elise Spontarelli, Executive Director, Vector Space; Lloyd Tannenbaum, Retired Director of Rivermont Schools at Centra Health; Anthony Andrews, Assistant Director, Peakland Preschool Program and Fireman, City of Lynchburg; Nick George, The Listening, parent of LCS student; Michelle Goodwin, Associate Dean for Residential and Licensure Programs, College of Education, Liberty University; Karl Loos, President, Lynchburg Education Association and Teacher at P. L. Dunbar Middle School for Innovation; Kate Sigler, Director of Administration, Lynchburg Legal Aid Society; Todd Swisher, Former Deputy Chief of Police, City of Lynchburg. Dr. Jones summarized the matters covered in the orientation subcommittee meeting, including an introduction to the charge of the committee, FOIA protocol, and a brief discussion on members having an equitable voice within the subcommittee. Subcommittee members were asked to consider how citizens and groups will be able to share ideas or to ask questions with the subcommittee. This subcommittee also discussed the possibility of visiting other localities with successful urban education practices. Dr. Jones reviewed access to framework

documents such as Standards of Quality, Standards of Accreditation, Profile of a Virginia Graduate, and current and pending General Assembly legislation. The next meeting will be held on October 10, 2019 at 5pm at Vector Space.

Dr. Gillette recommended that the majority of expertise regarding best practices be collected from published articles. Dr. Jones agreed and discussed the possibility of allowing team members access to a research database with the University of Lynchburg.

Dr. Gillette also recommended that the Leading Practices in Urban Education subcommittee look at both urban and suburban systems when conducting research since Lynchburg is considered a hybrid system. Dr. Jones agreed stating that the subcommittee will be researching what works in education, and not limit or exclude any information. Dr. Jones also mentioned that the subcommittee has been asked to consider if representation on the committee is comprehensive or is lacking and stated that the subcommittee will be reaching out to the community to gain insights.

- *Programming and Collaboration Opportunities; Dr. Owen Cardwell, chair:* Dr. Cardwell stated the Programming and Collaboration Opportunities subcommittee has met and established continuous future meeting dates and times. This subcommittee is comprised of the following members; Cheryl Glass-Cabell, Chairperson of Lynchburg Voters League; Chris Marotta, E.C. Glass School Board Representative; Laura Hamilton; Beacon of Hope; J.J. Cole, sociology professor, Liberty University; Paul Kee, pastor, Fellowship Church of Christ; Charlotte Lester, Neighborhood Centers Coordinator with the Lynchburg Parks and Recreation; Walter Virgil Jr., Interfaith Outreach Association; Kimberly Dyke-Harsley, citizen; Nana Manu, graduate student at University of Lynchburg; Bill Bodine, president of Greater Lynchburg Community Foundation; Dani Rule, principal, P. L. Dunbar Middle School.

Dr. Cardwell stated that the subcommittee will be looking in to collective impact models among partners within the City and schools. Dr. Cardwell also stated that since efforts are ongoing, a couple of opportunities have presented themselves quickly.

- 1) Search Institute, “Measure What Matters” - a national project which studies the developmental relationships in students. These surveys will look at what kind of relationships students have and if those relationships make a difference in their educational retention. The Center for Education and Leadership at the University of Lynchburg is looking into applying these surveys within the community. Dr. Cardwell presented the Task Force with the option to ask school administration to circulate these surveys within the middle and high schools. Dr. Copeland will review the details and assess if the Task Force should go forth.
- 2) Adaptive Lifelong Learning Workshop, Virginia Tech’s Innovative Campus – Dr. Cardwell will be attending this conference

Dr. Gillette recommended that the Programming and Collaboration subcommittee consider bringing in a business industry aspect to the subcommittee. Dr. Cardwell agreed, stating for that reason, he doesn’t see the subcommittee as being completed.

- Talent Management; Ms. Pat Price, chair: Ms. Price stated that formation of the Talent Management subcommittee is not complete, and as such, has not conducted an initial meeting. The makeup of this committee is as follows; Consuelo Woods, retired; Larry Jones, Community Activist; Gloria Simon, retired; Scott Douglass, Assistant Director, Central Virginia Governor's School; Dr. Stephen Smith, Director, Central Virginia Governor's School; Marie Gee, LCS/Human Resources; Lea Ingram, Program Development Manager, LynCAG; Dr. Atul Gupta, Dean of Graduate Studies, University of Lynchburg and LCS School Board member; Christopher Rhoades, Adjunct Professor, Liberty University. Although some members have been confirmed, Ms. Price indicated that she is open to learning of volunteer suggestions from the Education Task Force website. The subcommittee will be looking at current LCS practices as well as neighboring counties, best practices for both urban and suburban communities, and the make-up of current LCS staff. Ms. Price mentioned that she will gather a list of information needed and submit the request to the Task Force chair.

Dr. Gillette recommended looking at current LCS make-up of faculty including demographic diversity, geographic diversity, where geographically faculty obtained their degrees, and whether the schools are hiring locally or nationally.

Dr. Jones recommended that the Talent Management subcommittee look at the National Institute for School Leadership (NISL) and their work with teacher retention and professionalizing the profession.

Discussion of the status of the Finance Committee

Dr. Gillette reiterated that the Finance Committee's work will be contingent upon other subcommittee work. Based on this fact, there was discussion among the Task Force regarding delaying populating the Finance Committee until later in the year. The Task Force agreed but stated the need to fill the subcommittee's chair position in the interim.

Update from staff on relevant issues

Dr. Wodicka provided an overview of the Education Task Force website, the shared OneDrive folder, and the community input and volunteer application. After reviewing the content already collected, the Task Force asked for the following items:

- Current membership/attendance report for LCS district, generated 9/30/2019
 - Dr. Copeland will submit this information to be uploaded to OneDrive
- September Enrollment for the past 5 years
 - Dr. Copeland will submit this information to be uploaded to OneDrive
- Home School Students by year
 - Dr. Copeland will submit this information to be uploaded to OneDrive
- Religious exemptions data
 - Dr. Copeland will submit this information to be uploaded to OneDrive

Executive Session

The Task Force convened in closed session to discuss a possible chairperson for the Finance subcommittee.

Next Meeting Date

November 14th, 2019 – 1:00 p.m., Central Virginia Governor’s School

Adjourned

2:50 p.m.

Meeting Notes prepared by: Alicia Campbell, Administrative Support

SCHOOL TASK FORCE MEETING OF OCTOBER 1, 2019

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// On motion of Ms. Price, 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 candidates for appointment to the Schools Task Force's Finance Committee pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(A.)(1) of the Code of Virginia."

Ayes:	Gillette, Nelson, Wright, Morrison, Gupta, Jones, Doyle, White, Cardwell, Smith, Price, Spontarelli, Gagen, Tucker, Moore	15
Noes:		0
Absent:	Preston	1

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

// Mr. Tucker 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. Morrison and the task force by the following recorded vote adopted the motion:

Ayes:	Gillette, Nelson, Wright, Morrison, Gupta, Jones, Doyle, Cardwell, Smith, Price, Spontarelli, White, Gagen, Tucker, Moore	15
Noes:		0
Absent:	Preston	1