Recap: School Board Meeting

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Scott A. Ziegler, Ed.D
Interim Superintendent

May 11, 2021 – School Board Meeting
LOUDOUN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD
5:00 p.m. – School Board Meeting Room
21000 Education Court, Ashburn, VA 20147
Presiding: Brenda Sheridan, Chair

This was a virtual meeting to comply with Gov. Ralph Northam’s Statewide Measure to Contain COVID-19, which limits in-person gatherings to 25 people.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
Eighth grader Mahsa Riar, of Belmont Ridge Middle School, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

RECOGNITIONS
Director of Human Resources and Talent Development, Lisa Boland, recognized Martina Santana, a custodian at Freedom High School, as Custodian of the Year; Chen (Jennifer) Lin, a school nutrition worker at Algonkian Elementary School, as School Nutrition Worker of the Year; Julie Yonge as Bus Driver of the Year; Luigi Mancini as Bus Attendant of the Year; William Skidmore, a fleet specialist for the Transportation Department, as the Central Garage Employee of the Year; and Susan Barancewicz, transportation operations specialist, as the Transportation Office Employee of the Year. The Loudoun County Alumnae Chapter (LCAC) of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. made a special presentation of 500 diverse books to Leesburg Elementary School. Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Ashley Ellis introduced Lightridge High School Principal Dr. Ryan Hitchman to share Lightridge’s success with student engagement in their inaugural school year. Students Claire Tate, Liliana Selvaraj and Tahir Ismailwala; assistant principals Dr. Felecia Lewis, Monika Vereb and Equity Lead, Lin Rudder, presented on behalf of Lightridge.

ACTION
The School Board Approved:
Minutes; Finance and Operations Committee: State Cost Per Pupil for Tuition Purposes; Department of Instruction: Approval of the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) Career & Technical Education Advisory Committee (CTEAC) Executive Council Membership for the 2021-2022 School Year; Pupil Services: Exemption from School Attendance for Religious Reasons; Pupil Services: Kindergarten Non-Enrollment for the 2020-2021 School Year; Pupil Services Committee: Adoption of Policy 8080, Home Instruction (Home Schooling), (Former Policy 8-11) and Deletion of Policy 8-11, Home Instruction; and Licensed and Classified personnel actions, including the following administrative appointment:
Dr. Jason B. Jefferson as the new principal of Park View High School, effective May 25. Dr. Jefferson holds a bachelor’s degree in English from Lincoln University of Pennsylvania; a master’s degree in education administration and supervision from Regent University; and a doctorate in educational leadership from Bowie State University. He also has done graduate coursework in curriculum and instruction at McDaniel College. Jefferson has served as master teacher at Project Forward Leap in Philadelphia; as a curriculum reviewer for Connections Academy; as a department head/literacy coordinator for Bladensburg High School, Prince Georges County, MD.; Public Schools; as an educational specialist II, Office of Turnaround Schools, Baltimore City Public Schools; as an educational specialist II, Student Support Teams, Baltimore City Public Schools; as Assistant Principal at Francis M. Wood Alternative High School, Baltimore City Public Schools; and as an educational specialist II, Office of Special Education Compliance and Investigations, Baltimore City Public Schools.

… an Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Month Proclamation.

…Health & Music Textbooks and Instructional Resources as recommended.

…authorizing the expenditure and transfer of appropriated, unspent funds as recommended by staff in the amount of $15,783,692.

…appointing the Douglass High School Commemorative Committee.

… a Closed Session Motion for Superintendent’s Search Interviews.

INFORMATION
Office of the Superintendent: Interim Superintendent Dr. Scott Ziegler and Assistant Superintendent for Instruction Dr. Ellis presented the Superintendent’s Operational Update.
Chief of Staff: Chief of Staff Dr. Mark Smith presented staggered terms legislation for the School Board passed by the General Assembly in the 2021 session.
Discipline Committee: School Board member Jeff Morse (Dulles District) and Dr. Ellis described Policy 8265 (Formerly Policy 8-2), Student Searches and Seizure, and Deletion of Policy 8-2.
HRTD Committee: At-Large School Board member Denise Corbo and Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources and Talent Development Dr. Lucia Sebastian described Policy 7324, Drug and Alcohol Testing for Employees Required to Hold a Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). Dr. Sebastian
presented proposed revisions to the 2021-2022 adopted school calendars to include three additional school holidays to the adopted 2021-22 calendar, which would bring the LCPS calendar into closer alignment with Virginia State Holidays. Department of Instruction and Department of Pupil Services: Dr. Ellis and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services Dr. Asia Jones provided information on Learning Recovery in 2021. Specialized Programs and Centers Committee: Dr. Ellis, Assistant Superintendent for Business and Financial Services Sharon Willoughby and Mr. Morse detailed a request from Hillsboro Community Charter School to revise the cost per pupil (CPP) calculation.

STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS
Ainsley Hathaway, a senior at Independence High School, and Fiona Cheng, a senior at Broad Run High School, were introduced as the May student School Board members.

DELEGATIONS (LIVE COMMENTS)
Cheryl Onderchain, Mary Elliott, Elizabeth Boyko, Elizabeth Perrin, Patti Menders, Joe Mobley, Carri Michon, Jack Ryan, Brandon Michon and Andrea Weiskopf expressed concerns with reading materials used by LCPS. Arya Sadeghi, Nemat Sadeghi, Monica Sadeghi, Caitlin Gregozweski and Kelly Michon said students do not need to wear masks during outdoor activities. Lisa Levine, Austin Levine, Shelly Slebrch and Erin Dunbar expressed various concerns. Peter Livingston and Debbie Rose spoke about student mental health. Michele Lefler spoke about veteran’s concerns. Shawntel Cooper, Ian Prior and Karlee Copeland expressed concerns with Critical Race Theory. Jeremy Wright called for the School Board to hold a town hall. Colin Doniger voiced support for the School Resource Officer program.

DELEGATIONS (VIRTUAL COMMENTS)
Moe Sadeghi spoke about various concerns. Julie Garrett praised the School Board. Vladyslav Ovchynnikov supported the purchase of electric school buses. Guy Potucek praised the School Board for its work on a memorandum of understanding with local law enforcement agencies. Heather Malam recited poetry. Nicholas Gothard thanked the School Board for its LGBTQ policies. Zachary Pruckpwnski, Daniella Harris and Mike Biron expressed concerns with reading materials used by LCPS. Elizabeth Lehner expressed concerns with Critical Race Theory. Candice Tuck said she supported the School Board’s equity policies.