

# Résumé: School Board Meeting

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Scott Ziegler, Ed.D.  
Interim Superintendent

Wayde B. Byard  
Information Officer

March 9, 2021

## LOUDOUN COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

4 p.m.

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

**Michael Townes**, a fourth grader at Sterling Elementary, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

### ACTION BY THE CHAIR

Chair **Brenda Sheridan** announced that Leesburg District School Board member **Beth Barts** would be removed from all School Board committee assignments until December 31, 2021.

### RECOGNITIONS

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction **Dr. Ashely Ellis** and Harmony Middle School Principal **Eric Stewart** introduced the Teaching and Learning Spotlight featuring Harmony Middle School. Harmony Mathematics teacher **Kerry Giattino**, Assistant Principal **Kristen Hepner**, learning specialist **Brian O'Neill** and Assistant Principal **Patrick White** presented this program.

**Dr. Alisa Daniel**, the coordinator of elementary school for the Department of Human Resources and Talent Development, introduced the new LCPS National Board-Certified Teachers. The new National Board-Certified teachers for 2020-2021 include **Catherine Haney**, World Languages and Cultures Teacher, Tuscarora High School; **Amy Heishman**, English Teacher, Potomac Falls High School; **Annabelle Mills**, Music Teacher, Stone Hill Middle School; and **Michael Tomlinson**, Science Teacher, Academy of Science.

### ACTION

#### The School Board Approved:

Licensed Personnel Action; Classified Personnel Action; Curriculum & Instruction Committee: Revision to Policy 5010, School Day (Previously Policy 5-2); Finance and Operations Committee: Contract Award for the Construction of Entry Modifications at Sterling Elementary School, Guildford Elementary School and Sully Elementary School (IFB #20-494); and Joint School Board and Board of Supervisors Committee: Work Plan.

... a proclamation recognizing March 2021 as National Professional Social Work Month.

... a proclamation recognizing March 2021 as Women's History Month.

... Policy 5045, Selection and Review of Instructional Materials (previously Policy 5-7) and the deletion of Policy 5-7.

... a School Naming Committee for New Alternative High School.

... authorizing Spring Break, March 29-April 2, as a holiday for all staff.

### INFORMATION

**Office of the Superintendent:** Interim Superintendent **Dr. Scott Ziegler** presented the Superintendent's Operational Update.

**Resolution on Fall Instruction:** Blue Ridge School Board member **Ian Serotkin** outlined a resolution stating that the Loudoun County School Board direct the Interim Superintendent to plan for LCPS students to be learning in-person, five days a week during the 2021-2022 school year.

**Department of Instruction and Department of Pupil Services:** Assistant Superintendent for Instruction **Dr. Ashley Ellis** and Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Services **Dr. Asia Jones** gave an overview of 2021 Summer Program Planning.

**Division Counsel:** Division Counsel **Stephen DeVita** outlined options for Collective Bargaining.

**Office of the Chief of Staff:** Chief of Staff **Dr. Mark Smith** went through the LCPS Policy Review Process. This would ensure compliance with §22.1-253.13:7 of the Code of Virginia, which requires that all School Board policies are reviewed within a five-year timeframe.

**Pupil Services:** **Dr. Jones** detailed Student Record Gender Code Option: Non-Binary. The Virginia Department of Education has established a new Gender Code, "Non-Binary," as an option that may be used within a Student Record. Parents, guardians, and adult students may request this new gender code be used for their official Student Record.

**Department of Instruction:** **Dr. Ellis** presented the Science Textbook/Resource Adoption Recommendations. The Science Textbook Adoption Committee has concluded its resource adoption review process and has made final recommendations to the Interim Superintendent to present to the School Board for consideration. These materials will be available for public review via the Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) website March 10 - April 6.

**Finance and Operations Committee:** Assistant Superintendent for Support Services **Kevin Lewis** described the Congestion Must Go/Safe Routes to School - Bicycle Donation Program. In partnership with a local non-profit bike shop (Maverick Bikes Shop & Café/Maverick Charities) and the Bike Loudoun advocacy group, the Congestion Must Go team developed a bike donation program to benefit LCPS students.

**Support Services:** **Mr. Lewis** presented Current Elementary School Students Affected by Attendance Zone Changes – Policy 8160 Survey Results for Certain Rising Grade Five Students. On February 3, 2021, both an email and letter (via U.S. Postal Service) were sent to identified families with rising fifth-grade students who, based on the opening of

Hovatter Elementary School, will reside in a different elementary school attendance zone next fall. The communiqué outlined the survey process and asked the identified families if they would prefer their current fourth-grade student remain at his/her current elementary school for fifth grade rather than transfer to the elementary school that will serve their residence beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year. **Mr. Lewis** also presented the Spring 2021 School Board Meeting Calendar - Secondary School Attendance Zone Change Process for the Central Loudoun Area.

#### **STUDENT SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS**

**John Pearsall**, a senior at Tuscarora High School, and **Adit Pareek**, a senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, were introduced as the March student School Board members.

#### **DELEGATIONS (LIVE COMMENTS)**

**Brian Davison** criticized the School Board. **Peter Livingston, Nemat Sadeghi, Arya Sadeghi, Monica Sadeghi, Lisa Levine, Brei Bailey, Nathan Ball, Clay Auch, Kelly Michon, Brandon Michon, Jackie Passaro, Elizabeth Perrin, Amy Jahr, Laura Sagen, Rebecca Moden, David Rotell, Erin Dunbar, Beth Mock, Lori Eging** and **Michael Eging** asked for the expansion of in-person learning. **Cheryl Onderchain** spoke about the need for students to catch up academically. **Austin Levine** and **Robert Reinish** expressed concerns about the performance of a School Board member. **Valerie Brodie, Carrie Michon, Martin Heinze** and **Jonathan Buckley** addressed various concerns. **Brandon Chambers** thanked the School Board for allowing the implementation of hybrid learning. **Severine Jennings** gave feedback on hybrid learning. **Lilit Vanetsyan** criticized the equity training being given to LCPS staff. **Linda Killan** asked the School Board to ensure in-person graduation for the Class of 2021. **Andrea Weiskopf** spoke in favor of collective bargaining for teachers. **Kay Greenwell** spoke against collective bargaining for teachers.

#### **DELEGATIONS (VIRTUAL COMMENTS)**

**Moe Sadeghi, Jack Shelton, Cher Jiang, Elicia Leudemann, Isabella Lopez, Thermaliz Lopez, Randy Rose, Angela Dhir** and **Elizabeth Vernmette** asked for the expansion of in-person learning. **Sandy Sullivan, Tracie Lane, Christina Ramirez, David Palanzi** and **Heather Binkley** advocated for collective bargaining for teachers. **Daniel Brubaker** addressed student well-being. **Christine Gaston** addressed teachers not wearing masks in school. **Debbie Rose** spoke against collective bargaining for teachers. **Sheryl Gusman** urged caution when returning to in-person instruction.

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