



A TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL



LYNCHBURG CITY SCHOOLS

## CITY COUNCIL & SCHOOL BOARD JOINT COMMITTEE

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Thursday, April 3, 2025 | 5:00 PM  
2nd Floor Training Room- City Hall  
900 Church Street  
Lynchburg, VA 24504

### AGENDA

#### I. Welcome & Introductions

*Council Member Dr. Sterling Wilder, Co-Chair  
School Board Member Dr. Martin Day, Co-Chair*

- I.1. Invocation
- I.2. Opening comments from Co-Chairs
- I.3. Review notes from the March 27th meeting

#### II. General Business

- II.4. Formulation of the committee's final recommendations to the full School Board and City Council

#### III. Next Steps

- III.5. Dr. Day will draft a recommendation document based on the general business discussion and vote. The document will be circulated to the committee members for editing suggestions in advance of the joint School Board & City Council meeting on April 29th, at which time the recommendation will be presented.

#### IV. Roll Call

#### V. Next Regular Meeting

**Lynchburg City Council and Lynchburg City Schools (Joint Meeting) - 5:00 pm (900 Church Street - Second Floor Training Room) (Thursday, March 27, 2025)**

*Generated by Tina P Day on Monday, March 31, 2025*

**Members present**

Martin V Day, Letitia M Lowery, Daryl P Conner, Mr. Wilder, Mr. Misjuns, Mrs. Timmer

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 5:07 PM by Co-Chair, Dr. Day

Dr. Day informed committee that Mr. Wilder will be the new Co-Chair.

Invocation given by Mr. Conner, LCS Board Member

**B. AGENDA ITEMS**

Co-Chair Comments: 2.

Mr. Wilder welcomed and thanked the community for attending tonight's meeting.

Dr. Day gave a summary of the proposal coming the the School Board from the Facilities and Finance Committee.

Minutes: 3. Review of notes from the March 12, 2025 meeting

No correction were made to the minutes of March 12 - motion to approve was made by Mr. Conner and 2nd by Mr. Misjuns

Votes:

Yes: Mr. Conner, Mrs. Lowery, Mr. Wilder, Mr. Misjuns, Mrs. Timmer (Dr. Day is not a voting member)

No: None

Abstention: None

Motion carries

**C. GENERAL BUSINESS**

Discussion: 1. Review the City Manager's proposed budget

Mr. Patrick went through a summary presentation of City proposed budget. It is proposed that there will in a increase in local support - 39.4 to 42.1 although this is an increase it is below the asking from Lynchburg City Schools 44.9 request. This is the 2nd largest increase (6.9 increase) (2.8 short of what LCS need):

68.4 for facilities (maintenance and infrastructure)

8.4 cash fund for various maintenance projects

All funding is contingent upon approval by Lynchburg City Council

Dr. Day opened the floor to committee members for further discussion and questions.

Discussion: 2. Discuss utilization rates and paths for achieving the recommended rate

Dr. Copeland gave a very detailed explanation about how utilization rates are determined by VDOE. It was determined that utilization is more than what this committee is able to do.

Discussion: 3. Form recommendations for the School Board and City Council

Suggestions for this committee to take to boards final recommendations - Dr. Day gave input on how this can be done. Dr. Day would like for each committee members to come up with suggestions on what this committee would like to present to both the Council and the LCS Board as final recommendations.

Mr. Conner has made a motion that this committee approve the 4 Phrase Plan that Dr. Copeland presented to the LCS Finance and Facilities committee. 2nd by Mrs. Timmer. Although this committee voted to approve this. It was noted that this has not been presented to the entire school board and they would need to act on this recommendation and approve. Committee will continue to support this recommendation along with not building any new schools. They would like to see the money given to all schools needing improvement instead of giving majority of money to 1 new build.

Committee will submit their suggestions to Dr. Day by March 31st and Dr. Day input them all into 1 document for the committee to review at next meeting. Some suggestions offered were as follows:

- 1) Committee member would like to see a CIP committee ( A committee was made to give input before HHS was built)
- 2) Superintendent, chairs and Mayor need to meet monthly
- 3) See if it is possible to combine services LCS/city (like grounds, maintenance, HR, finance)
- 4) Categorical funding (City don't have to set this)
- 5) Reinforcing approval of 4 Phrase Plan
- 6) CIP (priorities projects)
- 7) Increase LCS CIP until needs are met

#### **D. NEXT STEPS**

Discussion: 1. Plan for April 10, 2025 meeting. (Substitute presiding officer or alternate date). Meeting will be changed to Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:00 (City Hall 2nd floor training room).

Discussion: 2. Discuss school funding formula presentation. This will be a topic for next week Discussion.

Discussion 3. Finalize recommendations. Dr. Day will bring the collected suggestions to the April 3rd meeting for board to work from as it determines its recommendations. Dr. Day will then draft those recommendations into a final document and circulate it to committee members for editing

suggestions in time to have it ready for presentation to Council and LCS Board at the April 29, 2025 joint meeting.

**E. ROLL CALL**

Each committee member was given opportunity to give comments.

**F. INFORMATION**

Information: 1. The next joint schools/council subcommittee meeting is Thursday, April 3, 2025 at 5:00 pm (900 Church Street - Second Floor Training Room)

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 pm



## AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

### MEETING DATE

April 3, 2025

### PRESENTED BY

### AGENDA ITEM # II.4

Formulation of the committee's final recommendations to the full School Board and City Council

### RECOMMENDATION

### SUMMARY

### PRIOR ACTION(S)

### FISCAL IMPACT

### CONTACT(S)

### ATTACHMENT(S)

1. RecommendationSuggestions

### REVIEWED BY

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alicia Finney, Clerk of Council

Date:

## Recommendation Suggestions

The following two recommendations have already been adopted by vote of the committee:

- **We recommend that the School Board adopt the plan coming to it from the Facilities and Finance Committee.**
- **We recommend that no new school buildings be constructed during the current CIP cycle (FY2026-2030).**

Below are the recommendations suggested by committee members for consideration, organized by topic and numbered for reference.

### **A. Suggestions Regarding CIP Planning**

1. The city should include inflationary increases to planned CIP expenditures which have not been completed.
2. The city should make the entire planned CIP amount (\$60M or \$68M) available in FY2026.
3. The order of planned CIP allocations should be reversed: 30M, 20M, 10M.
4. The CIP expenditures of \$64.86M should be focused on student/staff safety first (e.g. structural repairs), then prevention of secondary damage/hazards (e.g., roof repairs to stop leaks, interior damage, and mold).
5. Repairs to the track at E. C. Glass should be a high priority.
6. A deferred maintenance priority and implementation calendar should be developed that both the school board and council can work with in future discussions / deliberations.
7. Once adopted the city should not alter its school-related CIP plan through FY2030 without prior consultation with the School Board.

### **B. Suggestions Regarding Schools' Operating Budgets**

1. The city should support LCS's full request for a \$5.5M increase in the city's allocation to its operational funding.
2. The city should cease the use of categorical funding and return to approval of just the total school operating budget allocation.
3. The city should return to the practice of returning any fund balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year to the schools for the subsequent year.

### **C. Suggestions Regarding School Facilities Planning**

1. The School Board should make a decision to close a second elementary school in fiscal year 2026-27.
2. Each school should do an inventory of empty classrooms.
3. LCS should prioritize smaller classrooms.
4. All major residential and commercial developments should include a School Impact Analysis as part of the planning and approval process — similar to traffic or environmental impact studies.
  - a. Will this development lead to school overcrowding?
  - b. Are there schools nearby that can absorb growth?

- c. Will this require rezoning or new transportation routes?
- 5. A dedicated Infrastructure Repair & Modernization Fund should be established.
- 6. A School Infrastructure Reserve Fund should be established, separate from the general operating budget, designated exclusively for repair, maintenance, and modernization of school buildings.
- 7. A community task force should be created, similar to when Heritage High School was built to look at all of the needs and bring back recommendations.
- 8. A task force to investigate grants and other funding sources to rebuild or renovate Sandusky Elementary should be created.

**D. Suggestions Regarding City Financial Planning**

- 1. The city should have an audit committee to keep us financially and academically correct.
- 2. The city should establish a sustainable funding formula for the LCS operating budget.
- 3. A multi-year, inflation- and enrollment-adjusted funding formula should be developed that provides predictable, stable growth for Lynchburg City Schools (LCS), indexed to:
  - a. Consumer Price Index (CPI) or cost-of-living increases
  - b. Actual student enrollment growth
  - c. Special needs or Title I populations
- 4. The city should return to the previous tax rate of \$1.11 instead of the current \$0.89. Revenue from the additional \$0.22 should be dedicated for school construction and renovation.

**E. Suggestions Regarding City and Schools Collaboration**

- 1. The current ad hoc City/Schools Joint Committee should continue through the end of the year to work with the superintendent transition and explore additional efficiency needs.
- 2. Either this committee or a similar one should continue, meeting quarterly to discuss cost savings ideas involving both city and school resources, including possible mergers of closely related city and school department in FY2027.
- 3. The city and schools leadership (Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Manager, School Board Chair, Vice Chair and Superintendent) should hold monthly meetings for purposes of collaboration and communication.
- 4. Joint meetings of the City Council and School Board should be held twice a year to strengthen communication and allow the community to ask questions.
- 5. Appoint current LCS parents to the City/Schools Joint Committee. Prioritize appointing a parent currently engaged in LCS who will make efforts to solicit feedback from other LCS parents and caregivers to represent parents' wishes.
- 6. Appoint current LCS teacher to the City/Schools Joint Committee to ensure that teacher's voices are represented and issues are addressed that may result from rezoning, repurposing, and school closures.

**F. Suggestions Regarding Attendance Zone Decisions**

1. Redraw attendance zone boundaries to assign students to neighborhood schools, cutting busing costs and boosting involvement, aligning with VirginiaCode's efficiency directive.
2. The rezoning decision process should include the following:
  - a. Prioritize Community Engagement
  - b. Start early and communicate regularly
  - c. Conduct listening tours and gather feedback
  - d. Make information easily accessible
  - e. Address concerns proactively
  - f. Build trust
  - g. Utilize data-driven planning
  - h. Establish clear, transparent procedures
  - i. Consider factors like travel time and school capacity
  - j. Have the details worked out before announcing significant changes.
  - k. Provide parents and guardians at least one year before any school closing or structure.

#### **G. Other Suggestions**

1. City Council should prioritize appointing school board members that have children currently enrolled in LCS - at least one per district and cover elementary, middle, and high school.
2. The new superintendent should audit staff growth, end unfunded services, audit curriculum to meet new federal guidelines aimed at Ending Radical Indoctrination in K-12 Schooling, and implement efficiency/academic plans.