

# *School Board Report*

*Charlottesville City Schools* February, 2006

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## [Letter from the Chair](#)

*Dear Students, Staff, Parents, and Community Members,*

*On behalf of the School Board, I am pleased to introduce Rosa Atkins as the next Superintendent of the Charlottesville City Schools. Mrs. Atkins stood out among a talented applicant pool as someone with the experience, skills, and manner to lead our division. Working with staff and the community, we are confident that she will help the Charlottesville City Schools become the model division we all know it can be.*

*Julie Gronlund - Chair, Charlottesville City School Board*

## **UPDATE: Superintendent Search Process**

The Charlottesville City School Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs. Rosa Atkins of Midlothian, Virginia to serve as Superintendent of Charlottesville City Schools. Mrs. Atkins, currently the Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Caroline County, Virginia, has worked in many capacities in her career as an educator and educational leader, among them: ten years as a classroom teacher, three years as an assistant principal, six years as a principal, and two years each in the roles of Director of Leadership Development, Director of Instruction and Assistant Superintendent. Mrs. Atkins has spent her entire educational career serving public school students in Virginia, first in Henrico County, followed by the City of Richmond and currently in Caroline County. As the Assistant Superintendent of Caroline County Schools, Mrs. Atkins supervises numerous departments in this 4,000 student district including Instruction, Special Education and Human Resources.

A former Fellow in Educational Leadership and Ethics at Oxford University, Mrs. Atkins was named Henrico County Instructional Leader of the Year in 1999. Mrs. Atkins holds Virginia State certification to serve as a Superintendent, and she is due to receive her doctoral degree in Educational Leadership and Policy from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in May of this year.

Board Chair Julie Gronlund said, "Mrs. Atkins stood out among an outstanding pool of applicants as having the skills, the knowledge, and the manner to move this division forward. In talking with her colleagues in Caroline, Henrico, and Richmond, we were given a clear understanding of how she is so successful in bringing about results. She's thoughtful, deliberate, and determined. She has been described as thorough, engaging, focused, a quick learner, and a good listener."

Board member Lou Bograd summed up his feelings by saying that, "She was the first applicant that we interviewed and she set the bar high. By the end of the interviews, she was our top choice."

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### **Snow make-up days have been changed to February 21, March 23 and June 8**

#### **Strategic Plan Update**

Strategy Team Leaders met on February 1st for an update. Strategy teams are meeting and bringing in other stakeholders, as appropriate, to develop strategies that are as comprehensive as possible. For example, CHS teachers met with the Goal 1 Strategy Team and parents are included on the Goal 3 Strategy Team. Action plans are being developed for the objectives that accompany each goal in the plan. These action plans will be ready by the end of February at which time the draft plan will be presented to the School Board, MGT, the Strategic Plan Advisory Committee, principals and the community for review and final input.

Each **goal** will be accompanied by a brief, yet succinct **narrative overview** that will serve to inform and clarify any information that may need explanation. The other components of the action plan will include **objectives, accountability measures, strategies, position(s) responsible, target date, resources needed, and status** for current baseline information and future updates.

One major change is that the Standards of Quality require school divisions to have a six-year improvement plan. Most school divisions use their Strategic Plan as that continuous improvement plan. It is the recommendation of the Strategy Team Leaders that we extend our plan out for a six year period. We would ensure that the strategies cover that period of time.

The final plan should be completed and presented to the School Board for action in March.

The latest iteration of these materials, as well as prior public comment, can be viewed at the Charlottesville City School Web Site <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us> or call 245-2400.

### Upcoming School Board Meetings

[March 2nd](#) - School Board Study Session, 7 pm, CHS

[March 6th](#) - School Budget presented to City Council, 7 pm, City Council Chambers

[March 15th](#) - VSBA Central Virginia Regional Forum, Ivy Creek School

[March 16th](#) - School Board Business Session, 7 pm, CHS

[March 30th](#) - School Board Study Session, 7 pm, CHS moved from April 6th due to Spring Break

### Budget Update

Acting Superintendent Robert Thompson introduced his proposed 2006-2007 school budget at the January 19, 2006, School Board meeting. The \$61.5 million budget includes increased City revenues of \$2 million; increased State revenues of slightly over \$1 million; and no change in Federal funding. The proposed budget also includes increased expenses in salary and benefits of approximately \$3.5 million; a required local contribution to Virginia Retirement System of approximately \$1 million; increased transportation costs of \$400,000; and contractual obligations in facilities maintenance, vocational education, adult education and other cost centers anticipated to be \$412,581. The proposed budget includes an average salary increase for teachers of better than 7 percent and an average of over 6 percent for all other staff. More details can be found on the school system web site at <http://www.ccs.k12.va.us>. Additional information will be posted to the school system web site as appropriate. The School Board is scheduled to approve the 2006-2007 budget at its March 2, 2006, meeting.

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