

The Dare County Board of Education held a Board Retreat on Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Dare County Schools Administrative Office in Nags Head, NC. Members in attendance were Board Chairman Ron Payne, Vice-Chairman Barry Wickre, Mary Ellon Ballance, Susan Bothwell, Matt Brauer, David Twiddy, and Carl Woody.

Chairman Payne called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then turned the floor over to Dr. Mary Robinson, Chair of Dare Education Foundation, and Dr. Barbara Davidson, Executive Director of Dare Education Foundation, who provided an overview of the foundation and highlighted some of the foundation's most recent accomplishments. An update was also provided about teacher housing and then the floor was opened for questions from the Board.

Next, Chairman Payne led the Board in a discussion about the possibility of starting a JROTC Program in Dare County. Following the discussion, Board Members requested that Superintendent Basnight conduct a survey to see how many students are interested in participating before additional considerations are made by the Board.

Chairman Payne also led discussions about a Career and Technical Education Graduation Track, teacher appreciation, and a facilities naming request for the soccer field at Manteo High School. No formal action was required by the Board. However, the Board does plan to discuss the naming request further at the next regular board meeting and take any action necessary at that time.

For the next item on the agenda, Mr. Oliver Holley, Director of Human Resources, and District 1 Board Representative Carl Woody shared information about recruiting initiatives for Dare County Schools. Their presentation included an overview of benefits currently offered to DCS employees and some newly proposed incentives to help with recruitment and retention. The Board discussed the proposed incentives and requested that Mr. Holley obtain cost estimates for the incentives and present the information for discussion at the next agenda review meeting.

Next, Board Attorney Rachel Hitch reviewed legislative updates and current legal issues regarding K-12 education. Ms. Hitch also reviewed highlights of the Governor's Proposed Budget for 2023-2024 and then answered questions from the Board.

Following Attorney Hitch's presentation, the Board took a recess for lunch from 12:27 p.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Once the Board reconvened, additional discussions were held in regards to recruitment and retention. However, no action was required by the Board.

Next, Chairman Payne turned the meeting over to District 4 Representative Mary Ellon Ballance who led a brief discussion about board teams and county representation.

Superintendent Basnight then provided the Board with an update on home school athletic data. He also reviewed information about the development of a District Strategic Plan and answered questions from the Board.

Next, Mr. Basnight gave a brief update on the status of the DCS budget for School Year 2023-2024 and noted that a draft budget will be presented to the Board at the next meeting.

Mr. Ian Adams, Director of Facilities, provided an update on the Capital Improvement Plan and reviewed changes for next year. Mr. Adams also reviewed a list of upcoming projects scheduled and then opened the floor for questions from the Board.

Dr. Shannon Castillo, District Safety Coordinator and Director of Career and Technical Education, provided a brief update on school safety and answered questions from the Board.

Mrs. Denise Fallon, Director of Secondary Education, presented the Board with detailed information about Early College and answered questions from the Board. No action was required.

Next, the Board discussed concerns expressed by District 2 Representative Susan Bothwell in regards to the mental health crisis among teen girls and what the school district is doing to help students in Dare County.

Before adjourning, Chairman Payne opened the floor for comments and questions from the Board. Mr. Woody commented on the need for more transparency on the DCS Website and offered some examples. No action was required by the Board, and with there being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:19 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mary Ellon Ballance, seconded by Matt Brauer, and approved 7 to 0 by the Board.

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Ron C. Payne, Board Chairman

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Steve Basnight, Secretary