

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting April 3, 2023

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on April 3, 2023, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Mrs. Gloria J. White, Chair, Randy M. Oxendine, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Mr. Edward B. Wilson, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness, and Mr. Omega T. Perry. Senior staff present were Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent, Dr. Gail Powers, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Aarika Sandlin, Director of Communication and Marketing, Mrs. Marsha Abbott, Chief Technology Officer, Dr. Jennifer Carraway, Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Executive Director of CFI and Professional Development, and Mr. Jerry Stainback, School Board Attorney. Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche was absent.

Mrs. White called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the March 13, 2023 minutes was motioned by Mrs. Hartness, and seconded by Mr. Oxendine with a unanimous (6-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mr. Oxendine, and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the agenda.

VII. B. Revised COVID Slide

VIII. A. Personnel Addendum

VIII. B. FORVIS Auditor Contract

VIII. E. School Calendars

X. B. Transfers Revised

Recognitions/Announcements

Student Spotlight

Mr. Kellen Holtzman, Editor of the Henderson Daily Dispatch, thanked the district for coordinating and telling the stories of all the spotlight recipients and congratulated the students and their families. Mr. Andrew Markoch and Aarika Sandlin presented the students with a certificate. Kamiya Hilliard, Johnathon Thompson, Destiny Timberlake, Yarely Mariano, Mariah Hawkins, Jayceon Wright, and Amiyah Durham were recognized by the Board of Education for being selected by their school.

Retirement

The Board of Education recognized and congratulated Dr. Gail Powers on her retirement. Dr. Powers joined Vance County Schools in 2019 as the CTE Director and in 2021 became Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction. She has 30 years of service in education. Dr. Bennett and Mrs. White shared their appreciation for Dr. Powers.

NCSPPRA Awards

North Carolina School Public Relations Association (NCSPPRA) is the leading organization for school communications/public relations professionals in North Carolina, serving approximately 60 school districts and 120 members. Additionally, we are proud to be an official state chapter of the NCSPPRA. NCSPPRA's purpose is simple, but extremely important, to support school Public Relations professionals in their work through professional development, networking, and other activities and to promote the necessity of school public relations programs. The district won five gold medals, five silver medals, and six bronze medals. Aarika Sandlin, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Brielle Barrow, and Kristin Jeffreys were honored for their work around the award-winning communication tools and projects.

Governor’s School

Thuy Nguyen has been selected to attend NC Governor’s School 2023. She is a VCHS student in the 11th grade. The North Carolina Governor's School is a four-week summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students, integrating academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses on each of the two campuses. Learning focuses on the exploration of the most recent ideas and concepts in each discipline, and it does not involve credit, tests, or grades. Students are selected to attend through a competitive process after being nominated by their public school unit or non-public school. The 2023 Summer Session Dates are Sunday, June 18, 2023 - Saturday, July 15, 2023. The 2023 Host Campuses are the Governor's School East Campus at Meredith College in Raleigh, NC, and the Governor's School West Campus at Winston-Salem State University in Winston-Salem, NC.

Public Comments – None

Superintendent’s Report

Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report is for information only.

COVID Update

The district will continue with updating the dashboard on the website and facility cleaning protocols. For March, the district's highest was four cases.

SPARK NC

The district is participating in the SparkNC initiative as a member of The Innovation Project (TIP) in 2023-2024. A SparkLab will be housed at the Center for Innovation in the old band room. The equipment and furnishings will be gifted to the district by SparkNC and a facilitator will be hired. Vance is one of five districts to host a lab and there are 18 districts in SparkNC.

Class Size Report

Dr. Bennett shared that the district has one school over a little but maintains state requirements. The average class size is 16 and the best possible learning size. Grades 4-5 have a cap of 24 and the State is looking to resolve the size with a teacher assistant.

Children’s Internet Protection Act (CIPA) Compliance

The district updated policy 3226/4205 Internet Safety and advertised on the website of the public notice. This policy addresses internet safety and acceptable technology usage.

Upon motion by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. Gooche, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the 2023-2024 Summer Program Plan.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel

Mrs. White shared information from the March 28, 2023 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
E. M. Rollins	Charles Brame	B/M	Custodian	3/13/2023
Transportation	Erica Delois Alston	B/F	Bus Driver	3/20/2023
Transportation	Jeffrey Anstead	AI/M	Mechanic III	3/15/2023
Clarke	Krystle Lindsey	B/F	Kindergarten Teacher	5/29/2023
Transportation	Angela Harris	B/F	Bus Driver	3/28/2023

II. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
Advance Academy	LaShonda Mellette	B/F	Assistant Principal	To Teach in Another N.C. School System	4/14/2023
VCHS	William Hargrove	B/M	Part-Time Custodian	Other Employment	3/20/2023
Zeb Vance	Danielle Hicks	B/F	Teacher Assistant	Other Employment Not in Education	3/31/2023
Zeb Vance	Samuel Jefferson	B/M	School Nutrition Cafeteria Assistant	Health or Disability	3/17/2023

III. RETIREMENT(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Tara Norwood	W/F	Teacher	Retirement

IV. TRANSFER/PROMOTION(S) – For Information Only

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION/ LOCATION		EFFECTIVE DATE
ASC	Marylaura McKoon	Director of Student Behavioral Health Team	Principal	E. O. Young	7/1/2023
ASC	Cyrus Waters	School Safety Coordinator	Principal	Advance Academy	7/1/2023
ASC	Sharon W. Pettiford	Lead Social Worker	Social Worker	Advance Academy	7/2/2023

V. TEMPORARY/SUBSTITUTE EMPLOYEE(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
VCMS	Beatrice Richardson	B/F	Long-Term Substitute	3/8/2023
Pinkston Street	Alexis Edmonds	B/F	Tutor	3/20/2023
STEM	Courtney Phillips	W/F	Tutor	3/23/2023
Transportation	Christopher Hardy	B/M	Bus Driver	3/29/2023
Transportation	Tonya Henderson	B/F	Bus Driver	3/28/2023
Transportation	Preston Hunter	B/M	Bus Driver	3/28/2023

VI. LEAVE – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Carver	Jodi Edwards	W/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	3/15/2023 - 5/10/2023
VCHS	Kimberly Fuller	B/F	FMLA	TA/Bus Driver	3/21/2023 - 5/3/2023
VCHS	Albert Ellis	W/M	FMLA	Teacher	1/17/2023 - 4/25/2023
Zeb Vance	Scarlett Ellis	W/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	1/31/2023 - 2/8/2023

VII. CONTRACTED SERVICE(S) - For Information Only

DEPARTMENT/LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Advance Academy, VCHS	Kaliyah Tunstall	B/F	Teacher: Project Arrow	3/21/2023
Zeb Vance	Ruth Daniel	B/F	Registered Nurse	3/13/2023
EC/All Schools	Traci Wilkerson	W/F	Orientation & Mobility Specialist	8/25/2022
Climb/E. M. Rollins	William Hawkins III	B/M	Social Worker	4/4/2023

VIII. OTHER – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Vance County High	Sheila Burwell	B/F	EC Teacher	Retracted Resignation

IX. INTERNSHIP(S) – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Vance County Middle	Tarresha Aikens	B/F	EC Occupational Therapist Intern	3/16/2023

Other items discussed were regarding the NC Ed Corps tutors, International staff, and monthly recognitions.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the following personnel summary and addendum.

Finance

Mr. Suther shared information from the March 22, 2023 meeting. The following contracts/services were recommended for approval.

- CFI Audio Lab – The district will purchase digital mixing consoles, microphones, microphone stands, a 5-piece drum set, keyboard, wind instruments, installation, and training services from Komplexe Koncepts Media Group and Sweetwater Music Instruments for \$32,636.09 of discretionary funds.
- Carolina Neighbors Home Care – Contract will ensure the continuity of Related Services and Instructional Support Staff for Children with Disabilities. Diagnostic and therapeutic services will be provided to students in the Occupational Therapy program. State and Federal funds will be used, but not to exceed \$95,000.00.
- Instructional Technology – Purchases below are to ensure continued instruction to students for the 2023-2024 school years. Funds will be used from Title I and ESSER.
 - ✓ New Panels for classrooms to allow for interactive lessons - \$250,000
 - ✓ Student Devices – 1,560 Chromebooks for Pre-K, K, 3, 6, and 9 graders - \$650,000
 - ✓ Device Cases – 5,300 Gumdrop cases to protect from drops/damages – \$284,000
 - ✓ Infrastructure Upgrades – 753 access points and 17 switches - \$566,000
- Outdoor Learning Environment (OLE) Panels – Camcor will provide the district with multi-touch mobile panels that can be rolled out to OLE when classes are meeting outside. The OLEs will have electrical outlets and wireless access. The district will purchase 13 panels and 11 mobile carts with \$53,800.61 of ESSER funds. The shelters will be on top of a concrete base, sidewalks will be installed for carts to be transported easily back and forth to classrooms, and handicap accessibility to the shelter. The shelters will be arriving on April 28 and will have Wi-Fi access and electric outlets. Elementary school shelters are smaller than middle and high school shelters.
- Research Triangle Institute (RTI) Contract with VCMS – Continuation contract to increase student achievement and support, increase professional capacity, build leadership capacity and strengthen school culture. \$141,000 of Federal funds will be used between April 2023 - June 30, 2024.
- Scholastic Education – Purchase ELA materials for grades 6-8 for the Summer Program and for each ELA teacher/classroom to have a “Bunk Set “of material. Federal funds of \$50,129.01 will be used.
- VCHS Bleachers – VCHS gym bleachers require replacing to bring them up to safety compliance. Restart funds will be used. Learning Environments, Inc. will remove the existing bleachers and install new bleachers this summer for \$189,000.
- Sign-On Bonuses
 - Certified Teacher Position and School-Based Certified Instructional Support Personnel - \$5,000 (50% at time of hire, 25% after 6 months, and 25% after 12 months)
 - Bus Drivers - \$2,500 (50% at time of hire, 25% after 6 months, and 25% after 12 months)
- Retention and Local Service Bonuses
 - September and January \$1,000 will be paid to all full-time staff working with VCS before June 30, 2023

- October \$2,000 (1-5 years of service) or \$3,000 (6+ years of service) will be paid to all full-time permanent staff working with VCS before June 30, 2023
- Referral Bonuses
 - Refer someone for a job with VCS and after they are employed for 90 days, the referee will receive \$500.

Staff with resignations on file, including retirement, are not eligible for the bonuses. These are one-time bonuses.

- FORVIS Audit Contract – This renewal contract proposed a fee increase of \$2,050 this fiscal year for a total of \$59,000 of federal funds.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness the Board unanimously (6-0) approved all the contracts, all the bonuses, and the large purchases.

The report of ESSER II – K-12 Emergency Relief Funds must be encumbered September 30, 2023, with a liquidation period cut-off of January 31, 2024.

PRC	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT BUDGET	YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES	PURCHASE ORDERS	REMAINING BALANCE	% SPENT
171	K-12 Emergency Relief Funds	7,375,185.11	5,835,954.59	503,921.75	1,035,308.77	85.96
173	Supplemental Contracted Instructional Support	33,602.00	0	0	33,602.00	0
174	SN COVID Support	1.00	0	0	1.00	0
176	Learning Loss Funding	144,965.00	0	0	144,965.00	0
177	Summer Career Accelerator Program	70,004.09	22,273.11	0	47,730.98	31.82
178	Competency-Based Assessment	1,963.34	0	0	1,963.34	0
		\$7,625,720.54	\$5,858,227.70	\$503,921.75	\$1,263,571.09	83.43%

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Hartness shared information from the March 28, 2023 meeting. Installation of the Center for Innovation outdoor sign has begun and minor cosmetic improvements are being made to the former band room in preparation for the Spark Lab. Outdoor learning environment shelters will ship on April 28, 2023, and HVAC work will take place during spring break. The 2023 summer facility rental offerings are Aycock, EM Rollins, and Zeb Vance. Over a thousand views have been made on the Govdeals website for the Eaton Johnson and Western Vance facilities. The facilities are also listed on vcs.k12.nc.us, govdeals.com, mylittlesalesman.com, gotoauction.com, and land.com. The department completed 2,200 work orders for March.

Policy - No Meeting

Curriculum

Mr. Wilson shared information from the March 28, 2023 meeting. Summer camp information was shared with the different programs offered at each school. Principals have a resource document to help determine how to support students beyond core instruction. Students will get individualized reports from their assessment and principals will use the resource document as an overview for their school. A spreadsheet will be created for students identified by NC Ed Corp and more so we can see where they are and what they need to work on. The technology department has hired one student intern and is accepting applications. The RAVE Panic app was shared and the district will have active shooter drills in April. There were 1,173 devices repaired. The 2023-2024 school calendars were recommended for approval with the revision of adding more teacher workdays.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the revisions to the 2023-2024 school calendars.

Community and Business Relations

Mrs. Sandlin shared information from the March 28, 2023 meeting. WRAL's Teacher of the Week is Mr. Frank Brown, a Public Safety teacher at VCHS. Mr. Isreal Terry is a senior at VCHS who was awarded the Tom Suiter Extra Effort Award on WRAL. WRAL will air in May. Congratulations to the Zeb Vance Eagles for winning the Podcast contest. Listed below are upcoming events and happenings.

April 19 – Partnership Recognition – CFI Atrium

April 22- Arts Alive – CFI and McGregor Hall

April 28 – Young Women’s Empowerment Symposium – CFI

May 4 – Student Spotlight Trip – Raleigh

May 9 – Leadership Vance Education Day – Visit schools

May 10 – Student Spotlight Recognition Dinner – Henderson Country Club

New Business – None

Field Trips - None

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented seven student requests to transfer into the district.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the seven transfer requests.

Being no further business, the Board adjourned the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, GLORIA J. WHITE

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT