

MINUTES
DAVIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2023

The Davie County Board of Education met at 6:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 7, 2023, in the Board Room at the DCS District Office Mebane Education Center, 1200 Salisbury Road, Mocksville, NC 27028.

Board Members Present:

Wendy Horne, Chair

Dub Potts Vice-Chair

Paul Drechsler

Cammie Webb

Con Shelton

Marie Helms

Joe Caudle

Staff Present:

Jeff Wallace, Superintendent

Jinda Haynes, Assistant Superintendent

Jill Wilson, Board Attorney

Clay Harris, Chief Operations Officer

David Blattner, Chief Technology Officer

Carol Stuart, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Absent:

Jennifer Lynde, Chief Academic Officer

Closed Session

Chair Wendy Horne called the meeting to order at 5:18 p.m. Dub Potts made the motion to adopt the agenda for the Tuesday, November 7, 2023, meeting. Paul Drechsler seconded the motion. The motion carried 7-0.

Chair Horne called for a motion to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes listed on the agenda, to review personnel and property matters protected by State Law, and to discuss student concerns made confidential by General Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Paul Drechsler made the motion, seconded by Cammie Webb; the motion carried 7-0. The Board went into closed session at 5:18 p.m.

Open Session

Chair Horne reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and offered the invocation. Mrs. Horne asked veteran Joe Caudle to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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Marie Helms made the motion, seconded by Joe Caudle to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, October 3, 2023, regular Board of Education meeting as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Con Shelton made the motion, seconded by Joe Caudle, to approve the minutes of the Special Called meeting that was held on Thursday, October 26, 2023, as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Board Report

Chair Horne mentioned that there is no school on Friday, November 10th to honor the Veteran's Holiday. November 22 is an annual leave day, and November 23 & 24, 2023, are holidays.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wallace welcomed the board, staff, guests, parents, and students. He asked for a moment of silence for Susan Athey, a staff member at Pinebrook Elementary, who passed away recently. Her husband, Randy, works for Davie County Schools.

Mr. Wallace shared some reminders. Davie County Schools' Mebane Education Center district office will have an Open House on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, from 4:00-6:00 p.m.

There will be a called BOE meeting Friday, December 1, 2023, to approve School Improvement Plans for Pinebrook Elementary School and South Davie Middle School. The board received a comprehensive summary of the plans from both schools last week.

Attendance was 94.90% for the first month; in 2019-20, the attendance was 96% for the first month. We have 6,005 students enrolled; last we had 5,989 enrolled. The projected number was 6,086.

We have the state budget and expect to have federal allotments any day. Clay Harris will present a budget resolution at the December meeting, which will reflect the draft budget the BOE approved in May. Mr. Harris thanked the board for agreeing to meet and spend time reviewing the final budget; there will be a budget work session meeting on Tuesday, November 21, 2023.

In the budget bill, the State Board of Education was charged to create a three-year graduation track for high school students by November 1, 2023. The track consists of twenty-two credits and must have parental consent. Superintendents shared concerns and met with the sponsoring legislator. They requested a technical correction that would permit Public School Units to require more credits to graduate. Currently, DCS has an alternative pathway to graduation requiring twenty-two credits and parent consent, typically reserved for unique situations. We are awaiting further guidance from DPI and the SBOE, but at this time, we are planning to move forward with the directive. Mr. Wallace does not anticipate this plan will have a huge impact in Davie County Schools.

PowerSchool is the statewide student information system that has been used for ten years. Public School Units across North Carolina will officially transition to Infinite Campus, a new student management system, in 2025. Erin Foil, the director of accountability, was part of the evaluation committee. She hopes DCS can be part of a pilot starting this summer, with the official rollout of Infinite Campus in July 2025.

Superintendent Wallace was pleased to announce again that this year all classified staff will receive a retention bonus; employees working twenty hours or less will receive \$500, and employees working

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greater than twenty hours will receive \$1,000. The bonus will be paid out in two equal payments in November and May.

November brings two very special holidays – Veteran’s Day and Thanksgiving. Our veterans and their families are important to us, and on behalf of everyone with DCS, Mr. Wallace thanked the veterans and their families. Our schools will be celebrating this important day this week, recognizing veterans from across the community and demonstrating appreciation and respect to students and the community.

Mr. Wallace enjoys Thanksgiving, because it is a time to pause and give thanks for our many blessings. He thanked the board for their service to the students and families of Davie County. Mr. Wallace also thanked the staff and encouraged them to stay the course – our students need them.

Mr. Wallace concluded by saying he was thankful to serve as superintendent.

Recognitions

Ari Johnson, student at Mocksville Elementary School, received the N.C. Elementary Honors Chorus State Award; Jason Carter talked about the hard work Ari had done. Principal Casey Morrison proudly announced that William Ellis Middle School has had many recent successes that would be recognized. William Ellis Middle School’s Girl’s Tennis Team were conference champions; Coach Amanda Cranfill recognized them and their hard work. Mr. Cranfill recognized Luke Cranfill and Chris Samet for having an undefeated singles and doubles tennis season with William Ellis Middle School’s Boy’s Tennis. Coach Bost discussed William Ellis’ undefeated Cross Country team, who were conference champions. Mr. Wallace recognized Jeremy Miller for receiving the State Inspection Score Award; while the average score is a thirty-three, Mr. Miller’s team received a thirteen last year and a ten this year.

Consent Agenda

Madam Chair asked for a motion to approve the Consent items. Jinda Haynes asked to remind the board of the addendum to the agenda. Chair Horne asked for a motion with the addendum included for the Consent Agenda to be approved.

Joe Caudle made the motion, seconded by Paul Drechsler, to approve the consent items as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

Business Items

none

Committee/Staff Reports

Michael Pruitt, Davie County High School principal, presented information about Freshman Academy – a plan to be implemented to approach eighth graders with the possibilities of future classes and career pathways and then help these students connect during their freshman year. DCHS will expose eighth graders to STEAM – Strategies that Engage All Minds. The high school will provide the structure to empower students to engage and connect with the community and others.

Karla Freeman spoke on the necessity of students being better equipped for career paths, especially with the technology available now. After much research from DPI, results are showing how to solve

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these critical problems by teaching students how to reflect and create goals and have purpose; students are more likely to become stronger leaders when given choices and be excited about their path. The STEAM structure will expand to more students and give teachers more support. DCHS will offer the DAVIE 101 course to help students figure out who they are and how they learn. In their sophomore and junior years, students can experience various courses. During their senior year, students get to showcase their work. The Distinction Program Options allows them to explore increased options (honors or not) without extra work; they will be incorporating their studies with projects to qualify for college or job applications. Dub Potts asked that since we have to implement the twenty-two credits to graduate, and the high school has been planning this strategy for two years, how do they plan to on-board students. Mr. Pruitt responded that on-ramps for late arrivers were already planned for, so this will work within the twenty-two credit hours and can still graduate with distinction. Marie Helms asked if they can join various distinctions each year? Mr. Pruitt said that a student can take four electives in several areas but then chooses and tailors their classes. Mrs. Helms asked if and how the staff will help students. Mr. Pruitt said that teachers will help students during their first year by explaining how high school works, provide accessibility with programs, and connect the students. Every freshman ends their first year with knowledge of all the programs. There will not be an application process; everyone will start on the STEAM system. Mrs. Helms asked how are the students acknowledged of their distinction. Mr. Pruitt explained that the type of cords and seals for diploma at graduation plus the experiences serving in schools and the community display and acknowledge their work. This year, students will follow through the current program. Paul Drechsler asked how colleges accept and honor the program. Mr. Pruitt answered that they, like most high schools, have distinctions. Students can showcase to the admission offices what they did, how they grew and expanded, etc.; this is a benefit in leadership that is instilled that can be added onto their resumes for college applications. Paul Drechsler applauded Mr. Pruitt and his staff for going above and beyond to engage students. Mr. Pruitt thanked him and reiterated that connections are needed from the beginning, to recognize students for what they are already doing and who they are. Marie Helms asked how students will be advised in taking honors, AP, etc. Cheryl Reeves, assistant principal, explained they are offering more AP classes to freshmen and sophomores. The high school is working on increasing the types of AP classes that are available. School counselors will guide the students. She clarified the misconception that STEAM is not an honors program; she said a student can be distinguished without being an honors student. Wendy Horne thanked them for this insight and information.

Anthony Davis presented the Extra Curricular Policy 3620 Changes. Changes to the policy started in 2019, but COVID stopped things for a while. Parameters are not changing; however, they wanted to be clear on the dual enrollment piece to help give a clear picture. Students must dually enroll within the first 10 days of a semester to participate in athletics. Parents must prepare and notify the school before practice begins in the sport. Mr. Wallace reminded the board that they will vote on this policy change in December. Dub Potts asked about middle school athletics. Anthony Davis said this policy only addresses students in high school. Mr. Potts asked if other districts allow this for middle school participation. Anthony said most of districts just do high school to keep things clean because of eligibility and enrollment logistics.

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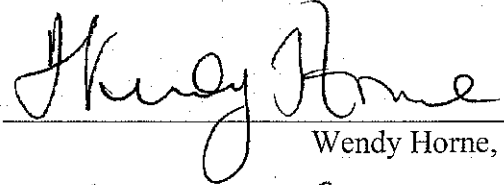
Jeremy Miller presented the Student Transportation Ridership Report. We are operating sixty-four yellow buses a day. DCS is using one less bus from last year. There are 3,385 students are assigned to routes; 47 students use Carolina Custom Transport; there are 40 parent transportation contracts. The report was conducted the week of September 25-29, 2023, of which there were 2,432 bus riders and showed a difference of 953 students. The Transportation Department is trying to close the gap between students who are assigned and students who ride routinely.

Public Address to the Board

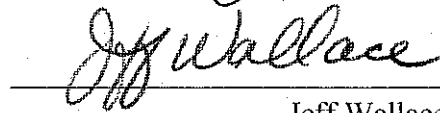
None

Adjourn

Cammie Webb made the motion to adjourn with a second from Joe Caudle. The motion was approved with a 7-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 7:16 p.m.



Wendy Horne, Chair



Jeff Wallace, Secretary

WH:JW:cs

Approved: ___