MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 20, 2023

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Board Chair
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
Blake Boykin
Rhyan Breen
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

The meeting was livestreamed through the Wilson County Schools (WCS) YouTube Channel. The public could also view the meeting through links on the WCS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and the WCS website.

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Robin May, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto and *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley. There were 17 citizens in attendance. Board Member Henry Mercer was not in attendance due to being under the weather.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the agenda for the November 20, 2023, meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

II. At Dr. Fitch's request, Mr. Boykin led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Regular Board meeting and November 6, 2023, Special Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the minutes of the October 16, 2023, Regular Board meeting and November 6, 2023, Special Board meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Under Good News Presentations, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Mr. Breen, recognized the following:

- Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Award Winner - The Wilson Education Partnership's Communicating with Confidence program was recognized for receiving the Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Award at the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) awards

ceremony on November 14. The Wilson County Board of Education nominated the initiative because of how beneficial it has been for students. Communicating with Confidence was created by the Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) in collaboration with WCS. The program targets students in English III, which is a class typically taken by juniors. Through the program, English III teachers embed relevant opportunities for students to practice constructing resumes, writing professional emails and utilizing public speaking skills. The activities focus on setting goals, learning about college/career opportunities and enhancing soft skills - all of which builds the confidence and interpersonal skills of students. The students are also paired with a business leader for a mock job interview, and the business leader serves as a vital resource and mentor. Communicating with Confidence is unique because the skills are not taught in isolation - they are intertwined with the curriculum. What began with one teacher, 42 students and 10 business leaders has grown to five teachers, 300 students and 125 leaders. The goal is to implement the program into every English III class in the future. WCS congratulates WEP on this award and applauds every student, teacher, WEP Board member and business leader involved in the program - especially WEP Executive Director Robin Williams.

- Member of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission - Wilson County Board of Education Member Debora Powell was recognized for her appointment to serve on the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission. The commission consists of nominees representing various education stakeholder groups in North Carolina, which includes the state's Teacher, Principal and Superintendent of the Year; the director of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program; school district employees; college and university deans; and business partners. The purpose of the commission is to recruit, prepare and support students at colleges and universities in North Carolina so that they become highly effective STEM or special education teachers in our public schools. Ms. Powell has shared that she is humbled, honored and excited to be a part of a supportive environment that elevates, encourages and places teachers in highly needed areas in our schools. Dr. Mills thanked Ms. Powell for her willingness to serve.
- Member of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Advisory Board - Wilson Academy of Applied Technology Science Teacher AJ Gunter was recognized for his invitation to serve on the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Advisory Board. The board is comprised of nominees representing various education stakeholder groups in North Carolina, which includes the state's Teacher and Principal of the Year; superintendents; North Carolina Teaching Fellows alumni; school district employees; college and university staff; and nonprofit education partners. The purpose of the advisory board is to advocate for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program across the state, explore opportunities for partnerships, provide ideas for program enrichment and support initiatives for teachers. Dr. Mills shared that Mr. Gunter is a second-year teacher and thanked him for his willingness to serve.
- Special Presentation - Dr. Mills shared that the final recognition was unique. Usually, the district presents awards to staff, students and community members during the Good News Awards portion of the meeting, but tonight, Representative Ken Fontenot was in attendance for a special presentation to

WCS on behalf of the state. Representative Fontenot came forward and presented $100,000 in state funds to support the Gentlemen's Agreement Program. He is a huge proponent of the initiative and wanted to help support its efforts. The Gentlemen's Agreement is an achievement program created by WCS to enhance the leadership potential of male students. The program is offered at several schools across the district. The objective of the program is to adequately equip young men with the tools needed to secure viable employment and create entrepreneurial opportunities for themselves, while at the same time ensuring they are driven by high moral and ethical values. In short, the program aims to aid young men in becoming gentlemen. WCS is grateful for this generous funding that will benefit our students.

V. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch:

- Congratulated everyone who was recognized during the Good News Presentations and thanked Representative Fontenot for his efforts. She also thanked the General Assembly for their confidence in the Gentlemen's Agreement program and for allocating funds to WCS.
- Shared that during the NCSBA Annual Conference, a total of 26 elementary students submitted artwork for the Elementary Poster Contest and received Honorable Mention. Dr. Fitch shared the Board's appreciation for the students' artwork.
- Thanked WEP Executive Director Robin Williams for the partnership shared with WCS. Dr. Fitch stated that the Board was appreciative that the efforts of the Communicating with Confidence Program was well received and was the winner of the Innovation and Excellence in Public Education Award. She thanked Ms. Williams and the WEP Board of Directors for their work on behalf of WCS and the students.
- Thanked Public Relations Director Amber Lynch for the outstanding job that she does with Good News, Shout Outs and various messages about the positive things happening in our system and the community events that impact us. For the past four years, Ms. Lynch has been tasked with writing narratives for submission of the NCSBA awards. As a result, the district has won several awards over the years that included Christy Proctor for Champion of Education; the Wilson County Board of Commissioners for County Commissioners of the Year; the Gentlemen's Agreement for Innovation and Excellence in Public Education; Wilson Area School Health (WASH) Clinics for Innovation and Excellence in Public Education; Henry Mercer for Raleigh Dingman; Dr. Christine Fitch for Raleigh Dingman; and Communicating with Confidence for the Innovation and Excellence in Public Education. Dr. Fitch thanked Ms. Lynch for the efforts in making WCS shine and for helping us to be recognized among our peers throughout the state.
- Wished everyone a safe, healthy and Happy Thanksgiving.

VI. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills:

- Recognized WEP for its state award and for providing mini-grants to WCS staff members. WEP recently awarded $15,000 in mini-grants to 24 staff members at 13 schools. The funding goes a long way in supporting classroom projects in our schools. A Prize Patrol consisting of WEP Executive Director Robin Williams,

WEP Board members and WCS leaders surprised the winners in their classrooms. There were a total of 50 submissions this year that were judged by a committee. The mini-grants are made possible by contributions to WEP's adult spelling bee & trivia event, other fundraisers and the annual appeal. Special thanks to Southern Bank and the family of Gloria Burks for funding additional grants. Dr. Mills stated that WCS truly appreciates Ms. Williams, the WEP Board and everyone who contributes to WEP. Their support of our teachers is paramount.

- Shared that Lucama Elementary was officially recognized with its National Blue Ribbon Award by the US Department of Education on November 17. Students and staff wore blue, and Principal Sonya Grice, former Lucama Principal April Shackleford (who is the current Barnes Elementary Principal) and Assistant Superintendent Robin May traveled to Washington, DC to accept the award. A National Blue Ribbon Award is the highest honor presented to schools by the US Department of Education. Lucama Elementary was one of only 353 schools in the nation and eight schools in North Carolina to receive an award this year. Dr. Mills congratulated the students, staff and families on this prestigious and rare recognition.
- Wished everyone a safe and Happy Thanksgiving on behalf of the Administration, and reminded everyone that schools are closed on Wednesday, November 22.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:57 p.m., four people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 7:09 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Member Blake Boykin shared that the committee met today to discuss information and action items. Mr. Boykin presented information during the absence of Committee Chair Henry Mercer.

Information Item

A. Under 2022-2023 Audit Report, the accounting firm of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC conducted the 2022-2023 audit of WCS. The individual school and school system books were determined to be in good order. General Statute 115C-447 requires an outside audit of school system accounts and accounts of individual schools at the end of each fiscal year.

B. Under Wilson County Schools Disposal of Surplus Property, in accordance with WCS Board Policy 6560, *Disposal of Surplus Property*, the Administration presented the WCS disposal of surplus property report. An auction was held on October 7, 2023, for Winstead Elementary and Frederick Douglass Elementary. Proceeds from the auction totaled $17,510.73. This amount included $14,277.25 for School Nutrition and $3,233.48 for Local (Surplus Furniture).

Action Item

A. Under Contract Requiring Board Approval – Administrative Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that any contract for materials,

equipment, or service involving expenditures in excess of $90,000 must be reviewed by the Board attorney and approved in advance by the Board unless provided otherwise in Board Policy. The following contract exceeds $90,000 and requires Board approval, pending attorney review: Berry Building Group in the amount of $2,045,700 for the Hunt High Track Construction. This includes a reduced cost of $392,484 from the contract for removal of lighting from Musco. The lighting will be completed through Sourcewell, a government agency, for a savings in the project in that area of $27,516. Mr. Boykin made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the contract of $2,045,700 to the Berry Building Group for the Hunt High Track Construction. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services – Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss information and action items.

Information Items

A. Under Contract Requiring Board Notification – Instructional Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that the Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts involving amounts up to $90,000 and at least monthly, the Superintendent shall report to the Board all contracts by the Superintendent. The following contract, which is less than $90,000, has been approved by the Superintendent: 95 Percent Group in the amount of $65,000 for coaching, follow-up support for elementary schools (onsite) and travel expenses.

B. Under Restart Annual Report, Barnes Elementary and Hearne Elementary were approved as Restart Schools in January 2020. All Restart Schools must submit an annual report to the NC Department of Public Instruction by December 1. For the 2022-2023 school year, Barnes Elementary and Hearne Elementary utilized and will report associated measures for the following: Budget Flexibility, Employment Flexibility, Curriculum Flexibility, Professional Development Flexibility, Lesson Plan Format Flexibility and Walkthrough Instrument Flexibility. Both schools met their Flexibility Outcome Goals for 2022-2023.

C. Under Revised Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

D. Under Revised Administrative Regulation 3460-R, *Graduation Requirements*, this administrative regulation is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Ms. Barnes, the next senior member on the Board in Mr. Mercer's absence, to carry through the motions.

Action Items

A. Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval – Instructional Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that any contract for materials, equipment, or service involving expenditures in excess of $90,000 must be

reviewed by the Board attorney and approved in advance by the Board unless provided otherwise in Board Policy. The following contracts exceed $90,000 and require Board approval:

- Corner Flooring Group in the amount of $319,450 for media center carpet squares (ESSER funding)
- Follette Content Solutions, LLC, in an amount not to exceed $611,339.87 for library services (ESSER funding). The materials will be approved by the Media and Technology Advisory Committee (MTAC) at each school. The library services will consist of print and ebook format books.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the Board approve the contract with Corner Flooring Group for media center carpet squares, in the amount of $319,450 and also the contract with Follette Content Solutions, LLC, for virtual library services, that will not exceed $611,339.87. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

B. Under Approval of School Improvement Plans, Local Boards of Education must either accept or reject the School Improvement Plan for each school within jurisdiction in accordance to North Carolina General Statute 115C-105.27(d). The Administration is requesting Board approval of the School Improvement Plans for each school. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the School Improvement Plans for the 2023-2024 school year. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Ms. Barnes turned the meeting over to Dr. Fitch.

IX. At 7:26 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Wilson County Board of Education go into closed session to consider confidential personnel matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and (6) and 115C-319 through 321; to consider confidential student matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and N.C.G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3); and to discuss the handling of *TH v. Wilson County Board of Education, 23 EDC 04099*. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

At 8:28 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin and Mr. Breen, passed unanimously, 6-0.

X. Reporting from Closed Session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Boyette, to approve the Closed Session minutes of the October 16, 2023, meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests, but do not release for public inspection because of confidential student information. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. The list of personnel recommendations is attached.

XI. There being no further business at 8:30 p.m., Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Christine L. Fitch

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS
November 20, 2023

E = Emergency License = One-year non-renewable license. Not an option for those who have already completed a college education program. Has 18 hours of related coursework. Experience and graduate pay.

I = Interim = Temporary or provisional (certified) hire.

P = Permit to Teach = Replaces emergency license. One-year non-renewable license. Has less than 18 hours of related coursework. Paid on A-00 scale.

R = Residency License = Replaces lateral entry. One year with option to renew twice. Three-year max. Enrolled in a college education program. Has 24 semester hours of related coursework. Experience and graduate pay.

V = Volunteer = Offers to undertake a position without monetary compensation.

Administrative

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment
Farmer, Willie J. Jr.	Darden MS	Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal, Fulton County Schools, GA
McMillan, Tineta	Human Resource Services	Director of Classified Personnel	Project AWARE Coach and Data Evaluator, Nash County Schools
Woodard, Daryl	Facility Services	Director of Facility Services	Plumber II, Wilson County Schools

Administrative

For Information - Transfers

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment
Luper, Dr. Denise	Speight MS	Wilson County Schools Interim Assistant Principal	Wilson County Schools Interim Assistant Principal

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Autrey, Heath (I)	Hunt HS	Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC) Teacher
Belty, Paige	Rock Ridge ES	2nd Grade Teacher
Boyd, Anastasia (P)	Vick ES	2nd Grade Teacher
Bray, Tamica	Barnes ES	School Counselor
Crusenberry, Leanne	Springfield MS	Exceptional Children's (EC) Resource Teacher
Garretson, Cati (E)	Speight MS	6th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Teacher
Holden, Tammy	Forest Hills MS	EC Teacher
Thornton, Sherry	Beddingfield HS	Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Interventionist
Turner, Celestine	Wells ES	3rd Grade Teacher
Wilkins, Far'd	Fike HS	School Counselor

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Antrilli, Laura	School Nutrition	School Nutrition Manager
Barnes, Isaac	Hunt HS	In School Suspension (ISS) Coordinator
Batts, Xavier	Hunt HS	Custodian
Blalock, Deborah	Jones ES	EC Pre-K Occupational Therapist
Byrd, Belinda	Financial Services	Accounts Payable Clerk
Davis, Anthony	New Hope ES	Custodian
Green, Yolanda	Transportation Services	Bus Driver
Hooker, DeNisa	Beddingfield HS	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Love, Jennifer	Darden MS	Interventionist
Thurman, Aurorua	Rock Ridge ES	After School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) Student Assistant
Wellington, Tony	Forest Hills MS	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Winstead, Molly	Lucama ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Jackson, Carl	Non-Certified
McMillion, Aarin	Non-Certified
Person, Dorothy	Non-Certified
Poston, Jamiyah	Non-Certified
Rochau, Debbie	Non-Certified
Sutton, N'Ryah	Non-Certified
Tino, Alexandra	Non-Certified
Todd, Maya	Certified
Wilson Morris, Carrie	Non-Certified

Substitutes to be Reapproved

Name	Certified or Non Certified
Barnes, Jazmaine	Non-Certified

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Harrison, Jacob	Beddingfield HS	Junior Varsity (JV) Baseball
Pearson, Christopher	Beddingfield HS	Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball
Canady, Rosalyn	Darden MS	Head Girls Basketball
Horne, Dajah (V)	Darden MS	Assistant Girls Basketball
Spells, Serenity (V)	Darden MS	Cheerleading (Fall & Winter)
Bowen, Leighann	Elm City MS	Cheerleading Coach (Winter)
Jones, Alexia (V)	Elm City MS	Assistant Girls Basketball
Hemphill, Hunter	Fike HS	Head Wrestling

Coaches (Continued)

Recommendation	Site	Position
Taylor, Marques	Fike HS	Assistant Boys Varsity Basketball
Bonner, Tony (V)	Forest Hills MS	Assistant Boys Basketball
Singleton, Steve (V)	Forest Hills MS	Assistant Girls Basketball
Brown, Aubrey (V)	Hunt HS	Assistant JV Baseball
Dunkle, Allison	Hunt HS	Assistant Boys & Girls Swimming
Edwards, William (V)	Hunt HS	Assistant Track & Field
Harris, Jules (V)	Hunt HS	Assistant Wrestling
Jackson, Juan	Hunt HS	Assistant Weightlifting (Spring)
Kent, Mark	Hunt HS	Assistant Varsity Girls Basketball, Head JV Boys Basketball
Taylor, Vercilya	Springfield MS	Softball

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Administrative

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Narron, Jamie	School Nutrition	Executive Director for School Nutrition	Resignation	01/01/2024
Johnson, Dr. Brian	Instructional Services	Executive Director for Secondary Education	Resignation	01/05/2024

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Atkins, Chanda	Vinson-Bynum ES	School Counselor	Resignation	11/6/2023
Barnes, Alyssa	Lucama ES	Kindergarten Teacher	Resignation	11/7/2023
Brown, Kion'Shay	Lucama ES	School Counselor	Resignation	12/7/2023
Bunch, Tinika	Wilson Academy of Virtual Education (WAVE)	Teacher - Elementary	Resignation	11/18/2023
Dehoff, Danielle	Hunt HS	English Teacher	Resignation	12/6/2023
Hardy, Wayne	Hunt HS	Physical Education (PE) Teacher	Retirement	12/31/2023
Hopkins, Shree	Frederick Douglass ES	1st Grade Teacher	Resignation	10/10/2023
Klutey, Deana	Beddingfield HS	EC Teacher	Resignation	11/12/2023
Oakes, Mary Kathryn	Forest Hills MS	6th Grade Science Teacher	Retirement	11/16/2023
Ryan, Audrey	Wells ES	2nd Grade Teacher	Resignation	11/28/2023
Shelby, Sherry	Student Services	School Nurse	Resignation	12/8/2023
Smith, Caroline	Hunt HS	PE Teacher	Resignation	11/17/2023

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Bailey, Brittany	Lee Woodard ES	ASCEP Assistant	Resignation	10/25/2023
Barrett, Collin	Barnes ES	Custodian	Retirement	12/31/2023
Batts, Xavier	Hunt HS	Custodian	Resignation	10/30/2023

Classified (Continued)

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Castromedina, Jacqueline	Transportation Services	Office Support	Resignation	11/10/2023
Cox, Evelyn	Barnes ES	School Nutrition Manager	Resignation	11/2/2023
Davis, William Jr.	Facility Services	Groundskeeper I	Retirement	12/31/2023
Farmer, Sue	Facility Services	Secretary	Retirement	12/31/2023
Mooring, Daron	Lee Woodard ES	Interventionist/ASCEP Site Director	Resignation	10/25/2023
O'Neal, Gena	Beddingfield HS	Clerical Assistant	Resignation	10/18/2023
Rubenstein, Jamie	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Resignation	10/13/2023
Shackleford, Keyley	Daniels Learning Center	Elementary Instructional Facilitator	Resignation	10/20/2023
Smith, Benjamin	Speight MS	Custodian	Resignation	10/20/2023
Sutton, Debbie	New Hope ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Retirement	12/31/2023

DISMISSALS

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Tollefsen, Hannah	Rock Ridge ES	2nd Grade Teacher	Dismissal	11/15/2023