MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, February 19, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

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

The meeting was televised on Spectrum and Greenlight Channel 22; and livestreamed through the Wilson County Schools (WCS) YouTube Channel. The public could also view the meeting by downloading the WCSTV22 app and 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 Drew Wilson. There were 38 citizens in attendance.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch amended the agenda under Administrative Services Committee Report by moving Wilson County Schools Disposal of Surplus Property Reports from an information to an action item. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the Board approve the agenda for February 19, 2024, with the stated change as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the minutes of the January 22, 2024, Regular Board meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. Under Good News Presentation, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Ms. Barnes, recognized the following:
- National Board Certification Recipient and Renewals - Six educators were recognized for either earning or renewing their National Board Certification,

which is an advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. WCS currently has 54 educators with the certification, and North Carolina leads the nation with 24,243 educators who are National Board Certified (nearly 24% of the state's teachers). The educators earning or renewing the certification are:

- Emily House - Social Studies Teacher at Beddingfield High, earned initial National Board Certification for Social Studies - History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
- Suellen Baxter - English Teacher at Hunt High, maintained her existing certification for English Language Arts/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
- Currie Joyner - Career and Technical Education Teacher at Elm City Middle, maintained his existing certification for Career and Technical Education/Early Adolescence through Young Adulthood
- Angela London - English Teacher at Fike High, maintained her existing certification for English Language Arts/Early Adolescence
- Miranda Walls - Multi-Classroom Leader at Barnes Elementary, maintained her existing certification for Generalist/Early Childhood
- Donna Winborne - Counselor at Hunt High, maintained her existing certification for School Counseling/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

Dr. Mills shared that earning and maintaining this certification is a rigorous process and shows their commitment to education and lifelong learning. He also thanked Beginning Teacher Coordinator Amy Evans for guiding the educators through the process.

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

- Thanked Board members for committing to participate in the Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) Adult Trivia & Spelling Bee scheduled for March 14 at 6:30 p.m. at Hunt High.
- Invited Representative Ken Fontenot to share some information with the Board. Representative Fontenot presented a large-sized check in the amount of $400,000 to commemorate the district's grant award from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Center for Safer Schools. The funding will be used for safety considerations within the school system.

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

- Shared that since the last Board meeting, the district has been featured several times by television news media. On January 30, the Wilson Area School-Based Health (WASH) Centers were featured on CBS17. A reporter visited the Fike High WASH Center to highlight the services offered and the partnerships that make the clinics possible. On January 25, WRAL Reporter Brian Shrader was here for a Teacher of the Week segment. He surprised Wilson Early College Academy English Teacher Olympia Jenkins. Ms. Jenkins was nominated by Gideon, one of her ninth-graders from last semester. Ms. Jenkins did an amazing job being interviewed about her teaching career. The segment is scheduled to air February 21 at 8 a.m. on FOX50 and again at noon on WRAL. It will also be posted online.

- Announced that the application period is open to register for the Title I and NC Pre-Kindergarten Programs for the 2024-2025 school year. More information can be found on the district website and social media sites.
- Shared that Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year is scheduled for March 4 from 2-6 p.m. at our elementary schools. More information can be found on the district website and social media sites.
- Announced that the district is planning an Educator Job Fair. Candidates who are interested in serving in instructional roles for WCS should attend the job fair on March 23 between 9 a.m.-noon at Darden Middle. Representatives from every school will be in attendance and preliminary interviews will be held onsite. Candidates should bring copies of their most recent transcript. Dr. Mills added that we are looking forward to a great event and are ready to welcome new educators to our district.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:47 p.m., four people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:56 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Chair Henry Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss action items.

Information Items

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, which is less than $90,000, has been approved by the Superintendent: Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC, for conducting the audit and rendering reports in accordance with the generally accepted auditing standards, in an amount not to exceed $49,000.

B. Naming of Fike High School Athletic Complex, the Superintendent has received a request to name the Fike High School Athletic Complex in honor of Jimmy Tillman. Mr. Tillman was devoted to WCS and throughout the years, he served as a respected teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal, athletic director and overall educational consultant. He knew each of his students by their names. Mr. Tillman served WCS for 34 years and left a lasting legacy for all those who knew him. He began his career at Lucama High as the Health/PE teacher and football coach. In 1978, he accepted a position serving in the same capacity at Beddingfield High. He remained there until 1980 when he became the Head Football Coach and Athletic Director at SouthWest Edgecombe High. In 1990, he returned to WCS as the Assistant Principal at Fike High. Then in 1994 and until his retirement in 2005, he served as Principal at Lucama Elementary, Darden-Vick Middle and lastly, Fike High. In his retirement, he returned to WCS as an Educational Consultant for Principals and Assistant Principals. In 2008, Mr. Tillman moved into the role of District Athletic Director for all WCS and served in this role until his untimely passing. He was a member of the Hall of Fame at Fike and SouthWest Edgecombe High Schools, as well as the North

Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), and was listed on their all-time Top 100 list of athletic administrators. Mr. Tillman was named WCS Principal of the Year in 1999 and in 2005, he was named the NCSHAA Principal of the Year. In 2012, he was selected as the Athletic Director of the Year by the North Carolina Athletic Directors Association. Mr. Tillman was also the Chairman of the NCHSAA Nominating Committee three times and a member of its Realignment Committee for three terms.

Board Policy, 9300, *Naming Facilities*, states, "The naming of a new facility requires a majority vote of the Board of Education. The renaming of an existing facility requires a unanimous vote of the Board of Education. Proposals for naming facilities shall be submitted to the Board for two readings at different meetings prior to adoption." This is the first reading for this request. If approved by the Board at a second meeting, the Fike High School Athletic Complex would be named the Jimmy Tillman Athletic Complex.

Each Board member shared positive comments about Mr. Tillman and were all in support of naming the Fike High School Athletic Complex in his honor. The request will be presented for a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

Action Items

A. Under School-Aged Care Enrichment (SACEP) Tuition Rates, the Administration presented proposed tuition increases for SACEP for Board approval. The SACEP programs include the Before-School Care Program (BSCP), After-School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) and the Summer Program. The tuition increases are being proposed to cover increased costs for the programs. This program is self-funded. The Administration shared the following information for these programs:
   - After-School Program
     - The current weekly tuition is $35 (one child), $65 (two children) and $95 (three children).
     - The proposed weekly tuition is $45 (one child), $85 (two children) and $125 (three children).
     - Tuition has not increased since the 2015-2016 school year.
   - Summer Program
     - The summer program is open for all students enrolled in the After-School Care Program.
     - The summer program begins the Monday after school is dismissed and runs through the Wednesday before school starts. The summer program is closed for the July 4th holiday.
     - The current weekly tuition is $85 (one child), $165 (two children) and $245 (three children).
     - The proposed weekly tuition is $100 (one child), $195 (two children) and $290 (three children).
     - Tuition has not increased since June 2015.
   - Before-School Program
     - The current weekly tuition is $8 per child, per week.
     - The proposed weekly tuition is $10 per child, per week.

- Tuition has not increased since the 2014-2015 school year.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the School-Aged Care Enrichment Programs Tuition Rates as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Wilson County Schools Disposal of Surplus Property Reports, in accordance with WCS Board Policy 6560, *Disposal of Surplus Property*, the Administration presented the WCS disposal of surplus property report for approval that included the following:
   - Media trailer
   - Out of service maintenance trucks (5)
   - Out of service maintenance vans (2)
   - Out of service floor cleaning equipment
   - Out of service grounds equipment
   - Scrap metal
   - Out of service Driver Education cars (4)
   - Out of service bus garage equipment (lifts, jacks, transmissions and engines for scrap metal)

   Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the disposal of surplus property as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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 Revised Policy 4040/7310, *Staff-Student Relations* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

B. Under Revised Policy 4110, *Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

C. Under Revised Policy 6220, *Operation of School Nutrition Services* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

D. Under Revised Policy 7100, *Recruitment and Selection of Personnel* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

E. Under Revised Policy 7130, *Licensure* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

F. Under Revised Policy 7510, *Leave* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

G. Under Revised Policy 7520, *Family and Medical Leave* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

H. Under Revised Policy 7730, *Employee Conflict of Interest* – 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. The policy will be presented as a second reading at the next regular Board meeting.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Mr. Mercer, to carry through the motions.

Action Items

A. Under Proposed 2024-2025 Restart Calendar (Barnes and Hearne), the Administration presented a separate calendar for Barnes Elementary and Hearne Elementary using Restart flexibilities. A copy of the proposed 2024-2025 Restart calendar was provided for the Board's discussion and approval. At the last regular Board meeting, Ms. Boyette asked about the possibility of adding an additional workday to the calendar for teachers and instructional assistants and what that would cost. She was concerned that October 18 is a non-day, and it corresponds with the end of the 9 weeks and preparation of report cards. The Administration is recommending October 18 as an Optional Teacher Workday; and November 5 and February 14 as non-instructional days to allow teachers an opportunity to complete grading and prepare report cards. After the Administration consulted with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, it was determined that the district cannot add an additional work day to the Restart Calendar. Adding an additional work day is outside of the requirements of the teacher's contracts. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve the WCS Restart Calendar for Barnes and Hearne for the 2024-2025 school year, as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Student Fees 2024-2025, per WCS Board Policy 4600, *Student Fees*, the Administration presented a proposed schedule of student fees to be utilized for the 2024-2025 school year, which included parking fees for traditional high

school students ($100 a year); senior fees for all high school students ($60 a year); technology fees for all schools ($30 a year); and yearbook fees for students – which vary from school to school. Students that have a letter of Direct Services from WCS School Nutrition or an accepted Free/Reduced Lunch Application, may have their technology fee waived. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the WCS fees for 2024-2025 school year be approved as recommended. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Mr. Mercer turned the meeting over to Dr. Fitch.

IX. At 7:25 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; and 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). The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

At 8:52 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. Reporting from Closed Session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to approve the Closed Session minutes of the January 22, 2024, meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the Board approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests, but do not release for public inspection because of confidential student matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. The list of personnel recommendations is attached.

XI. There being no further business at 8:54 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Christine L. Fitch
Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS
February 19, 2024

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	Contract Date	Experience in Education
Collins, Pamela M.	New Hope ES	Interim Principal	Multi-Tiered Systems of Support Interventionist, Craven County Schools	3/1/2024 - 6/30/2024	29 yrs.
Reel, Edwin L. III	Speight MS	Interim Assistant Principal	WCS Teacher	2/20/2024 - 6/30/2024	20 yrs.

Administrative
For Information - Transfers

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment	Contract Date	Experience in Education
Luper, Dr. Denise	Hunt HS	Interim Assistant Principal	WCS Interim Assistant Principal, Speight MS	2/19/2024 - 6/30/2024	30 + yrs.

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Barnes, LaVonna	Wells ES	Kindergarten Teacher
Barnes, Lynn	Fike HS	Part-time Math Teacher
Evans, Allison	Springfield MS	6th Grade Math / Science Teacher
Head, Jo Ann	Hunt HS	English Teacher
Larson, Megan	Darden MS	7th Grade Math - Master Team Reach Teacher
Noonan, Alayna	Speight MS	Multi-Classroom Leader I
Stevens, Carlton	Darden MS	8th Grade Math Teacher

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Beckwith, Lucy	School Nutrition	Substitute School Nutrition Assistant
Harris, Timothy	Facility Services	Carpenter I
Lucas, Lashon	Facility Services	Office Supervisor
McIver, Vickie	Frederick Douglass ES	Custodian
McMillion, Aarin	Frederick Douglass ES	Teacher Assistant / Bus Driver
Mitchell, Lesley	Lucama ES	Teacher Assistant / Bus Driver

Classified (Continued)

Recommendation	Site	Position
Newsome, Monique	School Nutrition	Substitute School Nutrition Assistant
Patterson, Ivey	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant / Bus Driver
Rodgers, Felicia	Exceptional Children	Exceptional Children Secretary / Bookkeeper
Vinson, Antonio Sr.	Fike HS	Custodian
Williams, McKalyn	Gardners ES	After School Care Enrichment Program Assistant
Williams, Twanetta	School Nutrition	Substitute School Nutrition Assistant
Williams Edwards, Tara	Transportation Services	Bus Driver

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Barnes, Irene	Non-Certified
Batts, Martha	Non-Certified
Creech, Erika	Non-Certified
Daniel, Shelia	Non-Certified
Deans, Bailey	Non-Certified
Freeman, Kiesha	Non-Certified
Fretwell, Anna	Non-Certified
Hendricks, Debra	Certified
Iannucci, Anthony	Non-Certified
James, Elizabeth	Non-Certified
Johnson, Jiovani	Non-Certified
Jones, Chardonai	Non-Certified
Jordan, Joyce	Certified
Lister, Jordan	Non-Certified
Miloud, Khira	Non-Certified
Richardson, Marlon	Non-Certified
Severlin, Muhammad	Non-Certified
Smith, Allyson	Certified
Taylor, Faye	Non-Certified
Taylor, Gracie	Certified
Weatherington, Richard	Non-Certified

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Aldrich, Mark	Beddingfield HS	Boys Tennis
Ware, John	Beddingfield HS	Assistant Boys Track
Edwards, Marques (V)	Darden MS	Softball
Speight, Tiyatti	Darden MS	Head Softball
Cabrera, Jose (V)	Fike HS	Boys Lacrosse
Doss, Alan	Fike HS	Assistant JV Baseball / First Responder
Evans, Austin (V)	Fike HS	Boys Lacrosse
Stone, David (V)	Fike HS	Boys Lacrosse
Alvarez, Dwan (V)	Forest Hills MS	Girls Soccer
Blount, Jeremy	Forest Hills MS	Head Softball
Blount, Jeremy	Forest Hills MS	Athletic Director

Coaches (Continued)

Recommendation	Site	Position
Blount, Bentley	Hunt HS	Boys Tennis
Kennedy, Logan (V)	Hunt HS	Boys Lacrosse
Parker, Shoun (V)	Hunt HS	Boys Lacrosse
Hendricks, Johnathan (V)	Springfield MS	Cross Country

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Armel, Kristin	Frederick Douglass ES / Wells ES	Art Teacher	Resignation	2/18/2024
Coty-Long, Kristal	Stantonsburg ES	Media Coordinator	Resignation	1/26/2024
Powell, Brian	Forest Hills MS	PE Teacher	Resignation	2/20/2024

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Barnes, Lakisha	Frederick Douglass ES	Teacher Assistant / Bus Driver	Resignation	1/31/2024
Batchelor, Diane	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant / Bus Driver	Retirement	6/30/2024
Batts, Allen	Facility Services	Carpenter II	Retirement	2/29/2024
Bissette, Melissa	New Hope ES	School Secretary	Resignation	2/9/2024
Holden, Henry III	Fike HS	Custodian	Resignation	2/27/2024
Peartree, Shanita	Vinson-Bynum ES	Head Custodian	Resignation	2/5/2024
Ruiz, Jocelyn	Springfield MS	In School Suspension Coordinator	Resignation	1/16/2024
Tolson, Lori	Transportation	Bus Driver	Resignation	1/18/2024
Webb, Amanda	Jones ES	Occupational Therapist Assistant	Resignation	2/12/2024

DISMISSALS

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Uzzell, Sabrina	Multi	Non-Certified Substitute Teacher	Dismissal	1/8/2024