MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JOINT SPECIAL MEETING
OCTOBER 6, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held a joint Special Meeting with the Wilson County Board of Commissioners on Thursday, October 6, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Wilson County Agriculture Center, 1806 Goldsboro St. SW. Chairman Dr. Christine Fitch called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. with the following members present:

Wilson County Board of Education
- Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
- Henry E. Mercer, Vice-Chairman
- Velma Barnes
- Beverly Boyette
- Blake Boykin
- Rhyan Breen
- Debora Powell

Wilson County Board of Commissioners
- Rob Boyette, Chairman
- Leslie T. Atkinson, Vice-Chairman
- Bill Blackman
- Chris Hill
- Roger Lucas
- Sherry Lucas

Others present representing Wilson County Schools were Superintendent Dr. Lane Mills, Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Assistant Director of Maintenance Greg Woodard, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto. Others present representing Wilson County were County Manager Denise Stinagle and Assistant County Manager Ron Hunt. Also in attendance was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley. County Commissioner JoAnne Daniels was not in attendance due to a death in her family.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch led the Pledge of Allegiance, which was followed by a moment of silence. After the moment of silence, Dr. Fitch welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss current capital projects and plans for the future. She shared that in March 2019, the Commissioners were invited on a bus tour of the comprehensive high schools. In February 2022, the two Boards met to discuss capital projects and plans for moving forward. A timeline of capital projects and planning was shared with both Boards.

Dr. Fitch shared that based on recommendations with the Commissioners, including the need for the closure and consolidation of underutilized schools, the Board recently closed Winstead Elementary and Toisnot Middle. Toisnot is currently housing the Technology Department and related equipment. It will also function as the temporary school for students at Frederick Douglass Elementary during construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary building. At a recent Board of Education meeting, the Board selected Skinner

Farlow Kirwan Architecture to design the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. The architects will be meeting soon with staff, students and the public to gather information about what they would like in their new school. The demolition could begin in July/August 2023. Construction is expected to take 16-18 months. Dr. Fitch asked for guidance on moving forward with building a new school for Frederick Douglass Elementary. At the request of the County, the district applied twice for the Needs-Based Public School Capital Funding grant, but the project was not funded. The Board of Education would like to know how to proceed with funding the construction of the new elementary school since the grant was denied. The Board of Education will continue to look at student numbers that could result in school consolidations or more closures.

The Commissioners were in agreement to build a new Frederick Douglass Elementary and requested drawings. The Commissioners also agreed to pay design fees for the drawings. After the County receives the drawings, they will consider funding options for the new building. The Board of Education requested the County provide in writing their agreement to pay for design fees for the drawings. The Commissioners also asked the Board of Education about hiring a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) for the Frederick Douglass Elementary project.

The following updates were also shared:

- The renovations of Barnes and Lee Woodard Elementary are scheduled to be completed in December 2022. The remaining balance on these two projects total $678,382.98.
- The new Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) building is on schedule to be completed on time. Wilson County Schools would take ownership around the first week of February. Furniture is scheduled to be delivered on February 7. WAAT students and staff could move into the new building after Spring Break for Wilson Community College and Early College Calendars.
- The following projects have been completed from the bus tour: paving at Beddingfield and Hunt High; and lights on the baseball field at Fike High. The district is still working on the track at Beddingfield High which includes paving, lights, ADA updates for restroom and concession stand. The cost of this project is $2,268,052.
- The Board of Education prioritized the remaining projects from the bus tour that included safety vestibules for Fike and Hunt High; auditorium renovations at all three traditional high schools; and science labs at all three traditional high schools. To date, $800,546.59 will be applied to the science lab renovations using the Public School Building Repair and Renovation Funds (PSBRRF).
- The track at Hunt High was also a part of the bus tour projects. CPL Architects are assigned to this project. The district is still working on the design phase of the track at Hunt High.

Dr. Fitch shared that the Board of Education has a facility planning meeting scheduled on October 24. The Board will need to determine plans for Winstead Elementary at that meeting and facility usage of the old WAAT building. After the meeting on October 24, the Board will submit a proposal and fees for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary to the Commissioners.

At the closing of the meeting, Dr. Fitch thanked the County Commissioners for their continued support of Wilson County Schools. The Boards discussed meeting more often to ensure they continue to be on the same page in regards to facility planning.

At approximately 6:25 p.m., Dr. Fitch adjourned the meeting.

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

Lane Mills
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary