MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
OCTOBER 17, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, October 17, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
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 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 Rebecca Williams and *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley. There were 17 citizens in attendance. Board Member Blake Boykin was not in attendance.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Mr. Mercer asked for the agenda to be amended under Administrative Services to add Contract Requiring Board Approval and Recent and Design Work for High School Auditoriums, High School Science Labs and Safety Vestibules as action items. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board amend the agenda for tonight's meeting to include a contract requiring Board approval and an insurance item and for the construction design work for auditoriums, high school labs, etc. Contract Requiring Board Approval will be item C and the other item will be item E under that. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the September 19, 2022, Regular Board meeting, and October 6, 2022, Special Joint Meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the minutes of the September 19, 2022, Regular Board meeting, and October 6, 2022, Joint Meeting between the Wilson County Board of Commissioners and the Wilson County Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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

- 2022 WCS Nominee for the NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year Award – Madison Hinnant Kitchen, who is a Kindergarten Teacher at Gardners Elementary, has been selected as the WCS nominee for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) 2022 Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognizes teachers who have successfully completed their first year of teaching and show promise as excellent teachers and education leaders. NCCAT will announce the regional finalists in December. In February, all of the regional finalists will participate in interview rounds, and the winner will be announced. Dr. Mills shared that the district is thrilled that Ms. Hinnant Kitchen, who is beginning her second year of teaching, is the nominee for WCS. He congratulated her on this well-deserved recognition.

- Advanced Teaching Roles Sharing Session – Lucama Elementary Staff (Principal April Shackleford, Beverly Dawson, Brooke Ellis, Laura Pittman, Ashley Sullivan and Macey Williams), were recognized for their participation in a recent sharing session. On October 14, Lucama Elementary hosted a Sharing Session in collaboration with BEST NC where leaders from surrounding school districts spent the day learning about how WCS is utilizing Advanced Teaching Roles. During the hybrid sharing session, the guests heard from Lucama staff about the impact that Advanced Teaching Roles are having on students and staff at their school. They toured the school to see the staff in action and also heard from them during a panel discussion. Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent Robin May and Dr. Mills also presented on the benefits of the model. Through Advanced Teaching Roles, highly-qualified teachers and instructional assistants have the opportunity to serve in leadership roles from the classroom that enable them to reach more students and work collaboratively with all staff in the grade level. They guide their colleagues and also work with students to ensure their success.

  WCS implemented Advanced Teaching Roles in 10 schools during the 2021-2022 school year and added four more schools this school year. The district has seen improved student performance since implementing the model. Only 15 districts in the state currently utilize the Advanced Teaching Roles model. Dr. Mills recognized the Lucama staff members who made the Sharing Session last Friday such a success…
  - Principal April Shackleford
  - Beverly Dawson, 2nd and 3rd Grade Partial Release Multi-Classroom Leader
  - Brooke Ellis, 5th Grade Teacher
  - Laura Pittman, 4th and 5th Grade Full Release Multi-Classroom Leader
  - Ashley Sullivan, Kindergarten and 1st Grade Full Release Multi-Classroom Leader
  - Macey Williams, 4th Grade Master Team Reach Teacher

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

- Reminded the Board of a Work Session on October 24 to discuss long-range facilities planning for WCS. The Board met with the County Commissioners on October 6 to discuss the district's capital projects and updates.

- Congratulated students who showed and sold livestock and produce at the NC State Fair and acquired various ribbons.

- Recognized Agriculture Teacher Bryant Glover at Beddingfield High and his students for hosting a field trip for the children in the Beddingfield preschool program. The students were able to visit the farm located at Beddingfield and learn about the animals, tractors, bees, fruits and vegetables.

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

- Shared an update on several grants recently secured for the district.
  - The district received $50,000 in grant funds from Truist to implement a financial literacy program for 4th and 5th graders at the 11 Title I elementary schools. Each of the schools will receive a portion of the funds for a beautification project. The students will decide on the project, create a budget and purchase the needed supplies. The activity ties in with the curriculum and will teach students financial planning skills. WCS also partnered with Truist on a volunteer initiative. More than 200 Truist employees spent time earlier this month reading financial literacy books in the classrooms at four elementary schools. Dr. Mills shared that the district is grateful to Truist for their support.
  - The ABC Board provided grant funds for two programs. The funding included $4,980 to continue the Second Step Program curriculum for another year and $3,897 to fund Red Ribbon Week activities in the schools.
  - The district received a federal grant from the Department of Justice for School Violence Protection in the amount of $411,261. In total, more than $71 million in grant funds were awarded to school districts across the nation. A portion of the funds will be used to install a state-of-art mass notification and communication system in three of the high schools and four of the middle schools. The goal is to improve school safety and provide a system of communication that will function in a multi-tiered capacity in situations ranging from tornado and fire drills to an active shooter. The district will be replacing the PA/intercom systems in those schools with the new system. Training will also be provided on how to operate the system.

    Dr. Mills shared that the grant applications were completed by WCS Grant Writer Renee Turner, and he appreciates the support of Truist, the ABC Board and the Department of Justice.

- Sixteen WCS current and past school-level Teachers of the Year spent the week of October 3-7 on Ocracoke Island attending professional development through NCCAT. The training sessions were facilitated by NC Peak Education. Dr. Mills shared that the teachers indicated that they had a wonderful time enhancing their leadership skills and forming lasting bonds with each other. The district is

sending a second group of current and past Teachers of the Year to the same training for a week in November.

- Shared that the district began utilizing the Here Comes the Bus tracking app recently. This feature gives families real-time school bus location information and alerts when they download the free app. More information can be found on the district's website. Information was also shared with families through the district's automated messaging system and social media channels. Dr. Mills thanked the WCS Transportation Department for all the work that went into securing this feature for our families.

- Shared that October is National Principals Month, Dr. Mills thanked and recognized the principals for the work they do each and every day. He also shared that October is a month with a lot of other special recognitions, which included Hispanic Heritage Month, National Custodian Day, Red Ribbon Week and National School Lunch Week. These recognitions were celebrated in the schools. Regarding National School Lunch Week, many district leaders and Board members had a chance to help serve lunch in the schools. Dr. Mills shared that everyone had a great time working with the School Nutrition staff and serving the students a nutritious meal. He also shared that he volunteered at Vick Elementary and wanted to give a shout out to the School Nutrition staff for doing an incredible job and to the students who were amazing.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:53 p.m., three people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 7:02 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. Under Administrative Services – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer, shared that the committee met today to discuss five action items.

Action Items

A. Under Request for Qualifications-Construction Manager at Risk, the Administration is requesting permission from the Board to issue a Request for Qualifications for a Construction Manager at Risk for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve for the Administration to put out Request for Qualifications for Construction Manager at Risk. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

B. Under Request for Funding Proposal-Architectural Services for Frederick Douglass Elementary School, the Administration is requesting permission from the Board to submit a proposal to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners to provide the funding for the architectural services for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. Based on the estimated square footage of the building, the contract for architectural services is $1,969,191. The price per square footage is determined by current cost estimates across the state. This proposal will assist in moving the district through the process of demolition and construction of the new school. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board authorize the Administration to request funding for the architectural

services for Frederick Douglass Elementary School to the County Commissioners in the amount of $1,969,191. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

C. Under Contract Requiring Board Approval-Administrative Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contract 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: Office of State Fire Marshal (OSFM) NC Department of Insurance, for WCS property insurance coverage, in the amount of $138,038. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve a contract with the Office of the State Fire Marshal for property insurance at $138,038. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

D. Under 2022-2023 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented the 2022-2023 State Public School Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund budgets. General Statute 115C-434 authorizes the Board of Education to make appropriations for the budget year. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the 2022-2023 budget amendments 102-State Public School Fund and 802-Local Special Revenue Fund as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

E. Under Recent and Design Work for High School Auditoriums, High School Science Labs and Safety Vestibules, Skinner Farlow Kirwan Architects have proposed an approach to provide information for funding approval from the Wilson County Board of Commissioners for the high school auditoriums, high school science labs and safety vestibules. The architects will provide a 60% schematic design study for a fee of $65,000. This fee is a portion of the overall design fee included in their contract. Site visits will be performed prior to November 1. Skinner Farlow Kirwan Architects believe this approach will be useful for WCS to have a more defined understanding to present to the County Commissioners for preliminary funding. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the 60% schematic design study for a fee of $65,000, which will be a portion of the overall design fee for the high school auditoriums, high school science labs and safety vestibules. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services – Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss five information and two 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 approved by the Superintendent that exceed $30,000. The following contract, which is less than $90,000, has been approved by the Superintendent: Presence Learning, for

live, online therapy and evaluation services in PreK-12 schools, not to exceed $80,000.

B. Under Revised Policy 1725/4035/7236, *Title IX Sexual Harrasment - Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process* - First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner and Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) policies. The Board requested minor changes to this policy, which will be presented at the next regular Board meeting as a second read with the recommended changes.

C. Under Revised Policy 1726/4036/7237, Title IX *Sexual Harassment Grievance Process* - First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner and Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The Board requested minor changes to this policy, which will be presented at the next regular Board meeting as a second read with the recommended changes.

D. Under Draft Administrative Regulation 4003-R, *Translating and Interpreting for Students and Parents*, WCS Board Policy 4003, *Translating and Interpreting for Students and Parents*, recognizes there are many students and parents in the school system whose primary language is not English. The school district will make reasonable efforts to provide foreign language translation services to students and parents. WCS Administrative Regulation 4003, *Translating and Interpreting for Students and Parents*, establishes the process by which these services will be provided. The Board suggested minor changes in the verbiage of the administrative regulation, which will be presented at the next Regular Board meeting for information only.

E. Under Esports Update, the Administration provided an update on esports programming at Beddingfield High. The following implementation steps have been completed: request for proposals have been released for esports game licenses and league registration; a committee has been formed to review the proposals; a coach has been selected; equipment has been purchased; an interest and sign-up session was held; and it was decided that esports team members will be held to the same standards as all other athletic teams (North Carolina Athletic Association Rules and Regulations). Once the esports vendor is chosen, game titles will be selected. Some of the approved types of games include Rocket League, Super Smash Bros and Madden NFL, which will not contain weaponry or gang items. Types of games such as Call of Duty, Tom Clancy's Rainbow Six Siege and Halo Infinite are not approved. The program will consist of scrimmages with regional teams. Esports will operate as a club and team. Competitions planned within the established league will begin in the Spring of 2023. A total of 195 students have signed up for sessions involving esports and gaming concepts to be used in our schools. Career and Technology Education (CTE) aligned courses that will equip students to pursue a potential career in gaming design and development were outlined. These included Digital Design and Animation I (Level I Course); Game Art Design (Level 2 Course); CTE Advanced Studies (Possible Level 3 Course); and Advanced Game Art Design (Possible Level 3 Course). Esports programming affords students an opportunity

to compete in an arena that allows pathways into various professions – not just gaming, designing and coding.

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

Action Items

A. Under Revised 2022-2023 Early College Calendar, the calendar has been revised. Due to inclement weather, Friday, September 30, 2022, has been changed from an Instructional Day to a Non-day. Friday, May 19, 2023, will become an Optional Teacher Workday. Monday, May 22, 2023, will become a Holiday. The Administration recommended adoption of this revised calendar. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve the revised 2022-2023 Early College Calendar as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

B. Under Revised 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar, the calendar has been revised. Due to inclement weather, Friday, September 30, 2022, has been changed from an Instructional Day to a Non-day. Friday, June 16, 2023, will become an Optional Teacher Workday. Monday, June 19, 2023, will become an Annual Leave Day. The Administration recommended adoption of this revised calendar. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the revised 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar be approved as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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

IX. At 7:29 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 establish or give instructions concerning the Board of Education's negotiating position concerning a potential acquisition and/or lease of real property, as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5); and to consult with the Board of Education attorney to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

At 8:33 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, passed unanimously, 6-0.

X. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of the September 19, 2022, 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 Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests as presented by the Administration. 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.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified and classified positions, and attached list of Substitute Teachers, Substitutes to be Reapproved and Coaches.

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 the 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

Grice, Sonya J.-Director of Benefits
Williams, Robin-Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) Executive Director

Administrative – For Information – Transfers

Harvey, Robert E. III-Director of Classified Personnel

Certified

Allen, Kiara (E)-7th Grade ELA Teacher
Batts, Brenshonda-Early Childhood Coordinator
Branson, LaKiter (E)-EC Teacher
Britt, Jordan-ESL Teacher
Carlton, Ronny-8th Grade ELA Teacher
Credle, Tony (P)-PE Teacher
Donlin, Heather-7th Grade Social Studies Teacher
Gemzik, Darren-CARES Interventionist
Horne, Monique (P)-7th Grade Science Teacher
Marcell, Tia-Music Teacher

Taylor, Vercilya-7th Grade ELA Teacher

Classified

Conoley, Julie-CARES Interventionist
Cotton, Brittany-Bus Driver
Howard, Sara-Daycare Assistant
Judd, Jaketia-Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Mackey, Shakeya-EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Strother, Sydney-Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Williams, Karen-School Nutrition Substitute

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative

Stanley, Art-Retirement

Certified

Barnes, William-Retirement
Boyce-Inscoe, Christian-Resignation
Currie, Donna-Resignation
Nelson, Cynthia-Resignation
Stevenson, Derrick-Resignation
Yates, Tammie-Resignation

Classified

Beacham, Donna-Retirement
Blackwell, Deborah-Resignation
Ferrington, Andre-Resignation
Kenely, Deidra-Resignation
King, Kelly-Resignation
Lewis, Mary-Resignation
Moore, Daryl-Resignation
Peele, Mary-Retirement
White, Shauna-Resignation
Woodard, Jerica-Resignation

XI. There being no further business at 8:35 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary