MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
NOVEMBER 3, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Work Session on Thursday, November 3, 2022, at 4:30 p.m. in the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Dr. Christine Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman
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 to the You Tube channel on the WCS website and the WCS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages.

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Services Robin May, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Executive Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Assistant Director of Maintenance Greg Woodard, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto, CPL Architect Project Manager Graham Boyd and *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley. There was one citizen in attendance.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Work Session agenda for this Wilson County Board of Education meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Dr. Fitch led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

Under Chairman's Comments, Dr. Fitch shared that the Board of Education recently met jointly with the Wilson County Board of Commissioners to discuss current capital projects and plans for the future. At that meeting, the Commissioners requested a proposal and fees for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. The purpose of the Work Session was to discuss facility issues and long-range planning for WCS. Dr. Fitch acknowledged that County Commissioner Chris Hill was attending the meeting as a citizen.

Under Hunt High School Track Updates, Mr. Boyd from CPL Architecture provided information on Hunt High athletic upgrades that included the following:

- Concession Building - ADA upgrades to the existing concession building and minimal upgrades to the storage room; and ADA upgrades to the access and new paint on the exterior
- Restroom Building - ADA upgrades to the access of the existing restroom building and ADA upgrades to the interior; ADA upgrades to the existing restroom building

and minimal upgrades to the training room; and ADA upgrades to the access and new paint on the exterior
- Architectural Site Plan - ADA upgrades to the access from parking to spectator area, concession building and restrooms
- 8-Lane Track Layout – with concrete sidewalk to visitor bleachers
- Overall Cost Estimate - $2,875,085
- Final Completion Date – August 1, 2023

Dr. Mills shared that the overall cost estimate has been shared with County Manager Denise Stinagle.

Under Long-Range Facilities Planning for WCS, the Administration provided updates on current projects. Dr. Mills asked the Board to provide direction on several facility issues and schedule additional meetings.

Dr. Mills shared the following information with the Board:
- Current Projects
    - Construct a new Frederick Douglass Elementary School
        - Skinner Farlow Kirwan Architecture (SFK) has been selected.
        - Request for Qualification (RFQ) will be posted this week for a Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR). Proposals will be presented at the November Board meeting. In December, the Board will review vendors and make a selection.
        - SFK Architecture has begun work on design documents.
        - The demolition of the current Frederick Douglass Elementary is slated for July 2023.
    - Barnes Elementary and Lee Woodard Elementary Renovations
        - Renovations should be completed by December.
        - The remaining funds for each school will be used to address lead abatement issues.
    - Completion of items from the field trip with the County Commissioners
        - SFK Architecture is preparing general estimates for the projects.
        - $2 million in funding from the County to begin work on any of these projects.
        - The Board set the following priorities at a previous meeting:
            - Addition of safety vestibules at Fike High and Hunt High
            - Renovations of auditoriums at all three traditional high schools
            - New science labs at all three traditional high schools
            - While the Board members placed safety vestibules as the first priority, they were supportive of beginning work on the auditoriums, pending funding and cost estimates. The work on the auditoriums could begin during the current school year.
    - New Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) Building
        - The new building is on schedule to be completed in early February.
        - The current WAAT students and staff will move to the new location after Spring Break (March 4-12). According to NC Department of Public Instruction, the district cannot place students on remote learning while equipment and resources are moved to the new building; therefore, the move of those items will occur during break.

- Facility Planning Issues
    - Student assignment
    - New construction and existing facilities
    - Prioritization of renovations and other needs
    - Continued planning and scheduling meetings
- Student Assignment
    - With the closing of Winstead Elementary and Toisnot Middle, planning for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary and a possible, second new elementary school, there is no need for the Board to address attendance boundaries for elementary or middle schools at this time.
    - High school attendance boundaries need to be addressed
        - Beddingfield High - 684 students (not including WAAT students)
        - Fike High - 1062 students
        - Hunt High - 1069 students
    - Redrawing of attendance boundaries could be completed for the 2024-2025 school year
    - The Board could consider a "grandfather" option for 11th and 12th graders
    - Maps should be aligned with GIS and completed by December so that the maps are current and up-to-date.
- ORED Membership Forecast: School-level Forecast (High School)
    - Beddingfield High – the facility utilization is projected to be 50% or under in the future
    - Fike High – the facility utilization is projected to be 50% or under in the future
    - Hunt High – the facility utilization is projected to be at or over capacity in the future

Ms. Barnes left the meeting at 5:32 p.m. and returned at 5:35 p.m.

- Existing Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT)
    - Space will be available inside Beddingfield High after the relocation of WAAT to the new building.
    - Esports will be located in two large classrooms.
    - The Board could consider relocating the Beddingfield High Wilson Area School-based Health (WASH) Clinic inside the building
        - Separate entrance with safety features and reception area
        - Would require some minimal renovations
        - Existing WASH mobile unit is owned by WCS and can be moved
    - The Board could consider the relocation and renovation of Culinary Arts program to allow for in-school café and catering and upgrade of equipment
        - Would require renovations
    - Other classroom spaces could be used to handle additional capacity upon redistricting of Beddingfield High attendance zone.
- Second New Elementary School
    - County Commissioners have acknowledged support for a second new elementary school (based on continued work on facility utilization at the elementary level)
    - One possibility is a new elementary school that could serve the attendance zones for Gardners Elementary and Stantonsburg Elementary and parts of

eastern Wilson County. Location would need to be determined and land purchased.
    - The ceiling is leaking at Stantonsburg Elementary, and the windows need to be replaced. The estimated cost to repair Stantonsburg Elementary is $4 million. Gardners Elementary also needs a new roof
  - The second new elementary school could be constructed while students continue to attend their current elementary schools
  - Could start project as new Frederick Douglass Elementary is underway
  - A Pre-K program could also be placed in this area to serve the attendance zones for Gardners Elementary and Stantonsburg Elementary
- Membership Forecast: School-level Forecast (Elementary School)
  - The facility utilization is projected to be less than 80% in the future
  - By 2029-2030, the facility utilization at New Hope Elementary is projected to be 95-100%
  - Rock Ridge Elementary is currently at 90.6% capacity
- Addressing Elementary Utilization
  - One possibility to address elementary issues could involve the combining of Hearne Elementary and Wells Elementary into an expanded Wells Elementary site
  - Would need to wait to begin work to allow for the old Toisnot Middle to become available for relocation of Wells Elementary students
  - Need to examine the current school site at Wells Elementary
  - Would need to be a school with significant capacity given location and programs (e.g., Pre-K)
  - Summer of 2025 start date
- Daniels Learning Center
  - Daniels Learning Center could be reassigned to the most recent addition of the old Winstead Elementary (1988), and the current Daniels Learning Center could be closed.
    - Would need commitment from County Commissioners for funding for demolition of two-story section of Winstead Elementary.
  - Daniels Learning Center could also be reassigned to the old Toisnot Middle once all the school building projects are completed. The Print Shop would also be relocated to Toisnot Middle. Technology Services and a few support staff offices are now at Toisnot Middle.
  - Maintaining Daniels Learning Center facility is cost prohibitive for the district.

Mr. Breen left the meeting at 6:30 p.m.

- Additional Planning
  - The Board needs to prioritize other renovations throughout the district.
  - The Board needs to prioritize athletic facility needs.
  - The district still needs a painting schedule and furniture replacement funding.
  - The Administration and the Board need to schedule next meetings to continue work on facility planning. The next meeting date will be decided at the next regular Board meeting.

Dr. Fitch shared that she was excited about the prospects of a new school and submitting the Board's thoughts to the County Commissioner in a proposal.

At 6:34 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Wilson County Board of Education go into closed session 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. Mr. Breen was not in attendance at this time; he indicated that he could only meet for 2 hours.

At 7:01 p.m., Mr. Boykin made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously, 5-0. Ms. Barnes left the meeting at 6:47 p.m. during closed session.

There being no further business at 7:01 p.m., Mr. Boykin made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

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

L Mills
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary