MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 12, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, December 12, 2022, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:30 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 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 51 citizens in attendance.

I. 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 agenda for the December 12, 2022, meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

II. Dr. Fitch introduced Ms. Horrison, who, acting as a notary public, administered the oaths of office to reelected Board members Debora Powell, District 1; Dr. Christine L. Fitch, District 3; Beverly Boyette, District 5; and Rhyan Breen, District 7. All four were elected to serve four-year terms. (Oaths of office attached)

III. Board Policy 2200, *Election of Officers/Organization of Board*, states the Board will elect a Board Chair and a Vice-Chair to serve for a term of one year or until his or her successor is elected. An organizational meeting for the election and qualification of officers may be held at the regularly scheduled December meeting of the Board.

a. Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Dr. Mills for the election of a Board Chair for the coming year. Dr. Mills opened the floor for nominations for chair. Ms. Powell nominated Dr. Fitch, seconded by Mr. Mercer. Dr. Mills asked for nominations to be closed and election by acclamation. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the nominations be closed. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. Dr. Mills recognized that Dr. Fitch would be the

Board Chair.

b. Dr. Mills then turned the meeting over to elected Board Chair Dr. Fitch for the election of a Board Vice-Chair for the coming year. Dr. Fitch opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Barnes nominated Mr. Mercer for Vice-Chair, seconded by Ms. Powell. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that nominations be closed and by acclamation, Henry Mercer be Board Vice-Chair.

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

V. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the November 21, 2022, Regular Board meeting, and December 8, 2022, Special Meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Barnes, that the minutes of November 21, 2022, and December 8, 2022, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- Champion of Education Award - Christy Proctor, Owner and Operator of Chick-fil-A of Wilson, received the Champion of Education Award at the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) awards ceremony held November 15. The Board nominated her because of her incredible support of WCS. Dr. Mills shared that Ms. Proctor had every intention of becoming a teacher instead of the prominent business owner that she is today. Although she chose a different path, she still dedicates much of her time, talent and resources to public school education and is one of the district's biggest champions. A large number of her part-time employees are our students, and she celebrates their academic achievements, attends afterschool events, arranges counselors to assist with college applications and awards thousands of dollars in scholarship funds. She is a member of the Wilson Education Partnership and a vital supporter of our district's backpack drive. Not only does she donate, but she holds her own collaborating drive on her birthday - Bucks for Backpacks. Dr. Mills shared that while she may not be working daily in one of our classrooms, we know that Ms. Proctor is in our corner and will always support our students, staff and families. He thanked her for her support.
- 2022 Wilson County Schools Christmas Card Design Contest Winners - Alanha Pope - 5th grader at Vick Elementary; Liberty Langston - 5th grader at Lee Woodard Elementary; Anna Alford - 4th grader at Frederick Douglass Elementary; Brianna Mayo - kindergartner at Gardners Elementary; and Salma Aloos - 5th grader at Vinson-Bynum Elementary, were recognized for winning the WCS Christmas Card Contest. For the past several years, Dr. Mills held a contest for elementary students to design the Christmas cards that he sends to colleagues in Wilson and across the state. Dr. Mills shared that selecting the winners is always one of the hardest things for him because all the students have great designs. This year, five winners were selected.

Each winner was given their artwork framed, a certificate and a $25 Walmart gift card. Dr. Mills thanked the students for sharing their artistic talent.

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

- Extended best wishes to the high school students as they prepare for final exams and complete their semester prior to the Christmas break.
- Wished everyone a Merry Christmas. Dr. Fitch shared that she hopes everyone can rest during the holiday break and be rejuvenated for the spring semester.

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

- Shared that Barnes Elementary was approved as a Restart school in January 2020. Due to the success of the program, Barnes was selected to host a Restart Professional Learning Network meeting in collaboration with the NC Department of Public Instruction on December 1. Restart schools from across the state were invited to attend and tour the school. Barnes was selected to host this visit due to their success with utilizing Restart flexibilities to track their identified Restart goals and because of their academic success during the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Mills shared that it was a wonderful session, and he applauded the school for their efforts.
- Reminded the Board members that a ribbon cutting for the new Wilson Area School-based Health (WASH) Center at Fike High will be held on December 21 at 10 a.m. in the media center. Dr. Mills shared that the WASH Center at Fike is the fourth clinic of its kind for the district, and everyone is excited about its opening. The WASH Centers are possible because of the partnership between WCS, the Wilson County Health Department, the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson and Wilson Forward. Funding for the WASH Centers and staffing support is generously provided through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson. The Board members were asked to let Ms. Lynch know if they will be able to attend.
- The district is in the process of developing the 2023-2024 Traditional Instructional Calendar and has asked for input from staff and families before sharing the proposed calendar with the Board for approval. Two calendar options have been created and they can be reviewed from a link on the district website and social media sites. Paper copies of the calendar options and the feedback forms are also available at the schools. Input is needed by December 16.
- Shared that it's almost time for Winter Break. December 22 is an early release day in the traditional schools and students will be out for break through January 9. The early colleges start their break this week. They have an early release day on Wednesday and then students will be out through January 6. Dr. Mills wished the students well as they take exams and hopes that everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends.

IX. Under Public Input, at 7:03 p.m., two people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 7:08 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

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

Information Item

A. Under Wilson County Schools Disposal of Surplus Property Report, in accordance with Policy 6560, *Disposal of Surplus Property*, when personal property becomes unnecessary and undesirable for public school purposes, the school system will sell or dispose of the property in order to provide additional revenue for educational purposes. The Superintendent or designee shall provide a semiannual report to the Board detailing the transactions. The Administration presented a list of surplus property that will be disposed. The next report will be presented in June 2023.

Action Items

A. Under Construction Manager at Risk for New Frederick Douglass Elementary School, the Administration is requesting selection and approval from the Board of a Construction Manager at Risk for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. At a Special Meeting on December 8, the following firms presented to the Board: Barnhill Contracting Company, Bordeaux Construction Company, Inc. and H.G. Reynolds Company, Inc. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Breen, that Barnhill Contracting Company be named the Construction Manager at Risk for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under 2022-2023 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented the 2022-2023 State Public School Fund, Federal Grant 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 Budget Amendments 104-State Public School Fund, 302-Federal Grant Fund and 804-Local Special Revenue Fund 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 Contracts 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 contracts, which are less than $90,000, have been approved by the Superintendent:
    - Follett School Solutions, annual renewal for Library Manager, Resource Manager and TitlePeek, in the amount of $48,972.35
    - SoftChoice Corporation, Annual Microsoft 365 License Renewal, in the amount of $68,231.19

B. Under Draft Administrative Regulation 7241-R, *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators*, Board Policy 7241, *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators*, ensures the safe operation of school vehicles and complies with federal law and regulations by establishing a comprehensive program for the drug and alcohol testing of school bus drivers

and all other commercial motor vehicle operators employed by the Board of Education. WCS Administrative Regulation 7241-R, *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators*, establishes the process by which the comprehensive program will be maintained.

C. Under Revised Policy 4333, *Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety* – 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 Policy 6230, *School Meal and Competitive Food Standards* – 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.

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

Action Items

A. Under Contract Requiring Board Approval – Instructional Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that any contract for materials, equipment, or services 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: Scribbles Software for digitizing all WCS Student and Human Resource Records, in the amount of $175,800. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve the contract with Scribbles Software for $175,800. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

XI. At 7:21 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 to preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

At 7:50 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously, 7-0.

XII. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of the November 21, 2022 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 Ms. Breen, that the Board approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified and classified positions, 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

Budd, Valerie-Assistant Principal
Luper, Dr. Denise-Assistant Principal

Certified

Cole, Patrick-School Counselor
King, Sierra (R)-4th Grade Teacher
Rasberry, Stephon-4th Grade Teacher
Vincent, Kimberly-School Counselor

Classified

Barnes, Loretta, School Nutrition Substitute
Daniel, Sheila-Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver (Reach Associate)
Farmer, Barbara-School Nutrition Substitute
Horne, Alonzo-Bus Driver

Substitute Teachers

Evans, Dominque-Non-Certified
Hardy, Walter-Non-Certified
Jackson, Zah'Nya-Non-Certified
Watkins, Ariana-Non-Certified
White, Linwood-Non-Certified
Williams, Laniya-Non-Certified

Substitutes to be Reapproved

Ezzell, Jeanne-Certified

Coaches

Bonner, Tony (V)-Boys Basketball
Brown, Miguel (V)-Girls Basketball
Flowers, Doug-Baseball Assistant
Frazier, Marion (V)-Assistant Boys Basketball
Jackson, Marquyse-Cheer Coach
Klutey, Tanner (V)-Wrestling
Lamm, Jada (V)-Girls Varsity Basketball
Pate, Leslie (V)-Girls Basketball
Rubio, Angel (V)-Wrestling
Ton, Nhan (V)-Swimming

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Brooks, Ayesha-Resignation
Lee, Dana-Retirement
Lucas, Jessica-Resignation
Sutton, Teresa-Resignation
West, Heather-Resignation

Classified

Barnes, Joseph-Retirement
Love, Jennifer-Resignation
McClain, Christa-Resignation

XIII. There being no further business at 7:52 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary