MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JANUARY 23, 2023

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, January 23, 2023, 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 six 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 January 23, 2023, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the December 12, 2022, 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 December 12, 2022, meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. Under Special Presentation to the Board, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Ms. Horrison, recognized the Board members for Board of Education Appreciation Month.

Dr. Mills shared that each one of the Board members bring countless strengths to the Board, and remain the biggest champions for students and staff. Few people realize the time commitment it takes to be a Board member and all of the many decisions that must be made. The Board has 10,200 students and 1,700 staff members under

their watch. Their high standards, work ethic and love for children have not gone unnoticed here in Wilson County or across the state.

Just a few years ago in 2020, the Board was awarded the School Board Leadership Award from the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA). This is the highest honor a Board of Education can receive at the state level. Dr. Mills shared that it is inspiring the way the Board works together as a team. In every decision that is made, they come together to ensure that students remain at the forefront. Dr. Mills shared some accomplishments that the Board has made since last January:

- The construction of the new building for the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) has gone smoothly and will be completed by the end of February. WAAT students and staff will transition to the new building in March.
- With support of the Wilson County Commissioners, the Board approved major renovations at Lee Woodard and Barnes elementary schools and also renovations to athletic facilities and the high schools.
- The Board also had difficult decisions to make regarding facilities and underutilized schools, which led to the closing of two schools - but will ultimately lead to the construction of new schools. The district is currently in the early stages of constructing a new Frederick Douglass Elementary.
- The district celebrated incredible accountability results due largely to the Board's leadership.
    - The district had a 9.8% increase in overall proficiency compared to the previous year.
    - The district achieved the highest state ranking ever. WCS is 56th in the state out of 115 school districts. Not too long ago, the district was 89th.
    - 20 schools met or exceeded growth - which included all of the elementary schools.
- The opening of a fourth Wilson Area School-Based Health Center (WASH) at Fike High this month in collaboration with WCS partners.
- A few months ago, the Cognia Global Commission approved and confirmed the district's accreditation. To evaluate WCS, a Cognia Team from across the nation conducted 104 interviews with students, staff, parents and community members. The top finding was - District leadership and a stable, high functioning Board of Education have established trust in the community served, provided support, and provided a voice across constituencies. During the exit report, the Cognia lead evaluator shared that the top finding was incredibly rare and should be celebrated. The team was impressed that stakeholders felt seen and heard even with all the challenges faced during the pandemic.
- Lastly, the Board submitted several nominations to the NCSBA and won awards in several categories this year at the annual conference. Vice-Chair Henry Mercer was named the Raleigh Dingman Award winner, which is the highest honor a school board member can receive. As a part of his recognition, Mr. Mercer is now serving as an advisor to the State Board of Education. The Board also nominated Christy Proctor for the Champion of Education Award and Project REACH for the Innovation and Excellence in

Public Education Award - which both won. WCS also had a large number of students win awards for their artwork.

Finally, Dr. Mills shared that January is Board of Education Appreciation Month, but the Board members are appreciated each and every day.

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

- Wished everyone a Happy New Year. Dr. Fitch shared that she hoped everyone had a wonderful holiday season and has returned refreshed and ready to finish this last semester.
- Shared that the Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) is hosting a Spelling/Trivia Bee fundraiser on March 14 at Hunt High beginning at 6:00 p.m. The theme is "Let the Music Play." She shared that the Board always has a team that participates in this event that benefits the teachers with mini-grants and other programs sponsored. Dr. Fitch invited Poyner Spruill, LLC, to sponsor the Board at this event.

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

- Shared that the second semester is off to a great start and the school year will go quickly from here on out.
- Shared that the ribbon cutting for the new WASH Center at Fike High was held recently. The WASH Center at Fike is the fourth school-based health center, and the clinics are possible because of the partnership between the district, the Wilson County Health Department and the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson. The funding and staffing support is generously provided through a grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson. He shared that Dr. Kim Almkuist and her staff provide top notch health services to students and staff.
- Shared that Executive Director of School Nutrition Jamie Narron has been selected to attend the School Nutrition Association Georgetown Executive Leadership Program. Ms. Narron is one of 50 directors across the nation who were selected to attend, and she is the only director representing North Carolina. The program is held at Georgetown University in Washington, DC, and it is known for its excellence in preparing the business world's most respected leaders. Participants who are selected are nominated by their peers, and the program is by invitation only. Dr. Mills shared that the Administration is proud of Ms. Narron and thankful to have her as a part of the WCS Family.
- Shared that nominations are open for WCS Principal of the Year for the 2023-2024 school year. Anyone in the community can make a nomination. Nominations are due on February 3, and the winner will be announced at the end of the school year. For information on the guidelines and how to make a nomination, visit the district website or social media sites.
- Reminded 8th grade families that the application deadline to attend WAAT and Wilson Early College Academy (WECA) is approaching. The deadline is January 27. To access the application, visit the district website or the websites for those schools. Dr. Mills shared that Administrators and staff from both schools spent time visiting the middle schools to speak with 8th graders, and both schools also held parent meetings last week.

- Lastly, Dr. Mills asked the Board to set a date for the next facilities planning work session. The Board decided that the next Work Session will be held on February 13 at 2:00 p.m.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:48 p.m., two people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:51 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. 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 Summer Splash Overview, the Administration shared the following learning opportunities that will be offered during the summer:
    - Proficiency Program: all students who are not proficient on End-of-Grade (EOG) or End-of-Course (EOC) testing should plan attend summer remediation and testing. The exception is grade 3 Reading. The Proficiency Program is scheduled for June 8-13 for all grade levels.
    - Read to Achieve/Summer Scholars K-3 Program: students in grade 3 who do not meet the requirements as stated in General Statute 115C-83.1-10 (NC RtA law) are required to attend summer reading camp, unless the family provides their own reading remediation. Grade 3 students will have opportunities to demonstrate reading proficiency near the end of camp. Students in grades K-2 who do not meet end of year reading goals are invited to attend. The Read to Achieve/Summer Scholars K-3 Program is scheduled for July 10-27.
    - Summer Scholars – Elementary Program: students in grades 4-5 will be invited by their base school according to district-wide criteria. Students in grades 4 and 5 will receive instruction in reading and math. The Summer Scholars – Elementary Program is scheduled for July 10-27.
    - 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) – 3-5 Elementary Program: 21st CCLC students will participate in enrichment camps for two weeks. Session One of the 21st CCLC – 3-5 Elementary Program is scheduled for June 20-23 and Session Two for June 26-29.
    - Bridge Program: students who are entering grades 6-8 in the 2023-2024 school year are invited to apply. Accepted students will participate in project-based learning units. The Bridge Program is scheduled for July 10-27.
    - Summer Scholars – High School Program: high school students will be able to recover up to two credits towards promotion and graduation standards. Session One of the Summer Scholars – High School Program is scheduled for June 20-29 and Session Two for July 10-20.
    - Accelerator Program: students who are entering grades 9-12 are invited to apply for mini-courses based on the their interests. All students that attend Accelerator will have the opportunity to meet local industry leaders and attend field trips to local businesses. A group of students will have the opportunity to apply to partner with a local business to solve a real-world problem the business is currently facing. The Accelerator Program is scheduled for July 10-27.

B. 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:
    - Tiber Creek Consulting, core switch for WCS network, in the amount of $42,232.90
    - Playworld, playground equipment at Jones Elementary, in the amount of $79,985.64
    - Brame, furniture for Beddingfield High Media Center Redesign, in the amount of $89,862.18

C. Under Revised Policy 2123, *Board Member Opportunities for Development* – 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 3420, *Student Promotion and Accountability* – 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.

E. Under Revised Policy 3430, *School Improvement Plan* – 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.

F. Under Revised Policy 3620, *Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations* – 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.

G. 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.

H. Under Revised Policy 4155, *Assignment to Classes* – 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.

I. Under Revised Policy 4400, *Attendance* – 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.

J. Under Revised Policy 6140, *Student Wellness* – 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.

K. 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.

L. 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.

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

Action Items

A. Under Proficiency Summer School 2023, the Administration presented a plan for Proficiency Summer School 2023. Proficiency Summer School is a Board of Education approved opportunity for students who have not demonstrated proficiency on State EOG, EOC or NCEXTEND1 testing. Students will receive additional instruction and be able to take the associated test(s) again.

- The plan will serve all students who have not scored proficient on:
    - EOG and NCEXTEND1 Grades 3-8 Math, 4-8 Reading, 5&8 Science
    - EOC and NCEXTEND1 NC Math 1, English 2, Biology
    - EOC NC Math 3

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the full Board approve the Proficiency Summer School plan for EOC and EOG courses, along with NCEXTEND1 courses, as prescribed by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Proposed 2023-2024 Traditional Calendar, a survey was conducted to allow stakeholders the opportunity to provide input on the 2023-2024 Traditional calendar. The survey was offered in both English and Spanish. The survey was available online and in paper form. A total of 998 surveys were completed. Of those surveys, 46.2% of those who responded were educators and 43.8% were parents. Draft A was supported by 74.1% of the participants and Draft B was supported by 25.9%. On Draft A, the first semester ends on December 21. The calendar was created pursuant to G.S. 115C-84.2. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve Calendar A for the proposed 2023-2024 traditional calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Proposed 2023-2024 Early College Calendar, the proposed 2023-2024 Early College calendar was created in collaboration with Wilson Community College and the Early College principals. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve the 2023-2024 Early College Calendar as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under Revised Policy 4333, *Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety* – Second 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. In consultation with legal counsel, the Board requested minor changes to line 23, item j, of the policy. The policy now includes air rifles, air

pistols, darts, paintball guns and arrows as additional weapons that are prohibited. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded Mr. Breen, that the full Board approved Revised Policy 4333, *Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety*, as a second reading, with the noted changes. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

E. Under Revised Policy 6230, *School Meal and Competitive Food Standards* – Second 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 made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve Revised Policy 6230, *School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards*, as a second reading, as recommended. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

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

Action 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 exceeds $90,000 and requires Board approval, pending attorney review: JC Lewis Co, Inc., to remove, stabilize and replace tennis courts including fence fabric, playing surface, nets and all specifications at Fike High, in the amount of $481,781.00. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve the contract with JC Lewis Company, Inc., for the tennis courts at Fike High in the amount of $481,781.00. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under 2023-2024 Budget Development, the calendar for budget development was shared with the Board. The Administration is recommending the Board hold a Budget Work Session on February 20, during the Administrative Services Committee Meeting. The Budget Request can be forwarded to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners on April 17, in preparation for the education budget presentations on April 25. G.S. 115C-429 requires that a budget be submitted to the County Commissioners by May 15. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the 2023-2024 budget calendar development schedule. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under 2022-2023 Contract for the Annual Financial Audit, a description of services provided for WCS by Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC was shared with the Board, as well as copies of the contract for the annual financial audit. The proposed budget is $45,000. Fees may be charged if additional work is required by another agency regarding another program or COVID funds. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the 2022-2023

contract for the annual financial audit with the firm of Anderson Smith & Wike, PLLC. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under 2022-2023 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented the 2022-2023 State Public School Fund, Federal Grant Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, School Nutrition 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 and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve Budget Amendments 105-State Public School Fund, 303-Federal Grant Fund, 402-Capital Outlay Fund, 502-School Nutrition Fund and 805-Local Special Revenue Fund. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IX. At 7:19 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, 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, 7-0.

At 8:22 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. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the Emergency Plan for WAAT. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of the December 12, 2022 meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Barnes 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, 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.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified and classified positions, Substitute Teachers 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

Dawson, Dr. Wanda P.-Educational Consultant

Certified

Barnes, Jayla (P)-4th Grade Teacher
Bouis, Cindy-5th Grade Teacher
Burroughs, Meredith-CTE Teacher
Combs, Jenny-Digital Teaching & Learning Specialist
Comstock, Joy-CTE Health Science Teacher
Dupree, Gloria (E)-2nd Grade Teacher
Graham, Octavius (R)-Kindergarten Teacher
Greene, Betty-Part-Time Science Teacher
Joseph, Sherry-2nd Grade Teacher
Letchworth, Pamela-Part-Time Math Teacher
Levey, Arthur (P)-Digital Literacy Coach
Stowe, Krysten-School Counselor
Ward, III, James O.-PE Teacher

Classified

Barbosa, Georgina-Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Chapman, Jasmine-EC Pre-K Teacher Assistant
Hardie, Amber-Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Hyman, Brinson-Bus Driver

Taboas, Jose-Technology Technician I

Substitute Teachers

Askew, Marie-Certified
Jones, Morris-Non-Certified

Coaches

Aldrich, Mark-Boys Tennis
Barbrey, Krista (V)-Softball
Coleman, Alexander (V)-Softball
Coleman, Cecilia (V)-Softball
Frazier, Richard-Head Varsity Girls Soccer
Giles, Terry (V)-Softball
Jackson, Juan-Assistant Athletic Director (Winter)
Koening, Cameron (V)-Girls Soccer
Mills, Mahlon-Soccer
Rideout, Clint (V)-Softball
Stone, Davis (V)-Boys & Girls Lacrosse

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Bailey, Katherine-Retirement
Bell, Courtney-Resignation
Burroughs, Meredith-Resignation
Dean, John-Resignation
Gaynor, Winifred-Resignation
Holley, Bryan-Resignation
Howell, Donna-Resignation
Keen, Don-Resignation
Sharp, Sheronica-Resignation
Sutton, Ronnie-Resignation

Classified

Bullock, Corey-Resignation
Morgan, Joyce-Retirement

XI. There being no further business at 8:24 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Christine L. Fitch

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

L B Mills Ph.D.

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary