MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
FEBRUARY 20, 2023

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, February 20, 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 52 citizens in attendance.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch amended the agenda by tabling Mentor Coordinators and Mentors Stipend Proposal as an action item under Human Resource Services Committee; and by removing Revised Policy 6220, *Operation of School Nutrition Services* – Second Reading, as an action item under Instructional Services Committee. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the amended agenda be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the minutes of the January 23, 2023, Regular Board meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- National Board Certification - National Board Certification is an advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. WCS currently has 60 educators with the certification, and North Carolina leads the nation with 23,858 educators who are National Board Certified. The following WCS educators were recognized for either earning or renewing their National Board Certification:
    - Christine Gilmore – Jones Elementary
    - Margarita Arjona de Haitema – Gardners/Hearne Elementary
    - Julia Bass – Fike High
    - Keith Byrum – Hunt High
    - Elizabeth Driver – Rock Ridge Elementary
    - Angela Nance – Hunt High
    - Emily Smith – Rock Ridge Elementary
    - Sharon Sullivan – Wells Elementary
    - Katrice Brown – Wilson Early College Academy
- School Nutrition Association Georgetown Executive Leadership Program – 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 School Nutrition directors from across the nation who were selected to attend, and she is the only director representing North Carolina. The session will be held on March 4 and titled *Reimagining and Reshaping the Future of the School Nutrition Profession: A Design Thinking Approach*. The program will be held at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Participants who were selected to attend were nominated by their peers.
- Mayor's Heroes Initiative – Mayor Carlton Stevens is being recognized for his support of the WCS teachers. Mayor Stevens is a former teacher and administrator, and he wanted to do something to show educators how much he appreciates their hard work. Through his Mayor's Heroes initiative, he has been surprising a beginning teacher each month at their school and presenting them with a certificate and a check for $250 from his own pocket. The winners are chosen at random from among the beginning teachers who are in their first three years in the classroom. One of the stipulations of the initiative is for the teachers to spend the money on themselves.

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

- Asked for a moment of silence in remembrance of WCS Athletic Director Jimmy Tillman and Wilson County Commissioner Bill Blackman, who both passed away suddenly.
- Reminded the Board members of the ribbon cutting for Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) on March 2. Students will transition into the new WAAT building after Spring Break for the early colleges.
- Thanked Ms. Cornetto and Poyner Spruill, LLC, for sponsoring the Board of Education and Superintendent's team at the Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) Spelling/Trivia Bee fundraiser on March 14 at Hunt High.

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

- Shared that last week was a hard week with the sudden passing of Jimmy Tillman. Dr. Mills offered condolences to his family and friends. Mr. Tillman served the district for 34 years as a teacher, coach, administrator and was currently the district's athletic director. His funeral service was held at Fike High School this past Saturday. Dr. Mills thanked staff members and Joyner's Funeral Home for their assistance. He shared that the family has created a scholarship in Mr. Tillman's honor and details can be found on the district social media sites and through the WEP. Dr. Mills also offered condolences to the family and friends of County Commissioner Bill Blackman who passed away last week.
- Shared that since the last regular Board meeting, the district celebrated the 100th Day of School, Bus Driver Appreciation Week, School Resource Officer Day, School Counseling Week and is continuing to celebrate Black History Month. The early colleges accepted applications for their incoming freshman class, and the district had several Family Engagement Events focused on Social Emotional Learning and Preparing for High School.
- Thanked Susan Barnes with the North Carolina Farm Bureau for donating books to the elementary schools. She is a retired teacher and has donated books the past few years. This year, the book title was *I Love Strawberries* by Shannon Anderson. The book is about a young girl who loves strawberries and is determined to grow them herself. Students learn about gardening techniques, how to grow strawberries and how to manage pests.
- Reminded the Board members of the ribbon cutting on March 2 for the new WAAT building. This event is by invitation only. WAAT students and staff will move into the new building on March 13 after their Spring Break.
- Shared that the WCS Educator Job Fair will be held on March 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Darden Middle for those interested in teaching for WCS. Representatives from each school will be in attendance and preliminary interviews will be held onsite. Attendees will need to bring copies of their most recent transcript. More information will be shared this week.
- Shared that high school seniors are invited to attend the NextGen Hiring Event on February 23 from 2-6 p.m. in the Eagles Center on the campus of Wilson Community College. The event is hosted by the Wilson Chamber of Commerce and sponsored by Greenlight. At the event, seniors can explore current vacancies for careers in Wilson and interviews will be conducted onsite. The event is free to attend. Seniors should register in advance. The link to register can be found on the Wilson Chamber of Commerce website as well as the district website and social media sites. Dr. Mills thanked all of the companies who have agreed to be there to offer jobs to the students.
- Shared that the Whirli-Wellness Fair will be held on March 25 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Whirligig Park in downtown Wilson. The purpose of the event is to provide the community with various resources that support overall wellness and behavioral, social, emotional and physical health. The event is free and everyone is invited. Aside from resources, the event will have vendors, games, activities, a DJ and the All County Chorus. The event is being funded through the StrongSchoolsNC COVID-19 Testing Funding that the district received a few months ago. Details were shared with the Board during the November 2022 Board meeting. WCS has received a total of $1,060,000 in funds. Dr. Mills shared that the cost of the Whirli-Wellness Fair will only be a very small portion

of those funds. He also thanked the district leaders and administrators who are serving on the planning committee.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:55 p.m., five people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 7:05 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. Under Committee Reports/Human Resource Services – Committee Chair Velma Barnes shared that the committee met today to discuss an information item.

Information Item

A. Under National Board Support Program Updates, National Board Certification is a voluntary, advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. Teachers and Counselors must have a four-year degree from an accredited institution, a minimum of three years of teaching experience and a continuing teaching license/teaching certification. There are 25 possible certifications, with four developmental levels that include Early Childhood, Middle Childhood, Early Childhood through Young Adulthood and Early Adolescence through Young Adult. National Board Certification includes the initial certification cost of $1900; a yearly registration fee of $75; and $475 for retakes per component. The Initial Certification includes four components. The cost for Maintenance of Certification (MOC) for a five-year cycle is $495, with a registration fee of $75. The MOC includes two components. WCS applied to the COVID-19 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certificate Fee Reimbursement Grant Program. These funds are designated to reimburse teachers in qualifying school districts for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. In each fiscal year, through September 30, 2024, WCS will apply for PRC 198 as funds are available. Newly Certified Educators must submit a reimbursement form in order to receive the $1900 reimbursement. Educators must agree to remain with WCS for two years beyond certification. WCS offers certification support during the year. Currently, the district has 60 National Board Certified Teachers that receive a 12% increase in pay in the amount of $5,612 per year.

Action Item

A. Under Mentor Coordinators and Mentors Stipend Proposal, this item was tabled and will be discussed at a future meeting.

Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Chair Henry Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss information and action items.

Information Items

A. Under Contract Requiring Board Notification – Administrative 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 Dr. Mills, pending legal review: NCS North

Carolina Sound, for Speight Middle IP Camera System including Fiber/Network, funded through North Carolina Center for Safer Schools Safety and local funds, in the amount of $74,528.55.

B. Under 2023-2024 Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budgets, the proposed budgets were shared with the Board members for review. The 2023-2024 Local Current Expense Budget is for $28,310,659 and the Capital Outlay Budget request is for $1,250,000. The proposed budgets included increases in retirement, hospitalization, property insurance, vehicle insurance and insurance for athletics. Dr. Williams shared that the increases were based on estimated percentages for next year's budget.

Action Items

A. Under Contracts 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 contracts exceed $90,000 and require Board approval, pending attorney review:
    - E. B. Sports Inc., for athletic equipment for Beddingfield High, Hunt High and Fike High, in the amount of $185,547.51. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the contract with E.B. Sports Inc. for athletic equipment at Beddingfield High, Hunt High and Fike High in the amount of $185,547.51. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Ms. Boyette recused herself from voting.
    - NCS North Carolina Sound, for NyQuist Mass Notification System for Beddingfield High, Darden Middle, Elm City Middle, Fike High, Forest Hills Middle, Hunt High, Speight Middle and Springfield Middle, in the amount of $737,277.32. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, Mr. Breen and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the NCS North Carolina Sound contract, for service of mass notifications systems for each of the high schools and for each of the middle schools, in the amount of $737,277.32. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Additional Salary Supplements for Certified Staff, the district can provide additional salary supplements with the exception of Administration. The funds are provided by the state (071-Supplemental Funds for Teacher Compensation). In order to receive the supplement, a certified staff member must be employed by March 1, 2023. Last year the following group received the supplement: Teachers, Psychologists, Speech, Guidance, Media, Nurses and ROTC. The decision regarding who receives the salary supplements is decided by the local Board of Education. The funds are to be treated as salary and are subject to retirement. The Administration anticipates providing the funds in the March payroll pending Board approval. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the additional salary supplement for certified staff as approved by the state. 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 Revised Policy 2120, *Code of Ethics for School Board Members* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) policies.

B. Under Revised Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements* – 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 Student Fees for 2023-2024 School Year, the Administration shared a list of student fees to be utilized for the 2023-2024 school year, per WCS Board Policy 4600, *Student Fees*. The list includes parking fees for high school students ($100 a year); senior fees for high school students ($60 a year); technology fees for all students ($30 a year); and yearbook fees for students – which vary from school to school. Students that have a letter of Direct Services from WCS Child Nutrition or an accepted Free/Reduced Lunch Application, may have their technology fees waived. Technology fees are collected in accordance with Board Policy 6525, *Provision of Instructional Resources and Materials*. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the full Board approve the recommendation for school fees. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Revised Policy 2123, *Board Member Opportunities for Development* – 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.

D. Under Revised Policy 3420, *Student Promotion and Accountability* – 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.

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

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

G. Under Revised Policy 4110, *Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission* – 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.

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

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

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

K. Under Revised Policy 6220, *Operation of School Nutrition Services* – Second Reading, this policy was removed from the agenda.

L. Under Revised Policy 7130, *Licensure* – 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 Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve as a second reading, Policy 2123, Policy 3420, Policy 3430, Policy 3620, Policy 4110, Policy 4155, Policy 4400, Policy 6140 and Policy 7130. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

IX. At 7:31 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Mercer, 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 9:05 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. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of the January 23, 2023 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 Mr. Boykin, Ms. Powell and Ms. Barnes, 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. Boykin and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve personnel recommendations, as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. A list of personnel recommendations are attached.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board direct the Administration to draft a resolution regarding Pre-K allotment procedures and lack of transparency, in regards to the failure to comply with our public records request by the Wilson County Partnership for Children. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

XI. There being no further business at 9:10 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Christine L. Fitch

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS
February 20, 2023

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 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.

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Allen, Troy (P)	Elm City MS	6th Grade Social Studies/Science Teacher
Graybeal, Anna	Hunt HS	Part-Time Career Development Coordinator
Harris, Mary (E)	Vick ES	Kindergarten Teacher
Khavari, Adam	Jones ES	STEM Lab Facilitator
Mercer, Corey	Hunt HS	Career Technical Education (CTE) Public Safety Teacher
Salazar, Sindy	Darden MS	Art Teacher
Smith, Gisela	Student Services	School Social Worker
Williams, Sylvia	Jones ES	NC Pre-K Teacher

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Batten, David	Transportation	Mechanic II
Bland, Rashell	Wells ES	After School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) Student Assistant
Drummond, Delois	Stantonsburg ES	Interim Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Horne, Gretchen	Transportation	Bus Driver
Knowles, HaLee	Gardners ES	School Secretary/Bookkeeper
LaPierre, James	Fike HS	12 Month Custodian
Ogden, Deborah	School Nutrition	School Nutrition Substitute
Pippen, Devonta	Jones ES	Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Tucker, Elizabeth	School Nutrition	School Nutrition Substitute
Vasquez-Santiago, Shakira	Darden MS	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Woodard, Ryan	Lucama/Rock Ridge ES	12 Month Custodian
Woods, Lakesha	School Nutrition	School Nutrition Substitute

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Batten, Krista	Certified Substitute
Daniel, Brittany	Non-Certified Substitute
Glover, Marilyn	Certified Substitute
Haddock, Kara	Certified Substitute

Substitute Teachers (Continued)

Hartley, Kimberly	Certified Substitute
Parker, Susan	Non-Certified Substitute
Stallings, Karen	Certified Substitute
Taylor, Ramona	Non-Certified Substitute

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Harrison, Jacob (V)	Beddingfield HS	Baseball
Pooni, Amandeep	Beddingfield HS	JV Girls Soccer
Flowers, William (V)	Fike HS	Baseball
Hughey, David (V)	Fike HS	Boys Lacrosse
Labrera, Jose (V)	Fike HS	Boys Lacrosse
Dixon Jr., Mark (V)	Forest Hills MS	Girls Soccer
Burns, Tyler (V)	Hunt HS	Track and Field
Edwards, William (V)	Hunt HS	Track and Field
Shoun, Parker (V)	Hunt HS	Mens Lacrosse
Anders, Preston (V)	Speight MS	Girls Softball
Collier, Crystal (V)	Speight MS	Softball
Phillips, Jordan (V)	Speight MS	Baseball

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Bass, Wendy	Beddingfield HS	Science Teacher	Resignation	3/5/2023
Best, Tondia	Forest Hills MS	6th Grade ELA Teacher	Resignation	2/20/2023
Corey, Carlee	New Hope ES	2nd Grade Teacher	Resignation	3/6/2023

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS (Continued)

Certified

Lofton, LaTisha	Springfield MS	8th Grade ELA Teacher	Resignation	1/20/2023
Phillips, Ann	Forest Hills MS	6th Grade Science Teacher	Resignation	1/27/2023
White, Lori	Frederick Douglass ES	2nd Grade Teacher	Retirement	6/15/2023
Williams, Patricia	Elm City MS	6th Grade Social Studies/Science Teacher	Resignation	2/16/2023

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Battle, Travis	Transportation	Mechanic II	Resignation	2/2/2023
Carmichael Tune, Talisha	Barnes ES	Teacher Assistant	Resignation	2/3/2023
Roling, Jennifer	Vinson-Bynum ES	EC Teacher Assistant	Resignation	1/1/2023