MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JULY 19, 2021

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, July 19, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman
Beverly Boyette
Blake Boykin
Rhyan Breen
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Ms. Barnes was not able to attend the meeting face-to-face or remotely. The other Board members participated in the meeting at the Administrative Office.

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 Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, 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 Brandon McPherson. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson. There were 11 citizens in attendance.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda under Administrative Services Committee by adding action item, C, Construction and Financing Documents for the New Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) Property; and under Instructional Services Committee, by moving information item H, Revised Policy 6120, *Student Health Services* – First Reading, to an action item. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the revised agenda for July 19, 2021. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the June 7, 2021, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the minutes of June 7, 2021, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

IV. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch shared the following:

- She wished Ms. Barnes well as she recuperates.

- She congratulated Mr. Breen on being listed as one of the top 100 attorneys in North Carolina.

- She extended best wishes on a continued smooth operation of the Summer Scholars Institute.

- Lastly, she encouraged the Board to contribute to the annual Operation Backpack drive and to see Ms. Lynch for more information or to make a donation.

V. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills shared the following:

- The 2021-2022 school year will begin soon. The early college staff will return on July 26, and the early college students will return on August 2.

- He thanked members of the WCS family who retired during the 2020-2021 school year. There were 49 retirees and their names are listed on the district website and social media sites.

- The six-week Summer Scholars Institute program is underway. A total of 1,673 students are participating in the program. The Administration will share more information and data at the August Board meeting.

- Applications for students in grades 3-12 who are interested in attending the Wilson Academy of Virtual Education (WAVE) were due July 7. At the elementary level, grades 3-5, there were 37 applicants. At the middle school level, there were 77 applicants and at the high school level, there were 121 applicants. That is a total of 235 applicants. Principals are currently reviewing the applications and will be in contact with families by July 22. District leaders are in the process of looking at possible staff options at each of the three levels based on student numbers.

- He announced that the district launched a new website through Blackboard. Over the next few weeks, the Administration will be rolling out new features, updating pages and implementing further design changes. Please email askwcs@wilsonschoolsnc.net if you need help finding information.

- The district is collecting donations for the 10th annual Operation Backpack Drive, which provides backpacks and supplies to students in need through generous donations from the community. Backpacks will be available at the schools and staff will make sure that the students most in need of a backpack are provided with one prior to the first day of school. Dr. Mills asked for everyone's continued support. He also thanked Schwartz and Shaw for their continued financial support. Information about how to donate can be found on the district website and social media sites or contact Ms. Lynch.

- The upcoming summer conference for staff is scheduled on August 17. This is a day of professional development for staff, and it's also a time for WCS staff to shine because the sessions are almost entirely led by them. The district is currently seeking staff members to submit proposals for sessions they would like to lead. The deadline to submit proposals is August 4 and more information can be found in emails from Director of Technology Matthew Mayo.

- Lastly, the Administration is working with the Wilson County Health Department on another vaccination clinic. This clinic will be for WCS staff and also for students who are 12 and older. The first shot will be administered on July 30 and the second shot on August 20. The time for both is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and the location is the Fike High gym. Dr. Williams, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth and Ms. Lynch are meeting with Wilson County Health Director Teresa Ellen to discuss logistics.

VI. Under Public Input, Dr. Carol White and Flor Herrera-Picasso addressed the Board during this portion of the meeting. Dr. White shared the NAACP Strategic Plan Goals for 2021-2023, and Ms. Herrera-Picasso addressed the Board in reference to educational equity. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to both speakers.

VII. Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss three action items.

Action Items

A. Under Year End Budget Amendments, the Administration presented the 2020-2021 Budget Amendments 110-State Public School Fund, 308-Federal Fund, 407-Capital Outlay Fund, 1-School Nutrition Fund and 809-Local Special Revenue Fund ending June 30, 2021. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve Budget Amendments 110-End of Year State Public School Fund, 308-Federal Fund, 407-Capital Outlay Fund, 1-School Nutrition Fund and 809-Local Special Revenue Fund. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

B. Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval – Administrative 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 contracts exceed $90,000 and require Board approval:

   - Sysco, the mainline distributor for groceries and snack products, in the amount of $1,328,198.06.
   - Ward's Produce for providing all fresh produce in the amount of $91,328.60.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the aforementioned contracts for Sysco for $1,328,198.06 and Ward's Produce for $91,328.60. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

C. Under Construction and Financing Documents for the New Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) Property, the Administration is in the process of finalizing documents with Wilson County to seek financing and construction for the new WAAT building. The Administration shared global cost figures and dates for the project. The Board will need to approve the following documents: a Resolution Requesting Wilson County to Acquire Certain Real Property Owned by the Wilson County Board of Education and Authorizing Such Conveyance to the County; a Resolution Approving the Forms of Documents to be Entered into in Connection with Wilson County's Installment Financing of the Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of Certain School Facilities and Making Certain Findings and Determinations in Connection Therewith; a North Carolina General Warranty Deed; a Lease and Agency Agreement between the County of Wilson and the Wilson County Board of Education; and a Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the construction and financing documents for the new Wilson Academy of Applied Technology property inclusive of the Resolution Requesting Wilson County to Acquire Certain Real Property Owned by the Wilson County Board of Education and Authorizing Such Conveyance to the County; and a Resolution Approving the Forms of Documents to be Entered into in Connection with Wilson County's Installment Financing of the Acquisition, Construction and Equipping of Certain School Facilities and Making Certain Findings and Determinations in Connection Therewith; and including the North Carolina General Warranty Deed; a Lease and Agency Agreement between the County of Wilson and the Wilson County Board of Education; and the Guaranteed Maximum Price Amendment. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services Committee – Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss information items and action items.

Information Items

A. Under Project REACH (Restoring Every Absent Child's Hope) Update, the Administration shared the following information with the Board:
   - Overview
     - Project Reach was authorized for implementation in January 2021.
     - The length of the project was from January 4, 2021 through June 11, 2021.
     - The purpose of the program was to reconnect students and their families to the academic program at their assigned school so that the student can continue a pathway to academic success.
     - Twenty-three of 26 schools were included in the project.
     - The target population included all students with 10 or more absences during the first semester (August 2020 – December 2020) and students identified by school leaders during the second semester as having excessive absences.

- Priorities
    - 1st priority: High school seniors with 25 or more absences who were on track to graduate June 2021; and
    - 2nd priority: High school seniors with 10-24 absences who were on track to graduate June 2021; and
    - 3rd priority: All students in grades K-11 with excessive absences.
- Student Successes
    - Success was defined as
        - No longer enrolled in the district (confirmed);
        - Engaged in remote learning with continued support and encouragement;
        - Independently engaged in remote learning;
        - Attending face-to-face instruction; and
        - On track to graduate June 2021.
- Recommendations for noncompliant students for 2021-2022
    - Attend face-to-face instruction for the 2021-2022 school year;
    - Monitor attendance throughout the 2021-2022 school year; and
    - Require students to remain on the Project REACH watch list during the 2021-2022 school year.
- Data
    - A total of 648 students were served through the program.
    - Of the 648 students, 528 were successful and given a return rate of 81.5%
    - A total of 120 students were considered noncompliant and given a return rate of 18.5%
    - A total of 39 seniors participated in the program with 28 graduating.

B. Under WCS 2020-2021 Secondary Highlights, the Board received information about high school scholarship data, Latin designation awards, Career and College Promise data, high school graduation endorsements data and Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) data.

- This year, the early colleges and traditional high schools graduated 729 seniors in the Class of 2021.
- A total of 443 scholarships were offered to the graduating Class of 2021.
- The total amount of scholarships that were offered to the graduating Class of 2021 is $10,594,488.
- The total amount of scholarships that were offered and will be accepted by the graduating Class of 2021 is $4,750,791.
- Forty students have plans to directly enlist in military service with the US Armed Services after graduation.
- The Class of 2021 was honored with awards based on the Latin designations of Summa Cum Laude (overall weighted GPA of 4.25 or higher), Magna Cum Laude (overall weighted GPA of 4.0 to 4.2499999), or Cum Laude (overall weighted GPA of 3.75 to 3.999999). The number of awards earned were 54-Summa Cum Laude, 51-Magna Cum Laude and 59-Cum Laude.
- Through our continued partnership with Wilson Community College, we were able to offer opportunities for students in our traditional high

schools to take college-level courses for dual credit as specified in the Career and College Promise (CCP) legislation. Upon successful completion of these courses, students receive credit on their high school transcript, as well as college credit that may be counted towards a degree or diploma program once that student graduates and enters college. For the 2020-2021 school year, our traditional high school students earned 1,068 college course credits through CCP. This is in addition to the slate of college course credits earned by students at our early colleges.

- Per NC State Board of Education policy GCS-L-007, *High School Diploma Endorsements*, upon graduating from high school, students may earn up to five possible diploma endorsements for achievements during their high school career. The endorsements include Career Endorsement, College Endorsement, College/UNC Endorsement, NC Academic Scholars Endorsement and Global Languages Endorsements. The graduating Class of 2021 earned a total of 534 graduation endorsements.
- Students may earn credit for high school courses through Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) process by satisfactorily completing a score of 93% or higher on a final exam. The final exam will be a state assessment if one exists, or will be a teacher-made exam if no state exam exists. Also completing demonstrated proficiency on a performance task that supports mastery of the course content. This year, three middle school students earned credit for Spanish I through the CDM process. These students had completed Spanish IA and Spanish IB through Edgenuity during the year.

C. Under Revised Policy 3100, *Curriculum Development*, First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) policies.

D. Under Revised Policy 3300, *School Calendar and Time for Learning* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

E. Under Revised Policy 4125, *Homeless Students* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

F. Under Revised Policy 4335, *Criminal Behavior* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

G. Under Revised Policy 5000, *Schools and the Community* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

H. Under Revised Policy 6320, *Use of Student Transportation Services* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

I. Under Revised Policy 8310, *Annual Independent Audit* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

Action Items

A. Under 2021-2022 Traditional Calendar, the calendar has been revised to change Friday, August 20, 2021, from a mandatory workday to an optional workday for teachers and staff to complement the early college's calendar. The Administration recommends adoption of this calendar. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the Revised 2021-2022 Traditional Calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Mr. Mercer for the purpose of receiving the report and carrying through the motions.

B. Under Revised Policy 6120, *Student Health Services* – First Reading, this policy was moved from an information item to an action item on the agenda. This policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. This policy will need to be approved prior to the Board's discussion of the Local School Mental Health Improvement Plan, which is also listed on the agenda. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board waive the first reading of Policy 6120, *Student Health Services*, in order to help the Board manage the policy for the School Mental Health Plan. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve Revised Policy 6120, *Student Health Services*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

C. Under Local School Mental Health Improvement Plan (2021-2025), the Administration shared with the Board that in November 2020, NC State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003 was updated to include a School Based Mental Health policy. The NC State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003 requires school divisions to adopt and implement a plan for promoting student mental health and well-being and for assessing and improving upon the effectiveness of supports for the mental and social-emotional health and substance use needs of its students and staff. Additionally, the WCS Board Policy 6120, *Student Health Services*, was revised to include SHLT-003 requirements. In order to be in compliance with the NC State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003, the WCS Local School Mental Health Improvement Plan is being presented for school board adoption so implementation may begin with the 2021-2022 school year. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Boyette, that the full Board approve the Local School Mental Health Improvement Plan for 2021-2025 as presented. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

D. Under Policies to be Repealed, these policies are being repealed by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA and WCS policies. Upon approval, the following WCS policies will be removed from the policy manual: Policy 3521, *Roster of Extra-Duty Positions*; Policy 3523, *Extra-Duty Salary Schedule*; Policy 3818, *Administrative*

Leave of Absence; and Policy 7520, *Plans for Meeting Handicapped Codes in Building.* Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that Policy 3521, *Roster of Extra-Duty Positions*; Policy 3523, *Extra-Duty Salary Schedule*; Policy 3818, *Administrative Leave of Absence*; and Policy 7520, *Plans for Meeting Handicapped Codes in Building,* be repealed. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

E. Under Revised Policy 1510/4200/7270, *School Safety* – Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve Revised Policy 1510/4200/7270, *School Safety*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

F. Under Revised Policy 1610/7800, *Professional and Staff Development* – Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve Revised Policy 1610/7800, *Professional and Staff Development*, as recommended by the Instructional Services Committee. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

G. Under Revised Policy 2440, *Policy Review and Evaluation* – Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, 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 2440, *Policy Review and Evaluation*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

H. Under Revised Policy 3620, *Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations*, Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, 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 3620, *Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

I. Under Revised Policy 4040/7310, *Staff-Student Relations* – Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the Law Offices of Schwartz & Shaw, PLLC, 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 4040/7310, *Staff-Student Relations,* as a second read. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

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

VIII. Under Discussion/Action Items, the following was shared with the Board:

A. Under Contract Requiring Board Notification – Office of the Superintendent, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that the Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts involving amounts up to $90,000 and the

Superintendent shall report such contracts exceeding $30,000 to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Masonboro Group renewal agreement for leadership and associated services in the amount of $59,950 for the Aspiring Leaders and Administrators Support Program, has been approved by Dr. Mills. This contract is being provided for information only.

B. Under April Board of Education and Committee Meetings, the Board of Education and Committee Meetings for the month of April are scheduled on April 18, 2022. The district will observe Spring Break on April 18-22, 2022 (third Monday). The following events are also scheduled during the month of April: National School Boards Association Annual Conference on April 2-4 (first Monday); and COGNIA Accreditation Review on April 10-13 (second Monday). The Administration recommends the Board reschedule the April 18 Board and committee meetings to April 25 (fourth Monday). The Board will need to formally approve the new date for the April meeting. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the April 18, 2022, Board meeting be rescheduled to April 25, 2022. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

IX. At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by 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; and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

At 8:57 p.m., Ms. Boyette made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer and Mr. Breen, passed unanimously, 6-0.

X. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer and Mr. Breen, that the Board accept the Inter-District Reassignment Requests as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of June 7, 2021, 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 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 the attached list of Substitutes to be Reapproved, Coaches and the 2020-2021 Summer Scholars Institute Temporary Employment Contracts.

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

Williams, Danny-Assistant Director of Transportation

Certified

Best, Michelle-Art Teacher
Ingram, Pernell (L)-CTE-Public Safety Teacher
Jones, Sara-EC Preschool Itinerant Teacher
McCall, Amanda-2nd Grade Teacher
Morris, Michael-English Teacher
Smith, Caroline (R)-PE Teacher
Stokes, Rebecca-Digital Teaching and Learning Specialist

Classified

Baker, Jimmy-Groundskeeper I
Guox, Santos Rigoberto-HVAC Technician Assistant
Mercer, Cornell-12-Month Custodian
Thompson, Troy-EC Teacher Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative

Washington, LaToyha-Resignation

Certified

Boyette, Danielle-Resignation
Branson, Cynthia-Resignation

Braswell, Serita-Resignation
Brewington, Lakita-Resignation
Brown, Marie-Resignation
Bryant, Kimberly-Resignation
Burstion, Erma-Resignation
Falvo, Jeanne-Resignation
Fernandez, Brooke-Resignation
Fuller, Marquietta-Resignation
Garland, Justin-Resignation
Hailey, Madison-Resignation
Harris, Tamara-Resignation
Harris, Tonja-Resignation
James, Shanell-Resignation
Kirby, Crystal-Resignation
Leighton, Jessica-Resignation
McNeil, Domnique-Resignation
Pittman, Tara-Resignation
Sharma, Deepak-Resignation
Smith, Carl-Resignation
Speight, James-Resignation
Stokely, Allison-Resignation
Strickland, Nichelle-Resignation
Thompson, Lori-Resignation
Upchurch, Nikki-Resignation
Vann, Michael-Resignation
Walton, Abbie-Resignation
Weckesser, Elizabeth-Resignation
Williams, Frederick-Resignation
Wise, Rebecca-Resignation

Classified

Artis, Walter-Resignation
Bissette, Lauren-Resignation
Bulluck, Amanda-Resignation
Coley, Angela-Retirement
Harris, Haley-Resignation
Leake, Lisa-Resignation
Loftin, Bobbie-Resignation
Osborn, Vicki-Retirement
Parrish, Lisa-Resignation
Wiggins, Shareka-Resignation
Wilder, George-Resignation

XI. There being no further business at 8:59 p.m., Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Christine L. Fitch

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary