MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JANUARY 10, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, January 10, 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, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman
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.

Chairman Fitch announced that face coverings are required to be worn during the Board meeting. Face masks were available for those who did not have one.

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 Katie Cornetto. There were 10 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. Breen, that the Board approve the agenda for January 10, 2022, Wilson County Board of Education meeting to order. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the minutes of the December 13, 2021, Regular Board Meeting, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. Under Special Presentation to the Board, every January, WCS celebrates Board of Education Appreciation Month. WCS Teacher of the Year Karen Carlos, who is a Science Teacher at the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT), addressed the Board members to thank them for all that they do for our schools and community. Her remarks included several accomplishments the Board has made

since last January, which included: keeping the health and safety of students and staff first when making decisions related to COVID-19; opening a third school-based health center (WASH Center) at Hunt High in collaboration with our incredible partners and also nominating WASH for a state award, which it won; reviewing all of the Board policies to ensure they are aligned with general statutes and North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) policies; making major decisions related to updating school and athletic facilities; and breaking ground on the new building for Wilson Academy of Applied Technology. Ms. Carlos also presented each Board member with a coffee mug designed by students in her Design Club.

V. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch wished everyone a Happy New Year and shared that it seems like the year just started and now it's halfway through. She also advised the Board members that they would find the 2022 Board Committees at their places along with the entire remarks from one of last month's speakers who ran out of time during the public input portion of the meeting.

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

- Thanked the Board members for their commitment to students, staff, families and the community. He added that he gets to see firsthand how committed they are and appreciates the way they work together as a team.
- Shared that he hoped everyone had a relaxing Winter Break and enjoyed time with family and friends during the holidays. The second semester began last week, and WCS is off to a great start. He thanked Board Member Rhyan Breen for the free Cups of Joy coffee that Mr. Breen provided to staff on the first day back.
- Encouraged students to work hard and finish the second semester strong because it goes by fast.
- Shared information about the Refuel Mid-Year Hybrid Conference that was held for staff on January 4. Forty high quality sessions were offered and 436 staff members attended. Session categories covered topics such as instructional best practices and meeting the needs of all learners. He thanked the presenters and the Technology Department for their involvement.
- Lastly, he shared that the Wilson community lost an important member on January 7 when Captain Reggie Smith with the Wilson Police Department passed away. Dr. Mills added that our thoughts and prayers go out to his family, friends, the police department and everyone who he inspired - which included so many students. Captain Smith was a key part of the Wilson Police Athletic League, which offers free youth camps throughout the year and summer. He was also a coach and mentor to many students. Dr. Mills shared that we are heartbroken by his passing and grateful for his partnership and incredible legacy.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:42 p.m., three people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:49 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 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 the Superintendent shall report such contracts exceeding $30,000 to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The following contracts, which are less than $90,000, have been approved by Dr. Mills:
   - A contract with Encore Technology Group, LLC, for providing Plum Explorer/Plum Pak, in the amount of $46,860.39.
   - A contract with Language Line Solutions, for providing language translation services, in the amount not to exceed $85,000.00.
   - A contract with Softchoice, for an annual Microsoft 365 licenses renewal, in the amount of $68,192.19.

B. Under Revised Policy 3420, *Student Promotion and Accountability* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with NC General Statutes and align with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

C. Under Revised Policy 4700, *Student Records* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

D. Under Revised Policy 4720, *Survey of Students* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

E. Under Revised Policy 5022, *Registered Sex Offenders* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

F. Under Revised Policy 6320, *Use of Student Transportation Services* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

G. Under Revised Policy 7100, *Recruitment and Selection of Personnel* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

H. Under Revised Policy 7130, *Licensure* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

I. Under Revised Policy 7340, *Employee Dress and Appearance* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

J. Under Revised Policy 7530, *Military Leave* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

K. Under Revised Policy 8310, *Annual Independent Audit* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

L. Under Revised Policy 9000, *Planning to Address Facility Needs* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by Poyner and Spruill, LLP, law firm, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. The policy will be presented as a second reading at a future meeting.

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

Action Item

A. Under Proficiency Summer School 2022, the purpose of summer remediation and testing is to offer additional learning opportunities for students who have not yet demonstrated proficiency on state tests. Additionally, targeted instruction is offered to students.

   Proficiency Summer School would serve students who do not score proficient on the following tests:

   - EOG and NCEXTEND1 Grades 3-8 Math
   - EOG and NCEXTEND1 Grades 3-8 Reading
   - EOG an NCEXTEND1 Grades 5 and 8 Science
   - EOC English 2
   - EOC NC Math 1
   - EOC NC Math 3
   - EOC Biology
   - EXTEND1 Grade 10

   The schedule for Proficiency Summer School will be as follows:

   - June 6, 2022 – remediation
   - June 7, 2022 – remediation (some testing to occur based on student need)
   - June 8, 2022 – summer test day at every school

The hours will be as follows:

- High School: 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Elementary School: 8 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Middle School: 8:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve the Proficiency Summer School Plan 2022 as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

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

Information Item

A. Under WCS COVID-19 Updates, the Administration presented to the Board an update on COVID-19 cases and protocols. Dr. Williams shared that at the time of the Board meeting, there were 137 active COVID-19 cases (29 staff members and 108 students) compared to 14 active cases at the time of the Board meeting on December 13. Regarding active contacts, there were 71 active contacts (2 staff members and 69 students) at the time of the Board meeting compared to 33 active contacts at the time of the December meeting.

   Dr. Williams shared that recent data from the Wilson County Health Department indicated that the average cases per day for the last seven days were 148 cases compared to 18 last month. Out of the total population of Wilson County over the age of 12, 58.8% are fully vaccinated compared to 57.3% in December. He also shared that the Pfizer booster shot is now available for ages 12 and older; and there was an update to the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) on January 7 that included changes on who should quarantine and strict mask use for five days on indoor athletics for anyone returning from a five-day isolation and quarantine.

   He also shared that the district does not have any classes or schools in remote instruction; and no athletic teams are quarantined.

Action Items

A. Under Face Coverings, a state law went into effect August 30, 2021, requiring school boards to vote monthly on their masking policies. At the September 20, 2021, Board meeting, the Board adopted a resolution in support of staff and students continuing to wear face coverings in schools, other WCS buildings and on school transportation. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board continue the resolution as passed in September by the Board of Education to continue the requirement of face coverings by employees, students and visitors within Wilson County Schools. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under 2021-2022 Budget Resolution, the Administration presented a budget resolution that represents the 2021-2022 Current Expense Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, Before/After School Care Program Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund budgets. General Statute (G.S.) 115C-434 authorizes the Board of Education to make appropriations for the budget year. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the 2021-2022 Budget Resolutions as presented by the Administration for Current Expense Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, Before/After School Care Program Fund and the Local Special Revenue Fund. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under 2022-2023 Calendar for Budget Development, the Administration is recommending the Board approve March 28, 2022, as a Budget Work Session. G.S. 115C-429 requires that a budget be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners by May 15. The Board of Education is scheduled to present the 2022-2023 Budget Request to the County Commissioners on May 3. The Board also discussed having a joint special meeting between the Wilson County Board of Education and the Wilson County Board of Commissioners on February 3, 2022, at 6 p.m. at the Wilson County Agriculture Center. The Board asked that the joint special meeting be added to the 2022-2023 Calendar for Budget Development. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the full Board approve the Budget Calendar for 2022-2023 with the amended date of February 3 to be added to that calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IX. At 7:10 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; 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, 7-0.

At 7:42 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, Mr. Mercer and Mr. Breen, passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board accept 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 the closed session minutes of the December 13, 2021 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. Mercer 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 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.

Certified

Davis, Kendrick (I)-Public Safety/Law Enforcement Teacher
Dawson, Rico-Chorus Teacher
Gunter, Kelly-2nd Grade Teacher
Head, Jo Ann (E)-English Teacher
Hobgood, Leah-5th Grade Teacher
Kinnamon, Bracey-Kindergarten Teacher
Parker, Brittany-Kindergarten Teacher
Pennington, Katherine-6th Grade Science/Social Studies
Raffeo, Tiffany (R)-Art Teacher
Wheeler, Mitchell (E)-PE Teacher

Classified

Bass, Debra-Office Support
Evans, Elisabeth-Payroll Specialist
Harris, Deshonta-Interim EC Teacher Assistant

Coaches

Best, Quinton (V)-Basketball
Fitch, Adam-Girls Soccer
Massey, Brian-JV Baseball
Massey, Larry (V)-JV Baseball

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Pittman, Lora-Resignation
Taylor, Shannon-Resignation

Classified

Faulkner, Rhonda-Retirement
Richardson, Edna-Resignation
Wells, Amber-Resignation

Dismissal

Locus Erebor, Arlastor-Child Nutrition Assistant

XI. There being no further business at 7:44 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