MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION
MARCH 17, 2022

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Work Session on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. in the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Dr. Christine Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m. with the following members present:

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

The meeting was 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 of Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Assistant Director of Maintenance Greg Woodard, 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 was one citizen in attendance.

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 agenda for the Work Session for the Wilson County Board of Education be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

Dr. Fitch led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

At 10:03 a.m., Board Member Velma Barnes joined the meeting; and at 10:04 a.m., Board Vice Chairman Henry Mercer joined the meeting.

Under Chairman's Comments, Dr. Fitch shared that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss facilities. The Wilson County Board of Education recently had a joint meeting with the Wilson County Board of Commissioners that prompted this meeting.

Dr. Mills shared the following information with the Board:

- Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) is on track for completion in February/March 2023.
- Bids are ready for selection at the next regular Board meeting for an 8-lane track at Beddingfield High.
- At the February Board meeting, the Board selected H.M. Kern for renovations at Barnes Elementary and Lee Woodard Elementary. The cost is $2,005,000.

- The district received the K-12 Athletic Facilities Grant from NCDPI in February for $123,823. The funds must be used by June 30, 2024. These funds will be applied to the Fike High Tennis Court Project.
- The district has completed a Needs-Based Public Schools Capital Funds application for the construction of a new Frederick Douglass Elementary School. This is the same funding source as the WAAT project. Wilson County Schools only requires a 5% match for 2022-2023. Notification of the grant award is anticipated by April 12, 2022.
- In March 2019, the Board and the County Commissioners participated in a field trip of the high schools to look at capital needs. The following projects have been completed: paving at Beddingfield High and Hunt High; tennis courts at Hunt High; lights for the baseball field at Fike High; and the track at Beddingfield High is underway.
  Request for Qualifications will be presented at the April Board meeting for the renovation of auditoriums at all three high schools; addition of safety vestibules at Fike High and Hunt High; and new science labs at all three high schools.
- In the future, the Board will need to discuss the following:
  - Hunt High track project
  - School utilization and assignments based on Operations Research and Education Laboratory (ORED) Study
  - Plan for Frederick Douglass Elementary during construction
  - Consideration of the following additional items:
    - Restrooms and changing facilities for all high schools and middle school outdoor athletic fields
    - Painting cycle for all schools
    - Furniture replacement schedule for all schools
    - Annual funding for athletic facilities
    - Rear driveway at New Hope Elementary
    - Request the installation of gas lines for Lucama Elementary, Rock Ridge Elementary and Springfield Middle
    - Consider the needs for expansion of Rock Ridge Elementary and New Hope Elementary based on city and county growth patterns
  - Schedule future facility planning work sessions

It was the Board's consensus to observe a break from 11:21 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration present information on facility needs at the next regular Board meeting to include the Hunt High track project; fieldhouses at all three high schools; outdoor athletic bathrooms at Fike High, Hunt High and all middle schools; and equipment such as timing devices and hurdles.

A Board Work Session for facility planning has been scheduled on March 28 at 4 p.m., in conjunction with the Budget Work Session; March 30 at 1 p.m.; and April 13 at 1 p.m.

There being no further business at 12:07 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