MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
July 20, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, July 20, 2020, at 4:00 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. The meeting was conducted virtually using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
Rhyan Breen
Gary Farmer
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Dr. Fitch and Mr. Breen participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated offsite.

Others participating were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Executive Director of Financial Services Rene Evans, Executive Director of Elementary Education Jennifer Lewis, Executive Director of Secondary Education David Lyndon, Executive Director of Federal Programs Robin May, Executive Director of Technology Services Matthew Mayo, Executive Director of Exceptional Children Melissa McFatter, Executive Director of Accountability and Testing Scott Sage, Director of Transportation Robert Harvey, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Director of School Nutrition Mary-Catherine Talton, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Public Relations Assistant Aislinn Rameriz, Technology Coordinator Michelle Edwards, 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. Wilson County Health Department Director Teresa Ellen participated virtually.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda by moving Year End Budget Amendments from an action to information item. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the July 20, 2020, agenda with the stated change. The motion passed unanimously.

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 8, 2020, Regular Board Meeting, June 22, 2020, Special Board Meeting and July 13, 2020, Special Board Meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the June 8, 2020, Regular Board

Meeting minutes, June 22, 2020, Special Board Meeting minutes and July 13, 2020, Special Board Meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch shared that on July 17, 2020, filing closed for School Board seats in Districts 2, 4 and 6. Three term Board Member Gary Farmer of District 6 did not file for reelection. On behalf of the Board, Dr. Fitch thanked Mr. Farmer for his service and said she is looking forward to his continued work through the remainder of his term ending November 2020. Mr. Mercer of District 4 and Ms. Barnes of District 2 have filed to continue their service to the Wilson County Schools (WCS) Board of Education. Mr. Mercer has no filed opposition. Ms. Barnes has one filed opposition. The Board acknowledged the following candidates who filed for District 6: Henry Williams, Herbert Olinger and William Boykin. They acknowledged that Roger Hudson had filed for the District 2 seat. Those seeking election will be invited to attend Board Orientation regarding Board services at a date to be determined.

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

- The Summer Food Sites are up and running at four schools and also at community sites across the county. The schools are Hearne Elementary, Darden Middle, Lucama Elementary and Forest Hills Middle. The sites are open 12-1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

- Donations are being collected for our annual backpack drive. Dr. Mills thanked everyone who donated so far to Operation Backpack. The donation deadline is July 31 and more information can be found on the WCS website and social media sites. The backpacks that are collected will be sent to the schools for staff to distribute to students in need prior to the first day of school.

- The Administration recently surprised Beddingfield High graduate Mary Ashlee Sauls with a 2020 Owens Scholarship. Ashlee will receive $7,000 a year toward her college tuition for four years as she pursues her teaching degree. Once she graduates from college, she will come back to teach for WCS. She is planning to attend Wilson Community College and then transfer to East Carolina University. The Owens Scholarship began in 1998 when Alfred and Myrtle Owens created a private trust. Ashlee is the 130th recipient of the scholarship.

- Assistant Principals Casey Wester and LaToyha Washington were selected to participate in the 2020-21 Future-Ready Leadership program through the NC Principals and Assistant Principals Association. They will attend monthly sessions at the Friday Institute in Raleigh that will cover topics such as becoming an instructional leader, creating a healthy school culture and maximizing relationships with students. Dr. Mills offered congratulations to the two administrators and said that this will be a great experience for them.

- Instructional Technology Facilitator Deepak Sharma earned his Certified Education Technology Leader (CETL) Certification through Consortium for School Networking. This certification represents the highest standards of excellence in the education technology industry. This is a huge accomplishment and not one where you can study the curriculum and pass the certification test. Those who earn the certification have spent years in the field of education technology and have a wealth of knowledge. Dr. Mills congratulated Mr. Sharma on this accomplishment and thanked him for going above and beyond to expand his skills to benefit students.

- Dr. Mills congratulated the 43 amazing members of our WCS Family who retired during the 2019-2020 school year. WCS is grateful for their selfless service to their students and schools. The retirees are Michelle Anderson, Elizabeth Barfield, Ellen Bergland, Ann-Marie Brown, Veronica Bunch, Betty Bunn, Barbara Cornman, Susan Deans, Lillie Dunican, Buster Edwards, Rene Evans, Jeffrey Flowers, Michelle Galloway, Debbie Hancock, Robin Harrell, Sylvia Hill, Shirley Horne, Dr. Delilah Jackson, Barbara Johnson, Randy King, Luther Lucas, Dr. Denise Luper, Donna Malloy, Emmett Matthews, Debra May, Craige Moore, Ernestine Moore, Debra Pegram, Randy Prince, Cheryl Raper, Neita Schultz, Robert Sessoms, Susan Smith, Karen Stephenson, Sandra Strickland, Teresa Sutton, Stuart Tedder, Eddie Thompson, Sandra Tipps, Lori Tolson, Geraldine Williams, Mary Wooten and Dr. Robin Wright.

- Dr. Mills shared with the Board that he has been selected to represent our region on the North Carolina School Superintendents' Association Executive Board. He has attended several Zoom meetings. He shared that it's a great group, and he is honored to be representing WCS and Region 3. Dr. Fitch extended congratulations on behalf of the Board.

VI. Under Public Input, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch read an email during this portion of the meeting from Jennifer Joyner concerning Mrs. Dixon, former Assistant Principal at New Hope Elementary. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to Ms. Joyner.

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

Information Items:

A. Under WCS 2020 Secondary Highlights, the Board received information about high school scholarship data, Latin designation awards, Career and College Promise data, and high school graduation endorsements.

- This year, the early colleges and traditional high schools graduated just over 780 Seniors in the class of 2020.
- A total of 410 scholarships were offered to the graduating Class of 2020.
- The total amount of scholarships that were offered to the graduating

Class of 2020 is $13,908,028.

- The total amount of scholarships that were offered and will be accepted by the graduating Class of 2020 is $6,107,142.
- Forty-three students have plans to directly enlist in military service with the US Armed Services after graduation.
- The Class of 2020 is the first WCS graduation class to be 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, 38-Magna Cum Laude and 48-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 2019-2020 school year, our traditional high school students earned 1056 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 2020 earned a total of 656 graduation endorsements.

B. Under Contracts for Board Notification, 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 contracts, which are less than $90,000, have been approved by the Superintendent. This is for information only.

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
ClassLink	Annual Site License, Roster Server, and Setup Fee	$43,665.00
Mentoring Minds	Think Up! Math Resource	$42,800.00

C. Under Year End Budget Amendments, the agenda was amended to add this as an information item. The Board received information on the 2019-2020 Budget Amendments 105-State Public School Fund, 204-Current Expense Fund, 305-Federal Fund, 402-Capital Outlay Fund, 503-Child Nutrition Fund, 602-Trust and Agency Fund, 701-Before/After School Care Program Fund and 805-Local Special Revenue Funds ending June 30, 2020. At the June 8, 2020, Wilson County Board of Education meeting, the Board voted to authorize the Superintendent to approve Year End Budget Amendments.

These amendments are aligned with our budget and maximizes our allotments.

Dr. Mills and the Board recognized Ms. Evans for the outstanding work she has done for WCS as Executive Director for Finance. This is Ms. Evans last Board meeting prior to her retirement.

Action Items:

A. Under WCS 2020-2021 Re-entry Plan, the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), in conjunction with the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), teachers, support staff, local education leaders, and others, collaborated to develop plans to assist the state's public schools and communities as they develop reopening plans for the 2020-2021 school year. NCDPI developed *Lighting Our Way Forward: North Carolina's Guidebook for Reopening Public Schools* as a guiding document. NCDHHS provided recommendations and requirements in the *Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit K-12.* The plan outlines three plans for re-entry:
   - Plan A: Minimal Social Distancing;
   - Plan B: Moderate Social Distancing; and
   - Plan C: Remote Learning.

   The Administration is recommending Plan C, Remote Learning for the first nine weeks.
   - Early Colleges: August 3 – October 2
   - Traditional Schools: August 17 – October 21

   After the first nine weeks, if conditions improve, the Administration is recommending Plan B, Option F – Hybrid. The Re-entry Plan is attached.

   - Blended – Alternating Weeks for Face-to-Face (F2F) and Remote Learning for PreK-8 with enhanced health protocols
   - EXTEND 1 / Occupational Course of Study F2F
   - Full-Time Remote Learning (PreK-12), until conditions improve, or
   - WCS Virtual Academy (3-12) for the remainder of the course

   During Remote Learning and the Virtual Academy, students will be provided two meals per day.

   The Administration looked at several options and scenarios for students returning to the classroom. There are major challenges with transportation, staffing and funding. Right now, WCS currently operates 115 buses daily. Due to COVID-19 and doctor's orders, 23 bus drivers have indicated that they will not be returning to work. The maximum number of people, including students and staff, allowed on a bus during COVID-19 will be 24. This number will decrease based on space needed to isolate students with COVID-19 symptoms. Other challenges related to bus transportation include:

- Additional buses and routes will be required.
- The cost to operate buses will increase weekly from $16K to $30K due to multiple runs and refueling between stops.
- Buses will need to be cleaned between routes.
- Pick-up and drop-off times for students at bus stops will begin at 3:30 a.m. and end at 9 p.m.
- Windows on the buses will need to be down at all times regardless of weather conditions.

Staffing in the schools and funding were also challenges. Some teachers indicated that they will be unable to return to the classroom due to child care, being caregivers and health reasons. As far as funding, based on the number of face coverings needed for students, disinfectant, wipes, overtime pay for custodial staff for additional cleaning and sanitizing throughout the day, and the cost of water bottles provided to students, the Administration estimated only having enough funding to last until December. The district received $4 million from the CARES Act.

Ms. Ellen reported that the Wilson County Health Department has seen a spike in COVID-19 cases over the past couple of weeks. There have been 91 cases in children between the ages of 0-18, and 63 of these cases have been school-aged children. The cases have been mildly symptomatic to asymptomatic and occurring in households where family members also have COVID-19. All of the deaths have been people over the age of 60, with the exception of one person in her 50s. Most of the deaths have been people in their 70s and 80s with underlying health conditions. The total number of positive cases is 1122, and 83% are recovering. Currently, there are 161 total active cases, which make up 14% of Wilson County's total numbers.

Mr. Mercer made the motion to approve the 2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan as presented by the Administration, but the motion was not seconded. Therefore, the motion failed.

At 6:41 p.m., it was the Board's consensus to take a recess. The meeting reconvened at 6:55 p.m.

After the meeting reconvened, the Board shared their thoughts on the Re-Entry Plan.

- Ms. Boyette shared that she would like for K-3 students and Exceptional Children to return to face-to-face instruction full-time on the first day of school. After the first nine weeks, she suggested that students in grades 4-5 also return, but she also supported students in grades 4-12 transitioning to Blended Learning after the first nine weeks if they were in Remote Learning.
- Mr. Breen said that he supported Plan C for the first nine weeks of school, but he wanted students in grades K-3 to return to face-to-face instruction full-time on the first day of school.
- Dr. Fitch, Mr. Farmer, Ms. Powell, Ms. Barnes and

Mr. Mercer supported the Administration's recommendation of Plan C for the first nine weeks of school and then transitioning to Plan B if conditions allowed.

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

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to accept the recommendation of the Administration which is, we start with Remote Learning for PreK-12, and after a period of time we will transition to a hybrid or alternating weeks for PreK-8 and continue with remote for 9-12 and also include from the beginning the Virtual Academy, including EXTEND 1 learning and OCS being face-to-face. The motion passed 5:2, with Ms. Boyette and Mr. Breen casting the dissenting votes.

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

B. Under North Carolina Alternative Schools' Accountability Model, WCS must identify and be approved to participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model. The options include:

- Option A: Alternative schools may participate in School Performance Grades as defined by general statutes, or
- Option B: Alternative schools may participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, or
- Option C: An alternative school may propose its own alternative accountability model for approval by the State Board of Education.

Schools using Option B are included in the North Carolina Accountability Reporting and Every Student Succeeds Act. The Administration is requesting approval to participate in Option B for Daniels Learning Center. Option B is the Alternative Schools' Progress Model, which Daniels participated in for the 2019-2020 school year. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model Option B for the 2020 school year. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Under Year End Budget Amendments, the agenda was amended to move this from an action to information item.

D. Under Draft and Revised Policies, the following policies were presented:
1. Draft Policy 4120, *Domicile or Residence Requirements* – Second Reading
2. Draft Policy 4130, *Discretionary Admission* – Second Reading
3. Draft Policy 4135, *Tuition for Discretionary Admissions* – Second Reading
4. Draft Policy 4320, *Tobacco Products - Students* – Second Reading
5. Draft Policy 4325, *Drugs and Alcohol* – Second Reading
6. Draft Policy 5020, *Visitors to the Schools*– Second Reading

7. Draft Policy 5040, *News Media Relations* – Second Reading
8. Revised Policy 5050, *Emergency Closings* – Second Reading
9. Draft Policy 5070/7350, *Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition* – Second Reading
10. Draft Policy 5100, *Relationship with Other Governmental Agencies* – Second Reading
11. Draft Policy 5110, *Relationship with County Commissioners* – Second Reading
12. Draft Policy 5240, *Advertising in the Schools* – Second Reading
13. Draft Policy 6315, *Drivers* – Second Reading
14. Draft Policy 6322, *Student Assignment to Buses* – Second Reading
15. Draft Policy 6540, *Hazardous Materials* – Second Reading
16. Draft Policy 6550, *Vandalism* – Second Reading
17. Draft Policy 7503, *Teleworking* – Second Reading
18. Draft Policy 7610, *Defense of Board Employees* – Second Reading
19. Draft Policy 8305, *Federal Grant Administration* – Second Reading

The Board is in the process of reviewing all of its policies to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. Draft policies were reviewed and discussed at a Special Meeting on July 13. The draft policies are being presented to the Board as a second reading.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the policies listed on the agenda under Roman Numeral VII, Discussion/Action Items, letter D, Draft and Revised Policies 1-19, as a second reading, and repeal the corresponding old policies, as set forth in the handout dated July 20, 2020. The motion passed unanimously. The handout is attached.

VIII. At 7:47 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, 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.

At 8:33 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, passed unanimously.

IX. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests, but not release for public inspection due to student confidentiality. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to approve the closed session minutes of the June 8, 2020, June 22, 2020 and July 13, 2020, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed 6:1, Ms. Boyette asked to be recused from the personnel recommendation vote.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified position and attached list of substitutes to be reapproved, coaches and teacher 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.

Certified

Allen, David (R)-Band
Davis, Robert (R)-Social Studies
Daw, April-Counselor
Exum, Olivia-Band/Chorus
Jackson, Juan-PE
Jasek-Rysdahl, Annika-Exceptional Children
Lyndon, Emory (R)-Math
Ramirez, Cynthia-1st Grade
Roberson, Madison-5th Grade
Sharpe, Robert (R)-Social Studies
Speight, James-CTE-Carpentry
Thomas, Sallie-1st Grade

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Craven, Rebekah-Resignation
Crutchfield, Lakia-Resignation
Darden, Elaine-Resignation
Edwards, Teisha-Resignation
Gupton, Dachelle-Resignation
Haskins, Brian-Resignation
Hatchett, Alia-Resignation
Jones, Tekicey-Resignation
Langston, Mary Katherine-Resignation
Osborne, Miranda-Resignation
Parks, Tiffany-Resignation
Pitt, Heather-Resignation
Reich, Ryan-Resignation
Serrano, Edith-Resignation
Tart, Brandon-Resignation
Taylor, Denise-Resignation

Classified

Blake, Sarah-Resignation
Higgs, Virginia-Retirement

XI. There being no further business at 8:36 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine L. Fitch
Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary