MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 17, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, August 17, 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 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 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, K-5 Literacy Coordinator Wanda Humphrey, Pre-K – 2 Literacy Coordinator Christina Shrock, Wilson County Schools (WCS) Athletic Director Jimmy Tillman, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Brian Shaw. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda by adding Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Expansion as an action item under Roman Numeral VII, Discussion/Information/Action Items, Letter D. Also, a contract for Verizon was added to the precis for Contracts Requiring Board Approval. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the amended agenda for August 17, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the July 20, 2020, Regular Board Meeting, and August 10, 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 July 20, 2020, and August 10, 2020, Board meeting minutes. The motion

passed unanimously.

IV. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch welcomed everyone to the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year. She shared that during COVID-19 all efforts have been made to keep everyone safe. Dr. Fitch also wished everyone success as the district begins remote learning. She advised that prior to the end of the first nine weeks, a decision will be made on students returning to school for the academic year.

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

- Today was the first day of school for students in our traditional schools – though we are spending the first few days getting students settled in before instruction begins. Dr. Mills thanked all of the staff, students and parents for the amazing job they have done figuring things out so far. He shared that he told staff recently that we are all beginners this year because none of us have ever done this before. Dr. Mills said he is excited that everyone is back and the school year has begun. He thanked staff for all they did to prepare for the first day. Last week, the schools held device and schedule pickup for students.

- The district held a Virtual Conference for staff on August 12. Dr. Mills thanked Mr. Mayo and his team for organizing the conference and thanked the staff members who presented. More than 50 sessions were offered to assist staff in preparing for online teaching and learning. The session categories covered topics such as instructional best practices, student engagement and effective feedback on student work.

- While our traditional schools are kicking off the school year this week, our early colleges, Wilson Early College Academy and the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology, had a head start. Dr. Mills shared that everything has gone incredibly well with their remote learning, and he thanked the principals and staff members for getting WCS started off on the right foot.

- Meal Service resumed today at the traditional schools. Lunch and a breakfast for the following day are available curbside from 12-1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Students at the early colleges and Daniels Learning Center can visit any of the traditional schools for meals. Families with children at multiple schools can visit just one school to pick up meals for students. Dr. Mills said that he appreciates how Ms. Talton and the School Nutrition Department staff have not slowed down at all and worked straight through the summer. They have not missed a beat, and it's really made a positive difference for our families.

- Dr. Mills thanked everyone who donated to Operation Backpack. The district is grateful for the backpacks that were donated and also the monetary contributions that were used to purchase backpacks and supplies. The backpacks are being sent to schools for distribution. In total, 2,000 backpacks have been collected. School staff will make sure

that the students who are most in need of a backpack receive one. Donations are still being accepted and information can be found on our website.

- Last month, Instructional Technology Facilitator Deepak Sharma was recognized for earning his Certified Education Technology Leader Certification. Dr. Mills recognized Instructional Technology Facilitator Cara Patterson for also earning this certification, which represents the highest standard of excellence in the education technology industry.

- WCS received the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI) Teacher Compensation and Advanced Teacher Roles Grant. This grant empowers school districts to design new teaching roles that provide advancement opportunities, improved professional development and greater support for student achievement. The original grant was for a three-year rollout, and the district's proposal was for $674,000. Due to COVID-19, the NC legislature had to evaluate how this grant could be implemented since schools were closed. The awards for the first year have been made, and a revised Request for Proposals is coming in September from NC DPI in order to apply for the following two years as it becomes available. The district's first year award is for $196,038.

VI. Under Public Input, no one submitted information to address the Board during this portion of the meeting.

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

Information Items:

A. Under 2020 Remediation/Jumpstart, the Administration shared that each public school unit had to develop a Remediation and Summer Jump Start Plan for the 2020-2021 school year to provide a supplemental summer learning program for students whose learning has been negatively affected by the impacts of COVID-19 based on Session Law 2020-4, House Bill 1043. WCS held the Remediation/Jumpstart Program July 13-30. There were 170 K-4 students enrolled with 141 actively engaged. Five directors led the assigned grade levels and 48 certified staff members provided reading and math instruction to the students remotely and by paper/pencil. At the end of the program, all of the students saw increases in their achievement levels.

B. Under 2020-2021 Re-Entry Plan – C, the Administration updated the Board on school re-entry, staffing, and administrative services. A copy of the Staff Re-Entry Implementation Plan was shared with the Board. The plan provides the following guiding principles for WCS Re-entry:

- Ensure safe learning and working environments for students and staff.
- Address the inequities that exist among students' access to instruction.
- Ensure all students receive instruction that meets state and federal standards and have the necessary supports for success, including:

    - Access to technology and internet connection;
    - Culture of connectivity and collaboration through social-emotional wellness supports; and
    - Additional supports to meet needs of special populations.
- Provide training, time, support, and flexibility necessary for students, staff, and families to prepare for successful re-entry.
- Engage and inform staff, students, families, and community members with timely, reliable, and accurate communication (with translations).
- Respond to new information by being flexible and refining approaches, as needed.
- Provide families with educational options.

The Staff Re-Entry Plan also provided details about online instruction under Plan C, which included information about staff and student expectations; attendance; grading communication with families; and the schedule for the instructional workday.

C. 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 contract listed below, which is less than $90,000, has been approved by the Superintendent. This is for information only.

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
Trinity 3	Touchscreen Lenovo Chromebooks for Pre-K	$41,389.11

Action Items:

A. Contracts Requiring Board Approval, 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. Dr. Mills shared that even without COVID-19, the district would have still needed to purchase the Chromebooks, carts and laptops as a part of technology upgrades.

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
Trinity 3	Touchscreen Lenovo Chromebooks and Charging Carts	$682,514.67
Trinity 3	Lenovo Thinkpad Laptops for Middle School Teachers	$185,531.50
Verizon	Additional hotspots and one year of service	$99,000.00

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the Administration's request for Trinity 3 Touchscreen Lenovo Chromebooks

and Charging Carts; Trinity 3 Lenovo Thinkpad Laptops for Middle School Teachers; and Verizon's additional hotpots and one year of service. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Under Athletics Update, the Administration presented the approved athletic plan from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) and a proposed WCS workout plan schedule for the Board's approval. The athletic plan from the NCHSSA outlines the starting dates for practices and first contests and also the date of the last contest. According to the schedule, the first contests for cross-country and volleyball would be in November; swimming would be in December; boys soccer, lacrosse and basketball would be in January; football would be in February; golf, boys tennis, girls soccer and softball would be in March; and baseball, girls tennis, track and wrestling would be in April. Mr. Tillman advised that the schedule is subject to change if the Governor does not move the state into the next phase. The Administration proposed the following workout plan schedule:

- Begin workouts on September 21, 2020.
- Open to all sports that are allowed to workout based on NCHSAA guidelines at that time.
- Follow all NCHSAA guidelines in place at that time.
- Middle School Athletic plans will be at the discretion of each LEA.
- All state and local approved plans are subject to change based on future public health considerations.

September 21, 2020, allows for development of updated NCHSAA guidelines and monitoring of safe environments.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the Wilson County NC High School approved plan for athletics. The motion passed 6:1, with Dr. Fitch casting the dissenting vote.

C. Under Draft and Revised Policies, the following policies were presented:
1. Draft Policy 1400, *Governing Principle – School Initiatives* – Second Reading
2. Draft Policy 1500, *Governing Principle – Safe, Orderly and Inviting Environments* – Second Reading
3. Draft Policy 1700, *Governing Principle – Removal of Barriers* – Second Reading
4. Draft Policy 1800, *Governing Principle – Stewardship of Resources* – Second Reading
5. Draft Policy 3228/7323, *Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business* – Second Reading
6. Draft Policy 4150, *School Assignment* – Second Reading
7. Revised Policy 4230, *Communicable Diseases – Students* – Second Reading

8. Revised Policy 4250/5075/7316, *North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program* – Second Reading
9. Draft Policy 4334/5035/7345, *Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)* – Second Reading
10. Draft Policy 5027/7275, *Weapons and Explosives Prohibited* – Second Reading
11. Draft Policy 5071/7351, *Electronically Stored Information Retention* – Second Reading
12. Draft Policy 6100, *Goals of Student Health Services* – Second Reading
13. Draft Policy 6110, *Organization of Student Health Services* – Second Reading
14. Draft Policy 6120, *Student Health Services* – Second Reading
15. Draft Policy 6125, *Administering Medicines to Students* – Second Reading
16. Draft Policy 6402, *Participation in Historically Underutilized Businesses* – Second Reading
17. Draft Policy 6524, *Network Security* – Second Reading
18. Draft Policy 6560, *Disposal of Surplus Property* – Second Reading
19. Revised Policy 7241, *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators* – Second Reading

D. Under CEP Expansion, the Administration shared that CEP (Community Eligibility Provision) guidelines allow the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Schools with greater than 40% direct certified are eligible. Schools or groupings with 62.5% or higher direct certified rates are reimbursed at a rate of 100% based on the 1.6 multiplier.

Ms. Talton shared with the Board that she has looked at the groupings of schools, and there is a way for all schools to be grouped, which would mean that every student in the district could receive meals at no cost. While there would be a cost to the district, Dr. Mills shared that if WCS can make things easier for families, now is the time to do so.

The following outcomes would also be possible with all students receiving meals at no cost:

- A decrease in administrative hours spent on meal application processing
- The decrease in administrative hours will lead to increased time for training and implementing fresher and more innovative menus
- A likely increase in program participation, leading to higher reimbursement rates for program sustainability

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the CEP Expansion program as provided by the Administration so that all of our students, K-12, are provided free breakfast and lunch. The motion passed unanimously. The Administration added that this program will also include Pre-K students.

VIII. At 6:23 p.m., Mr. Farmer 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; 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 and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously.

At 7:53 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously.

IX. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, 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 July 20, 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 unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified positions.

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

Batts, Diane (R)-CTE-Business
Boyce-Inscoe, Christian-1st Grade
Brown-Jones, Karee-Math
Castillo, Jadelyn-School Psychologist
Catt, Jodi-Exceptional Children
Chambers, Lauren (R)-Kindergarten
Cherry, Denise-English
Cox, William-CTE-Business
Crawford, Amy-1st Grade
Ellis, Joseph-6th Grade Social Studies
Glover, John-Part-Time PE
Halladay, Heather-School Counselor
Harris, Ja'Naisa-8th Grade Math
Head, DeAnna-3rd Grade
Jones, Dakaria-6th Grade Social Studies
Jones, Janet (R)-4th Grade
Jones, Jasmine (R)-3rd Grade
Laing, Tanesha-3rd Grade
Little, Sheri-Science
McBrayer, Sara-6th/7th Grade Science
McKinstry, LaDattisha (R)-6th Grade Social Studies
McVay, Charity-4th Grade
Michalak, Paula-Interventionist
Moore, Alexis-School Counselor
Moore, Candace (R)-CTE-Marketing
Newman, Meredith-Kindergarten
Pender, Latonya-AIG
Reece, Sullivan-8th Grade Science
Rengifo, Erika-Spanish Immersion
Shay, Taylor-3rd Grade
Sicko, Joel-3rd Grade
Singleton, Leslie (E)-6th Grade Math
Speight, Tracey (P)-Exceptional Children
Thrift, Bryan (R)-Social Studies
Tortual, Mary-English
Walton, Abbie-1st Grade
Warrick, Cheyenne (R)-Kindergarten
White, Deana-8th Grade Social Studies/Science
Williams, Ginger-NC Pre-K
Wiseman, Joshua-7th Grade Math

Classified

Gould, Jonathan-Athletic Trainer

Haywood, William-Groundskeeper
McIver, Janetta-NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant
Morgan, Timothy-Technology Technician II
Richardson, Williencia-Restorative Justice Facilitator

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Baldwin, Jazmin-Resignation
Bass, Amy-Resignation
Cashion, Chelsea-Resignation
Cox, Gernese-Retirement
D'Jernes, Margaret-Resignation
Edwards, Michelle-Retirement
Erice, Francesco-Resignation
Fontenot, Kenneth-Resignation
Glover, Molly-Resignation
Godinez, Grethen-Resignation
Hudson, Whitney-Resignation
Joyner, Destinee-Resignation
Parks, Joyce-Retirement
Wade Wells, Tiphanie-Resignation
Webb, Elaine-Resignation
Wyatt, Cassidy-Resignation

Classified

Barnes, Paul-Resignation
Hembrick, Reba-Resignation
Rasberry, Annie-Retirement

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Mercer, that the Board extend the contract for Dr. Lane Mills for the illustrious school system until June 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

XI. There being no further business at 7:58 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