MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
September 28, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, September 28, 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 Dr. Christine Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. 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, Mr. Mercer, Ms. Boyette and Mr. Breen participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated in the meeting offsite.

Others present or participating virtually were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Wilson County Schools Athletic Director Jimmy Tillman, Principals (Eddie Doll, Nelson Johnston and Dr. Jonathan Tribula), Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Brandon McPherson and *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the agenda for the Wilson County Board of Education Special Meeting on September 28, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Under Chairman's Comments, Dr. Fitch shared that she was happy to see some of the Board members joined the meeting face-to-face and while she would like to see all Board members attend face-to-face since teachers are back in the buildings, she understood that some Board members have health concerns. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss athletic fields and track renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. In May, the Board voted 6:0 to approve six lanes on the tracks at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. In order to be good stewards of the funds allocated to the district by the County Commissioners, the Board was meeting again today to facilitate that conversation. Participating in the Zoom meeting from CPL Architecture Engineering were David Adler, Don Paige and Dan Dodd.

Under Athletic Fields and Track Renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools,

At the March 9, 2020, Special Board Meeting, the Board selected CPL Architecture Engineering for track projects at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. At the May 11, 2020,

Special Board Meeting, CPL Architecture Engineering presented four options to the Board that included: Option #1 – 6 Lane Track; Option #2 – 6 Lane Track with 8 Lane Sprints; Option #3 – 8 Lane Track; and Option #4 – 8 Lane Track, Full D Areas, Synthetic Turf Field. At the May 11 meeting, the Board voted to approve six lanes on the tracks at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools and to proceed with the lights at the Fike High School baseball field. The Board will need to discuss funding and review options for the track projects.

Dr. Mills shared a spreadsheet of the costs for the 6- and 8-lane tracks. A 6-lane track with lights at both high schools will cost $2,271,320.00. An 8-lane track with lights at both high schools and a retaining wall at Hunt High School will cost $2,892,190.00. CPL Architecture Engineering is working from a budget of $1.3 million, which is the remaining amount of funds from the Wilson County Commissioners' original $2 million allocation minus the completed paving project at Beddingfield High School ($294,409.00); the cost of mandatory lights for the baseball field at Fike High School ($195,000.00); and the cost of tennis court renovations at Hunt High School (687,409.00). Looking at funding beyond the $2 million, the district will need an additional $958,729.00 for the 6-lane tracks and $1,579,599.00 for the 8-lane tracks, lights and other projects. The costs of the 6- and 8-lane tracks does not address Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility concerns or bleachers.

CPL Architecture Engineering looked at a variety of scenarios to make the 8-lane tracks conducive for daily training, competitions and hosting events.

Mr. Farmer shared that he contacted the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, several districts and other states to inquire about the number of lanes on their tracks. The number of lanes varied from 4-8 lane tracks.

The Board would like for the County Commissioners to be aware of all the costs involved to meet ADA requirements.

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board "go forward to take action to approve the mandatory lights at Fike as listed on the spreadsheet and that the Board receive a value judgement 8-lane track proposal with ADA requirements to present to the County Commissioners." The Board questioned the words "value judgement" and stated that ADA requirements was not addressed by the architects.

After discussion, Ms. Boyette amended the motion by removing the word "value judgement" from the motion. The motion was amended by stating that the Board would get an 8-lane track pricing that also includes ADA requirements to be met. Ms. Powell agreed with the language change made by Ms. Boyette. The motion now states, that the Board will go forward to approve the Fike mandatory lights as indicated on the Superintendent's spreadsheet and the Board will get an 8-lane track pricing that also includes ADA requirements to be met.

After discussion, Mr. Breen amended the motion that the proposal include 6-lanes with ADA compliance and 8-lanes with ADA compliance. Ms. Powell agreed with the friendly amendment of the motion. Ms. Boyette agreed with part of the motion. She shared that the 6-lane track that was previously voted on had been altered. There was a cost of $5,000 for

permits and fees that were removed from the comparison when the cost was reduced. Mr. Breen confirmed that he was referring to the original Option 1, 6-lane track proposal.

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board go forward to approve Fike mandatory lights as presented on the Superintendent's spreadsheet and present to the County Commissioners the cost for the price of a 6-lane track with ADA requirement costs and 8-lane track with ADA requirement costs. The motion passed 4:3, with Mr. Mercer, Mr. Farmer and Dr. Fitch casting the dissenting votes.

At 6:10 p.m., Mr. Mercer 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; 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 6:42 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to reconvene to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business at 6:43 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Christine L. Fitch

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary