MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 9, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, November 9, 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, Mr. Mercer, Mr. Breen and Ms. Boyette participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated offsite. 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 by clicking a link on the WCS Facebook page and WCS website.

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 Federal Programs Robin May, Executive Director of Technology Matthew Mayo, Executive Director of Finance Art Stanley, Executive Director of Secondary Education David Lyndon, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Principals (Claudia Spencer, Kelly Thomas and Dr. Jonathan Tribula), Human Resource Coordinator for Beginning Teacher Support Sherri Jernigan, Instructional Technology Facilitator for Beginning Teachers Yvette Jobe, Restart Leadership Coach Terri Cobb and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Richard Schwartz. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the agenda as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Fitch welcomed guests to the meeting which included Wilson County Manager Denise Stinagle, Chair of the Wilson County Board of Commissioners Rob Boyette, Vice Chair of the Wilson County Board of Commissioners Leslie Atkinson and Certified Public Accountant of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC Adam Scepurek.

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

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the revised minutes of the August 17, 2020, Regular Board meeting and the minutes of October 19, 2020, Regular Board Meeting. The August 17, 2020, minutes were previously approved by the Board and were revised to add two paragraph omissions on page 6. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the revised minutes of the August 17, 2020, and the October 19, 2020, Regular Board meeting minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch shared the following items:

- Dr. Fitch congratulated Ms. Barnes and Mr. Mercer for their re-election to the Wilson County Board of Education. She also congratulated Blake Boykin for his election to the District 6 seat on the Board. Dr. Fitch thanked Roger Hudson, Ned Olinger and Henry Williams for expressing their interest to serve on the Wilson County Board of Education and running for office. The Board wishes each of them the best in their future endeavors and hopes that they continue to keep the interest of WCS students in their thoughts.
- On behalf of the Board, Dr. Fitch extended a heartfelt thank you to Mr. Farmer for his 12 years of service to the children of Wilson County. Dr. Fitch stated, "Mr. Farmer, your voice of reason and knowledge in many areas have not gone unnoticed and are deeply appreciated. We wish you the best in the days and years ahead with whatever endeavors, if any you choose to undertake. We hope that you enjoy the beach, and the time with your family." After this meeting, Mr. Farmer's service on the Board will continue until the new member is sworn in for District 6 seat at the December Board meeting. The Board and members of the audience applauded Mr. Farmer for his service.
- Last week, the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) conducted their annual conference virtually. In conjunction with the conference, the NCSBA held student contests. The annual conference also included several awards for school Board members.

  Elementary school students were asked to express their thoughts and ideas based on the theme "How Virtual Learning Changed My School Year" for the elementary poster contest. There were two submission categories: kindergarten through second grade (K-2) and third through fifth grade (3-5). The following WCS students were winners of the elementary poster contest:
  - Lucas Davis, New Hope Elementary, First Place K-2
  - Julius Wiggins, Wells Elementary, Third Place, K-2
  - Kensley Hill, New Hope Elementary, First Place, 3-5
  - Irene Lee, New Hope Elementary, Second Place 3-5

  Middle and high school students were asked to express their thoughts and ideas by creating a video based on the theme "How Virtual Learning Changed My School Year." Elm City Middle won third place in the middle school video contest. Fike High received an honorable mention in the high school video contest.

County Commissioners of the Year was awarded to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners. This honor is presented to a Board of County Commissioners that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership that advances student achievement. County Commissioner Chair Mr. Boyette and County Manager Ms. Stinagle thanked the Board for the nomination and said they appreciated the working relationship that they share with the Board of Education. Dr. Fitch thanked the County Commissioners and shared that she hoped that their working relationship could continue.

School Board Leadership was awarded to the Wilson County Board of Education. This honor is presented to an entire school Board that has demonstrated extraordinary leadership during the school year. Dr. Fitch thanked each Board member for their hard work that contributes to the success of Wilson County. Dr. Fitch also thanked Ms. Lynch and Aislinn Ramirez for their hard work and writing skills in putting these nominations together.

Mr. Mercer was nominated for the Raleigh Dingman award. This award is the highest honor bestowed on a North Carolina School Board member each year and was presented to the President of the NCSBA Brenda Stephens. Dr. Fitch stated that in our hearts, Mr. Mercer is our own Raleigh Dingman Award winner, and she appreciates all that he does for the district.

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

- Dr. Mills shared that this week is National School Psychology Week. He recognized the six WCS school psychologists (Ms. Bolding, Ms. Edwards, Ms. Everett-Lenz, Ms. Castillo, Ms. Skinner and Ms. White). With a background in school psychology, Dr. Mills understands how hard they work to partner with families, teachers and administrators to create safe and supportive learning environments for our students. Their expertise in mental health, learning and behavior helps students succeed academically, socially, behaviorally and emotionally. One area the psychologists are heavily involved in is the planning and implementation of Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS). MTSS is a framework that provides research-based targeted support to students who are struggling because of mental, behavioral or academic issues. Dr. Mills also recognized Psychologist Amanda Bolding, for her recent selection as a Power of One Award Recipient. This recognition is sponsored by the National Association of School Psychologists to reinforce how school psychologists create meaningful and transformative connections to help students thrive in school, at home and throughout life. Ms. Bolding was nominated for the way she has advocated for the best practices at the district level through the MTSS team and has demonstrated unmatched leadership within the department. The district congratulates Ms. Bolding on this recognition.
- Dr. Mills requested to have a Special Meeting in December to discuss track and field issues with the architects based on Americans with Disabilities

Act information; and also, to discuss Re-Entry based on what we have been doing and what we will do in the Spring. It was the Board's consensus to meet on December 7 during the afternoon.

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

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

Information

A. Under 2019-2020 Audit Report, the accounting firm of Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC conducted the WCS 2019-2020 audit. The individual school and school systems book were determined to be in good order. General Statute 115C-447 requires an outside audit of school system accounts and accounts of individual schools at the end of each fiscal year. Adam Scepurek, with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC participated in the meeting to discuss the findings of the audit. Mr. Scepurek shared with the Board that their firm did not find any discrepancies. An audit was conducted on the Exceptional Children and Title I programs, along with the State Public School Funds. Mr. Farmer congratulated Mr. Stanley on his transition to WCS during a touch situation in the middle of the year and thanked Dr. Mills for bringing Mr. Stanley back to the district.

B. Under Contracts Requiring 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 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 and was shared with the Board as information only:

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
Encore	20 75" Interactive Viewsonic Panels for Darden Middle	$67,408.35
SWIVL	55 SWIVL C5 Kit; 2 per WCS school building	$69,410.00
Encore	Managed Services for Network and Servers Renewal	$72,000.00
Arsenal Strength	Weight Training Equipment for Beddingfield High	$54,969.63

Ms. Boyette asked Dr. Mills to also follow-up with Hunt High on their weight training equipment. Ms. Barnes commended Mr. Mayo for his work and thanked him for making the district better by adding technology resources.

C. Under Annual Report to NC State Board of Education, Barnes and Hearne Elementary were approved by the NC State Board of Education for Restart Flexibility in December 2019. Both schools were approved as fast track applicants; thus, the schools were not granted budget flexibility until 2020-2021. Ms. May shared that the Restart Schools are required to submit an annual report in December of each year. This report details the goals, flexibilities used and

outcomes/evidence of success. The report only includes flexibilities used between January 1, 2020 and June 30, 2020. The report for Barnes Elementary outlines three goals using the following flexibilities: curriculum (state); calendar (state); and lesson plan template (district). The report for Hearne Elementary outlines four goals using the following flexibilities: curriculum (state); employment requirements/licensure (state); and lesson plan template (district). The Board received this report for information only. Ms. Powell stated that one of the flexibility outcome goals for Hearne Elementary stated, "even though the counselor started one week prior to the start of remote learning, she provided consistent activities and lessons for students that focused on developing the social emotional well-being of students. Student participation was monitored in order to address individual needs. She finalized the PBIS plan for the upcoming year. In addition, she stayed in contact with students and their parents who were experiencing trauma due to illnesses or accidents impacting family members." Ms. Powell commented that this is exceptional for our staff and wanted to acknowledged that this is the type of people we have onboard.

Action

A. Under 2020-2021 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments that represent the 2020-2021 State Public School Fund, Capital Outlay Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund budgets ending June 30, 2021. General Statute 115C-434 authorizes the Board of Education to make appropriations for the budget year. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Farmer, that the Board approve the 2020-2021 Budget Amendments 102, State Public School Fund; 402, Capital Outlay Fund; and 802, Local Special Revenue Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Under 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:

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
Encore	98 Outdoor Access Points	$96,715.53
Encore	Installation of 98 Outdoor Access Points	$137,631.20

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve the two Encore contracts, first for the 98 outdoor access points, and second for the installation of the 98 outdoor access points as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Under Approval of School Improvement Plans, local Boards of Education must either accept or reject the School Improvement Plan for each school within its jurisdiction in accordance to the General Statute 115C-105.27 (d). The Administration is requesting the Board approve the School Improvement Plans for WCS. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the School Improvement Plans with any necessary edits. The motion

passed unanimously. The Board thanked the teams at the various schools for all of the hard work that went into managing and creating their plans.

D. Under Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan, the Beginning Teacher Support Program helps new teachers make a smooth transition into the educational professional and offers support for all beginning teachers in their first three years of teaching. The program takes the form of a Professional Learning Community and reflects a strong emphasis of support and clinical guidance. The Administration is requesting the Board approve the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan which is required by the state. Ms. Jernigan shared with the Board that at the end of their first year, teachers will receive a survey from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. The goal of the survey is to find out how educators are being prepared for teaching. This is part of the university's preparation monitoring, which is similar to Teachers Working Conditions surveys. The Board complimented Ms. Jernigan and Ms. Jobe on the Beginning Teacher Program. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

VIII. Prior to going into closed session for the last time, Mr. Farmer expressed his pleasure in serving the students of Wilson County for the past 12 years. He is appreciative of the trust that parents have entrusted in him. Mr. Farmer stated that it has been an honor to work with this Board, and he has the upmost respect for them. They are a platinum Board with platinum standards. He wished the Board good luck and Godspeed. He also asked the County Commissioners to review the Board compensation of the surrounding counties and consider the compensation that this Board receives.

At 5:34 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; 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 6:16 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously. Ms. Barnes was having audio issues and was not able to vote on this motion.

At 6:17 p.m., Ms. Barnes joined the meeting by telephone, in addition to Zoom.

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

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board extend the contract for Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson through June 30, 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of October 19, 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 and Ms. Powell, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified positions, along with Substitute Teachers 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

Bowen, Leighann (E)-6th Grade Math/Science Teacher
Combs, Rachel-CARES Interventionist
Herring, Sarah (R)-5th Grade Teacher
Massey, Jeffrey-Teacher – CTE Technology
Reed, Theresa –CARES Interventionist
Spells, Hazel-Part-time Interventionist
Sutton, Teresa-Wolfpack WORKS Interventionist

Classified

Batts, Katina-EC Teacher Assistant
Mercer, Zachary-12-Month Custodian
Price, Courtney-12-Month Custodian
Smith, Jeanice-EC Teacher Assistant
Staton, Lynetta-EC Teacher Assistant

Substitute Teachers

Richardson, Josephine-Non-Certified Substitute
Vann, Michael-Non-Certified Substitute

Coaches

Ajani, Ayoola-Assistant Boys Soccer
Dobbins, Heather-Assistant Softball
Smith, Carl-Winter Weightlifting and Wrestling

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Cox-Smith, Nukenya-Resignation
Dooms, Kyatta-Resignation
Sulkowski, Ryan-Resignation
Webb, Sandra-Retirement

Classified

Chavez Martinez, David-12-Month Custodian
Green, Latoya-Resignation
Pridgen, Stephanie-Resignation

XI. There being no further business at 6:21 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary