MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 7, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, December 7, 2020, at 1:00 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. The meeting was conducted virtually using the Zoom video conferencing platform. Chairman Dr. Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice-Chairman
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. Ms. Barnes was not in attendance at the start of the meeting. 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 through links on the WCS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and the WCS website.

Others present or participating virtually were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Assistant Director of Maintenance Greg Woodard, WCS 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.

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 agenda for today's special meeting be approved. The motion passed 4:2, with Mr. Breen and Ms. Boyette casting the dissenting votes. Ms. Boyette inquired about re-entry and remote learning days for students on December 21-22 not being listed on the agenda for discussion. Dr. Fitch informed the Board that these items will be presented at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. Due to the low response rate on the parent surveys for high school, the Administration needed additional time to contact parents, thus the data was not available in time for the agenda or meeting.

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

Dr. Fitch announced that in keeping with Executive Order #180, attendees would wear face coverings for the duration of the Board meeting.

Executive Order #180, dated November 23, 2020, states the following:

WHEREAS, to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, particularly in indoor settings where the virus is transmitted more easily, the undersigned has determined that Face Coverings must be worn in all indoor public settings where other individuals may be present, regardless of one's perceived ability to maintain physical distance of a least six (6) feet; and

Schools. In all public school units, as defined by N.C. General Statute 115C-5(7a), and all nonpublic schools covered by Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, all workers, teachers, guests, other adults and children five (5) years or older must wear Face Coverings both:

- When outdoors and within six (6) feet of another person, unless an exception applies;
- When indoors, at all times, unless an exception applies.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss athletic fields and track renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools and to review options for the track projects in order to make a final decision on the project and share the cost estimates with the County Commissioners. In September, the Board voted to approve lights for the baseball field at Fike High School and present to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners the cost for the price of 6- and 8-lane tracks, along with costs to meet the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements for Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. Participating in the Zoom meeting from CPL Architecture Engineering were David Adler, Dan Dodd, Eric Lelbenguth and Don Paige.

Ms. Barnes joined the meeting remotely at 1:27 p.m.

Under Athletic Fields and Track Renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools, Dr. Mills shared a document of the costs for the 6- and 8-lane tracks with ADA renovations. The estimates included Option 1: 6-lane track, Value Engineered; Option 1: 6-lane track, Original Quote and Option 3: 8-lane track, Original Quote for Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. Design or permit fees for the ADA renovations are not included in the estimates, which are attached.

Mr. Adler explained that "value engineered" is an organized approach to provide necessary functions in a project at the lowest cost. This means that the architects can revisit a design to save money on a project and the contractor can advise clients on ways to save money.

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 ($198,000.00).

The Board discussed committing to the tennis courts now and sending the three estimates to the County Commissioners for their input on providing additional funding. Mr. Breen quoted an article in *The Wilson Times* stating that the County Commissioners disagreed with the School Board's decision to build 6-lanes at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. In the article, the Commissioners said they would consider providing more money to ensure 8-lane tracks at the schools.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the tennis court renovations at Hunt High School for $198,000. The motion failed 2:5 with Mr. Mercer, Ms. Powell, Ms. Barnes, Mr. Farmer and Dr. Fitch casting the dissenting votes.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board send back to the County Commissioners the estimates that are given for the 6-lane track valued engineered, 6-lane track original cost and the 8-lane track original cost for both Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools for determination by County Commissioners as to available funding.

Mr. Breen amended the motion to state that the Board move forward and send to the County Commissioners the three estimates as provided for the Beddingfield and Hunt High School tracks and to include the cost estimates for the tennis court renovations at Hunt. Ms. Barnes agreed to the amendment of the motion. The motion passed 5:2, with Mr. Farmer and Dr. Fitch casting the dissenting votes.

There being no further business at 2:30 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