MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
January 11, 2021

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, January 11, 2021, 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
Beverly Boyette
Blake Boykin
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Dr. Fitch participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated offsite. Dr. Fitch shared that Board Member Velma Barnes is ill and will not be joining the meeting, and that Board Member Rhyan Breen would be late due to court obligations.

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

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, Executive Director of Secondary Education David Lyndon, Executive Director of Finance Art Stanley, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Principal Eddie Doll and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda by tabling Action Item A, Athletic Fields and Track Renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the agenda be approved with the tabling of item VIII, Action A, until the next scheduled Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously (5:0).

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 December 14, 2020, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the minutes of the December 14, 2020, of the Wilson County Board of Education. The motion passed unanimously.

IV. Under Special Presentation to the Board, Wilson County Schools (WCS) Teacher of the Year Tyler Brown, who is a Social Studies Teacher at the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT), created a video to share with the Board members and thanked them for all that they do for our schools and community. January is Board of Education Appreciation Month. The video also included some of Mr. Brown's students at WAAT. WCS is grateful for the service of Board Members Dr. Christine Fitch, Henry Mercer, Velma Barnes, Rhyan Breen, Beverly Boyette, Blake Boykin, and Debora Powell.

V. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch welcomed everyone to 2021 and wished a Happy New Year to all. She stated that she hopes that the New Year brings health and happiness and that everyone was able to rest and relax during the Holiday Break. Dr. Fitch advised the Board that the district will continue to monitor COVID-19 as the new semester begins. The numbers have been increasing and if this continues, the Board will need to consider the options of staying remote until the end of the first grading period, transitioning to the hybrid models that were chosen at the last Board meeting or staying remote until the end of the school year. She advised that Board members should be available to meet and revisit the decision on the second semester in an effort to keep our students, teachers and staff safe, if the numbers continue to rise. Teachers are scheduled to return to their schools on January 19 and students on January 25. Dr. Fitch shared that some counties that returned to face-to-face instruction immediately following the Holiday Break have now returned to remote instruction, with some districts choosing to remain remote for the duration of the school year.

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

- Thanked the Board members for all that they do and their commitment to students, staff, families and the community. The North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) recognized the Wilson County Board of Education and the Wilson County Commissioners for winning the Board Leadership Award and the Wilson County Commissioners Award at their annual conference in November. The NCSBA recently sent a plaque for each of these awards. The Board Leadership Award will be displayed at the Central Office. The Wilson County Commissioners will receive their plaque this week. In recognition of Board Appreciation Month, each Board member will receive a small gift as a token of appreciation.
- Second semester began remotely last week, and students will remain in remote learning through January 25. Teachers are planning to return to their buildings on January 19. Dr. Mills asked the Board to consider having a Special Board Meeting on January 19 to revisit the second semester transitional plan.
- Some students have chosen to remain in the Virtual Academy or are in the process of enrolling in it. The Administration is asking the families of those students to fill out a Virtual Academy Commitment Form to help with documentation. This will ensure that students are appropriately assigned in PowerSchool. That form can be found on the WCS website and should be completed by January 15.

- Last week, staff and families were asked to give feedback on a draft of the 2021-2022 traditional instructional calendar before it is presented to the Board for input and approval. The proposed calendar information can be found on the WCS website. The last day to give feedback is January 14.
- The district recently received grants from the following entities:
    - The Wilson County ABC Board is funding a substance abuse/alcohol awareness program that will be implemented in the elementary schools in the spring. The grant is worth $20,000, and more details will be shared once the program is up and running.
    - The NC State University Friday Institute, in collaboration with Greenlight and Wilson Community College, is funding a Coding and Mobile App Development Grant worth $77,142. The Administration will identify and build a coding team consisting of middle and high school teachers. These teachers will receive professional development courses to teach coding and web app development to students. This will lead to mentoring and internship opportunities for students, as well as career opportunities in the future, since the district is fortunate to have Greenlight in Wilson.
    - The Wells Fargo Blue Bell Foundation is funding a grant for $10,000, which will enable us to build an outdoor classroom in the courtyard area at Wells Elementary School.
- On January 13, the district will continue efforts to #innovateWCS with a mid-year virtual conference. This event will host over 30 sessions from a variety of topics and resources to help staff continue to grow as educators. All sessions will be recorded and posted for later viewing. The Media and Technology Department would like to thank the presenters from both within and outside the district for taking the time to help staff learn from each other.
- It is recommended that the Board discuss the facility usage and enrollment forecast from the Operations Research and Education Laboratory (ORED) report. This will allow the district to look at trends and patterns over the next several years. Dr. Mills added that the Board might need to consider asking the Wilson County Commissioners to have a discussion on facility needs and to possibly take a joint field trip or a virtual field trip. If the Board wishes, a future meeting and joint meeting with the County Commissioners can be scheduled so that the Board can work on this in the Spring. This item will be placed on a future agenda for information, discussion and action.

VII. Under Public Input, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch read letters during this portion of the meeting from the following members of the public: Tara Jones in reference to students remaining in virtual learning and Sandy Alston Morgan in reference to returning to the school building. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to each person that had addressed the Board through this format.

Mr. Breen joined the meeting at 4:30 p.m.

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

Information

A. Under Contract 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 contract, which is less than $90,000, has been approved by Dr. Mills and was shared with the Board as information only:

Name of Business	Services Provided	Amount
Arsenal Strength	Weight Training Equipment for Hunt High School	$59,915.01

Action

A. Under Athletic Fields and Track Renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools, this item was tabled until the next Board meeting to allow the Administration time to discuss with the Wilson County Commissioners and others.

B. Under 2020-2021 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments that represent the 2020-2021 State Public School Fund, Federal 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, that the Board approve the presented 2020-2021 Budget Amendments 104, State Public School Fund; 302, Federal Fund; and 804, Local Special Revenue Fund. The motion passed unanimously.

IX. At 4:45 p.m., Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, 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 5:42 p.m., Mr. Mercer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously.

X. Reporting from closed session, Ms. Boyette 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. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of December 14, 2020, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by 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 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

Brewington, Lakita (R)-English Teacher
Johnson, Marcus (E)- EC (Adaptive Curriculum) Teacher
Pate, Allison-5th Grade Teacher
Roupp, Amy-STEM Lab Facilitator
Sanderson, Amber-3rd Grade Teacher
Seigler, Paul-Music Teacher
Vann, Michael (E)-PE Teacher

Classified

Batchelor, April-12-Month Custodian
Cuddington, Sallie-12-Month Custodian
Perez, Jennifer-Data Manager

Coaches

Alphin, Andrew-Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball
Batts, Kayla (V)-Girls Basketball

Ellis, Ben-Head JV Boys Basketball
Kent, Mark-Head JV Girls Basketball
Kent Mark (V)-Boys Varsity Basketball
Williams, Maurice-Head Boys Varsity Basketball

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Baines, Breanna-Resignation
Delano-Gemzik, Jennifer-Resignation
Foreman, Alecia-Resignation
Harris, Carolyn-Resignation
Simpson, Leigh Anna-Resignation
Turner, Celestine-Resignation

Classified

Barnes, Danielle-Resignation
Bass, Debra-Retirement
Davis, Wanda-Retirement
Hardy, Walter-Resignation
Jones, Timothy-Resignation
Morgan, Daniel-Resignation
Powell, James-Retirement
Richardson, Willenscia-Resignation

XI. There being no further business at 5:45 p.m., Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary