MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
March 8, 2021

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, March 8, 2021, 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 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
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
Blake Boykin
Rhyan Breen
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Dr. Fitch, Ms. Boyette, Mr. Boykin, Mr. Breen and Mr. Mercer participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated in the meeting 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 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 of Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Assistant Superintendent of Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, 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 agenda for the Special Meeting of March 8, 2021, be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss long-range facilities planning for WCS and the Rock Ridge Youth Athletic Association lease agreement.

Under Chairman's Comments, Dr. Fitch thanked the Wilson County Health Department, Wilson County Emergency Management, Carolina Family Health Centers and others that assisted with the COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic that was held last week for WCS staff. She also thanked *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson for coverage of the event. She commended all of the entities as they continue with the fight against the pandemic and getting all citizens vaccinated at the appropriate time.

Under Long-Range Facilities Planning for WCS, the Board is beginning the process of determining the long-term facility needs and priorities for WCS. The Operations Research and Education Lab (OREd), which is a company through North Carolina State University, completed an Integrated Planning for School and Community (IPSAC) Study for WCS and shared the report with the Board of Education in September 2020. The Administration shared this report with the Board, along with the district's five and ten-year facilities plan and estimated costs for maintaining the sites. The purpose of today's discussion is to set priorities and determine next steps.

Dr. Mills shared information with the Board that included the IPSAC and land use study, membership forecast, capital projects, observations from the data and possible next steps. The presentation is attached.

The Board asked the Administration to bring back the following information to consider at a future discussion on long-range facility needs:

- Schools located in areas with growth in businesses
- Schools that haven't received any repairs in 20 years
- Schools that are landlocked
- Schools with history and considered landmarks
- Schools that are at capacity
- Residential developments and student numbers
- Redistricting
- Elementary numbers and utilization
- Schools that can be combined
- New facility versus updating a facility
- Utilization and student population
- Program needs
- Program usage at each school
- School districts that are close to subdivisions

Dr. Mills will share future meeting dates at the next Board meeting.

Under Rock Ridge Youth Athletic Association Lease Agreement, the Administration presented the proposed Rock Ridge Youth Athletic Association lease agreement for the Board's approval. A previous lease existed with the Wilson County Youth Athletic Association. The Wilson County Youth Athletic Association is no longer in existence. The proposed lease agreement was drafted by the Board attorneys. The Administration shared that the district is looking to apply for the NC Parks and Recreation Trust Fund grant to assist with upgrades and improvements on the leased property. To help facilitate the grant, the Board will need to consider a lease agreement for several years.

Mr. McPherson shared that a request has been received for a potential 25-year lease. Based on statutes, a 25-year lease is treated as the sale of real property. The sale of school property must first be offered to the Wilson County Commissioners. A 10-year lease does not have to be treated as the sale of real property. Based on the grant, Dr. Williams is checking to see if the lease agreement can be offered for 10 years. It was the Board's consensus to table the Rock Ridge Youth Athletic Association Lease Agreement until the next Board meeting to

allow the Administration time to clarify the number of years allowed for the lease based on the grant.

There being no further business at 2:53 p.m., Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary