MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION
MARCH 29, 2021

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Budget Work Session on Monday, March 29, 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 at 4:02 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice-Chairman
Velma H. Barnes
Blake Boykin
Rhyan Breen
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Dr. Fitch, Mr. Boykin, Mr. Breen and Mr. Mercer participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated in the meeting offsite. Ms. Boyette was not in attendance.

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, Executive Director of Secondary Education David Lyndon, Executive Director of Federal Programs Robin May, Executive Director of Technology Matthew Mayo, Executive Director of Exceptional Children Melissa McFatter, Executive Director of Finance Art Stanley, Assistant Director of Finance Florence James, Director of Transportation Robert Harvey, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, WCS District Athletic Director Jimmy Tillman and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the agenda stand approved. The motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Dr. Fitch led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence. Dr. Fitch advised that the purpose of the work session was to discuss the proposed 2021-2022 Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budget. She then turned the meeting over to Superintendent Mills.

Dr. Mills advised that the proposed 2021-2022 Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budget requests were shared with the Board members a few days prior to the meeting for review. The 2021-2022 Local Current Expense Budget request is for $24,961,517 and the Capital Outlay Budget request is for $1,000,000, which is a total request of $25,961,517. The

budget changes from the previous year reflect a decrease in fines and forfeitures; and an increase appropriation driven by charter schools, utilities and benefit increases from the state. Currently, the district does not have any locally paid teacher; however, money is budgeted for staff awaiting licensures.

Mr. Stanley walked the Board through the proposed Local Current Expense Budget document and, with the assistance of Dr. Mills, addressed questions raised by the Board members. Among the topics discussed were an increase in legal fees, cybersecurity insurance and additional capital outlay funding from the County Commissioners, if they see fit, to address building needs that have existed for more than 10 years. Dr. Fitch advised that legal fees can be explored at another Board meeting. Dr. Mills advised that the Administration has looked at cybersecurity in the past and can revisit this in the fall. Mr. Boykin requested to discuss priorities of building improvements at the next Board meeting.

Dr. Fitch recognized Mr. Letchworth and his staff for the WRAL footage on deep cleaning in our schools.

There being no further business at 5:33 p.m., Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Superintendent