MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 4, 2019

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, November 4, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. 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

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorneys Katie Cornetto and Laura Crumpler. Also present were *The Wilson Times* Reporter Drew Wilson. There were more than 20 citizens in attendance.

1. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch called for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the agenda for tonight's meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

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

3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the October 21, 2019, Regular Board Meeting and October 28, 2019, Special Board Meeting. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 21, 2019, Regular Meeting and October 28, 2019, Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Under Good News Presentations, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Mr. Mercer, recognized the following groups and individuals:

   - North Carolina Public Schools Maintenance Association Recognition – The Board recognized Sue Farmer, bookkeeper and secretary for the Wilson County Schools (WCS) Maintenance Department for being selected as the 2018 Employee of the Year by the North Carolina Public School Maintenance Association. Ms. Farmer has the huge task of keeping up with all of the work being done in our schools. She is professional, organized and goes above and beyond to ensure everything goes smoothly. She is very deserving of this award. She is being recognized a year late because while she received the award last year, she was officially recognized at the

2019 association conference. Last year's conference was cancelled due to a hurricane.

The Board also recognized Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth who was recently featured in the North Carolina Public School Maintenance Association newsletter for his 25 years of faithful service to both WCS and the Association. Mr. Letchworth is truly invaluable to the district. He is always three steps ahead on issues or needs. He truly cares about staff and students and is always willing to help find solutions. He works tirelessly for our system and never seeks credit but deserves much. Mr. Letchworth is also a product of WCS - from elementary school to his graduation at Beddingfield. Congratulations to Mr. Letchworth on this well-deserved recognition.

- School Psychology Awareness Recognition – In recognition of School Psychology Awareness Week, which is November 11-15, the Board recognized our school psychologists – Michelle White, Racheal Gliniak, Amanda Bolding, Tracy Everette-Lenz, Allison Skinner and Eve Edwards. Currently there are four full-time psychologists and two psychologist interns who serve all of our schools. The vast majority of their time is spent on special education referrals and evaluations. They meet with teachers, parents, students and administrators to help them navigate the process of securing services. They are also a key part of our district's crisis team when tragedy occurs in our schools. Our psychologists are specially trained to understand and explain interventions and MTSS procedures. They are a group that works behind the scenes and probably does not hear the words - thank you - enough, so tonight we wanted to make sure they did. Thank you for all you do.

- Character Education – The Board recognized the following pastors of local churches:

  - Pastor Barnes from Christian Life Fellowship Church
  - Pastor Fontenot from Bethel Baptist Church
  - Pastor Greenwood from Forest Hills Presbyterian Church
  - Pastor Combs from Wilson Community Church
  - Pastor Groce from Daniels Chapel
  - Pastor Tyndall from Milbournie Free Will Baptist Church
  - Pastor Torres from Farmington Heights Church
  - Pastor Russell from Peace Church
  - Pastor List from Impact Church

  A few months ago, the pastors met and decided to join together to serve our community on October 5 for an event called Wilson Serve Day. We are grateful that out of all the organizations that they could have chosen to serve on that day - they picked our schools. On October 5, the pastors and their church members spent time beautifying the campuses of seven of our schools. The schools were - Barnes Elementary, Daniels Learning Center, Darden Middle, Hearne Elementary, Toisnot Middle, Vick Elementary and Vinson-Bynum Elementary. They washed windows, cleaned blinds, pulled up weeds and trimmed bushes and trees. Everything looked wonderful after they were finished – we appreciate how willingly they worked with

our Maintenance Department and Principals on this project since we have so many regulations we have to follow. I hope this can become something the churches will consider doing every semester - it was such a blessing to us and really meant a lot.

5. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch shared the following information:

- Dr. Fitch thanked Chick-fil-A for partnering with WCS on Smart Cookies. She also thanked Mr. Mercer for attending Smart Cookies at Hearne Elementary on October 24 with the class of Serita Braswell. The next Smart Cookies is scheduled for November 26 at Frederick Douglass Elementary with the class of Kari Stallings. Ms. Powell has agreed to attend, with Ms. Barnes on standby in the event Ms. Powell has a conflict. Smart Cookies is also scheduled at Winstead Elementary with the class of Elaine Darden on December 16. Mr. Farmer agreed to attend and Ms. Boyette will be on standby.
- WCS has submitted artwork and videos to the North Carolina School Boards Association for their education campaign and contest scheduled during the annual conference November 18-20 in Greensboro. Several Board members will be attending this conference.

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

- October is a busy month for recognitions. He thanked the two WCS Physical Therapists Helen Davis and Donna Howell for their dedication and hard work because October is National Physical Therapy Month. They serve all of our Exceptional Children who have physical therapy needs. They will be invited to next month's meeting for formal recognition. It's also National Principals Month. Staff, students and parents have been doing things in our schools to thank them all month, and Dr. Mills celebrated with them at the October Administrators Meeting. They were treated to a taco truck, and received bacon from our *Bringing Home the Bacon* partner Smithfield Foods. Banners were also presented to the high performing schools to celebrate their achievements on last year's state tests.
- On October 25, WAAT and WECA played each other in a flag football game for the very first time. It was a great event and one that we hope will become a tradition. In an effort to build community between the two early colleges, Principals Krystal Cox and Randy St. Clair decided to challenge each other to a game. WECA was victorious, and the final score was 19-12. Both teams played great. A balloon release in memory of Chazz Pender, the WECA student who passed away on September 20, was also held during the game. His father attended the game.
- On November 6, the Wilson Education Partnership is hosting Coffee with the Superintendent where Dr. Mills will meet with local business leaders to talk about our district's CTE and Career Pathways. Dr. Mills is looking forward to sharing all the great things happening in our schools and also getting feedback from the industries about the skills they need students to have. The Board members were invited to attend. The event begins at 7:45 a.m. in the Boardroom.
- WCS had 23 entries for the NCSBA contests. Seven elementary schools had 12 entries for the art contest; five of the middle schools had eight entries for the video contest;

and three of our five high schools and early colleges submitted videos as well. The Board will get to see the entries at the conference and bring them back for a future Board meeting.

- WCS will observe Veterans Day on November 11 and Thanksgiving on November 28-29. Dr. Mills wished everyone a safe and relaxing time with family and friends.

7. Under Public Input, no one addressed the Board during the Public Input section of the meeting.

8. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss two action items.

Under Capital Projects at Hunt High, Fike High and Beddingfield High, the parking lot paving projects for Hunt, Fike and Beddingfield High were publicly let. The Administration presented bids from S.T. Wooten Corporation in the amount of $1,351,663.75 and Ready Contractors in the amount of $1,325,600.00. Board Policy 2500.1, *Contracts*, states that all contracts involving expenditures exceeding $90,000 must receive prior approval from the Board. The contract will be pending attorney review. Because of the increased cost, it was suggested that resurfacing the parking lots at Hunt and Fike High be delayed. The County Commissioners have allotted $2 million in capital funding to address several projects that were presented to the Board at an earlier meeting. The cost of the paving projects, not including sales tax, would deplete all of the funds allotted to WCS by the County Commissioners.

The Administration also presented an estimate for two additional lanes on existing running tracks at Beddingfield and Hunt High in the amount of $823,000 from Skinner Farlow Kirwan Architecture, PA. The Board had approved a capital projects list which included track renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High. Estimates for these two projects did not include the cost of additional lanes. Currently, Hunt and Beddingfield High have six lanes and Fike has eight lanes. Hunt and Beddingfield cannot hold competitions due to not meeting codes for the required number of lanes on the tracks.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board allow the Administration to move forward with the projects for lights at Fike High School on the baseball field; at Hunt High School on the football field; at Beddingfield High School on the football field; and for the rubber coating and construction, as well as architectural fees, for the athletic tracks at Beddingfield and Hunt High Schools. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board move forward with the recommendation of the Administration to award the contract of parking lot paving at Beddingfield High School to S.T. Wooten, pending attorney review. The motion passed unanimously.

Under 2018-2019 Audit Report, General Statute 115C-447 requires an outside audit of school system accounts and accounts of individual schools at the end of each fiscal year. The accounting firm of Anderson, Smith & Wike, LLC conducted the 2018-2019

audit. The individual school and school system books were determined to be in good order. Representatives of Anderson, Smith & Wike, LLC were present at the committee meeting to discuss the findings of the audit. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board accept the 2018-2019 Audit Report that was presented. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Committee Meetings/Human Resource Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Farmer shared that the committee met today to discuss action items.

Under Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan, the program has been developed to provide a plan to help new teachers make a smooth transition into the educational profession. The plan 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 recommended approval of the Beginning Teacher Support Program. Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan as presented by the Administration be approved. The motion passed unanimously.

9. At 8:01 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; 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 8:48 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously.

10. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette to approve the closed session minutes of the October 21, 2019, Regular Board Meeting, and/but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential student and personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

    Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the closed session minutes of October 28, 2019, and/but do release the minutes for public inspection. The motion passed unanimously.

    Under Approval of Inter-district Reassignment Requests, Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve the Inter-district Reassignment Requests as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

    Under Human Resource Services, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following classified and certified positions, as well as Substitute Teachers and Coaches.

(E)-Emergency License
(I)-Interim
(L)-Lateral Entry
(PT)-Permit to Teach
(P)-Provisional
(R)-Residency License
(T)-Temporary
(V)-Volunteer

Certified

Artis, Toshieka (R)-Kindergarten
Eatmon, Tanissa (E)-Math Interventionist
Jones, Arika-English
Varnell, Jamie-6th Grade Math
Wright, Muriel-Instructional Coach

Classified

Dawson, Haley-Teacher Assistant
Price, Paula-Child Nutrition Manager
Ramirez Montiel, Aislinn-Receptionist

Substitute Teachers

Burns, DeAnna

Coaches

Balance, Matt-JV Baseball
Bancroft, George (V)-Wrestling
Herring, Craig-Indoor Track
Pollock, Janet-Assistant Coach (Trainer, First Responder)

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative

Joyner, John-Interim Assistant Principal

Certified

Griep, Peter-Resignation
Haggerty, Jessica-Resignation
Michalak, Paula-Resignation
Sauls, Aspen-Resignation

Classified

Schultz, Neita-Retirement
Ward, Brenda-Resignation

Dismissals

Harris, Katrina-Teacher Assistant

11. There being no further business at 8:50 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