MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
June 22, 2020

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, June 22, 2020, 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 Dr. Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. 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

Dr. Fitch participated in the meeting at the Administrative Offices. The other Board members participated offsite.

Others present or participating were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Norris Parker, Director of Maintenance Mark Letchworth, Assistant Director of Maintenance Greg Woodard, Director of Athletics Jimmy Tillman, Principal of Beddingfield High Dr. Jonathan Tribula, Principal of Fike High Nelson Johnston, Principal of Hunt High Eddie Doll, Athletic Director at Fike High Thomas Nelson, Athletic Director at Hunt High Jonathan Smith, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and 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. Farmer, that the Board approve the agenda for the Special Board Meeting of the Wilson County Board of Education. 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 athletic track renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High, athletic activities, a memorandum of understanding between Wilson County Schools (WCS) and the Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) and personnel matters.

Under Athletic Track Renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High, the Administration shared as information that at the March 9, 2020, Special Board Meeting, the Board selected CPL Architecture Engineering for the track projects. The district is working with a budget of $1.3 - $1.7 million for the athletic track renovations at Beddingfield and Hunt High.

Eric Leibenguth and Don Page from CPL Architecture provided and discussed a draft assessment report for the track renovations. The report included assessments for existing conditions, design options and recommendations for the district to update the facilities. CPL

Architecture will assist the district in setting a priority list of items that will encompass the scope of the project.

During the presentation, the Board discussed 6- and 8-lane tracks for practice, regionals and competitions; lighting the track facilities, liability issues, ADA compliance, building codes and the severe drop off issue at Hunt High. CPL Architecture confirmed that in order for the tracks to be ready by spring, the renovations will need to begin by December 1. After the presentation to the Board, CPL Architecture asked that the Board give them two weeks to come up with solutions to the issues that were discussed and then they would present the solutions at a future Board meeting.

Dr. Fitch reminded everyone that at a past Board meeting, the Board voted to keep 6-lane tracks at Beddingfield and Hunt High and she was unsure why 8-lane tracks were being discussed. She thanked CPL Architecture for their presentation and their willingness to work with the district and bring back solutions. Dr. Fitch commented that WCS is looking to provide a safe environment for track and field, as well as staying within the budget.

Under Athletic Activities, the Administration provided for information an update on the resumption of activities due to COVID-19 and shared guidance from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA). The Administration met on June 11 and determined that athletics would resume on July 6. Based on guidance from NCHSAA, thermometers will be used to check temperatures, and athletes will not be able to share equipment and interact with each other. On June 29, the schools will receive gloves, towels, hand sanitizer and thermometers. Any equipment used must be disinfected for five minutes each time. Twenty people will be allowed during outside activities, which will include coaches and managers. Ten people will be allowed during indoor activities. To stay within the guidelines and limit the number of people allowed, parents will not be able to attend these activities.

Director of Athletics Mr. Tillman was saddened to inform the Board that Scott Ward, the athletic trainer at Fike High, recently passed away, which creates a vacancy at the school. The athletic trainers are 12-month employees without teaching duties. Mr. Tillman also informed the Board that he had been made aware that there were concerns that football teams associated with WCS were practicing at the Greater Rotary Park. He said that was not the case and the group was not affiliated with WCS. Ms. Barnes commented that the high school principals are doing a good job and the Board appreciates everything that they are doing.

Under Memorandum of Understanding Between Wilson County Schools (WCS) and Wilson Education Partnership (WEP), the Administration shared as information a memorandum of understanding that describes and confirms the agreement for resources and support provided by WCS as related to the operations and management of the WEP organization as a local education fund. WEP provides significant contributions to support the mission of WCS in meeting the educational needs of public school students in Wilson County including funding, collaboration with the business community, advocacy, leadership and other resources. Dr. Fitch commented that WEP Director Robin Williams is doing an outstanding job for the district.

At 5:50 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, 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)(6), and N.C.G.S. Section 115C-319 through 321. The motion passed unanimously.

At 6:24 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to reconvene to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, Ms. Boyette inquired about a public comment from Jennifer Joyner regarding Rebecca Dixon, Assistant Principal at New Hope Elementary, that was submitted and not read during the regular Board meeting on June 8. During COVID-19, when the district receives emails to the public comments email address, the Administration will confirm that the person wants to have their email or letter read during public comment period. A confirmation was not received for Ms. Joyner's comments to be read during the meeting on June 8. The Administration will follow up with Ms. Joyner to see if comments should be read during the next regular Board meeting on July 20.

Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

The Board approved the following certified position.

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.

Administrative

Byrum, Lauren-Assistant Principal
Lewis, Tabitha-Assistant Principal
Page, Dana-Assistant Principal
Simons, Debra-Assistant Principal

Certified

Andres, Ana Rina-3rd Grade Teacher
Lark, Yasem (R)-Kindergarten Teacher

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Certified

Gamba, Julio-Resignation
Jones, Sierra-Resignation
Pridgen, William-Resignation
Sulkowski, Heather-Resignation
VanHook, Lindsay-Resignation
Walden, Samuel-Resignation
Watson, Eva-Resignation
Williams, Keyonna-Resignation
Woodard, Patsy-Resignation

Classified

Bunch, Veronica-Retirement
Corn, Janet-Resignation
Gaddy, Crystal-Resignation
Lister, Sebrenna-Resignation
Locklear, Trystal-Resignation

Administrative – Transfers

Barnes, Daniel-Principal (Lee Woodard Elementary)
Bullock, Bryon-Assistant Principal (Hearne Elementary)
Charles-Dixon, Samantha-Assistant Principal (Forest Hills Middle)
Crayton, Matthew-Assistant Principal (Hunt High)
Daniel, Wendy-Assistant Principal (Darden Middle)
Horton, Sonya-Assistant Principal (Fike High)
Lane, Christie-Assistant Principal (Wells Elementary)
Love, Vanessa-Assistant Principal (Toisnot Middle)
Spencer, Claudia-Principal (Barnes Elementary)
Walker, Corey-Principal (Winstead Elementary)

There being no further business at 6:31 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