MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MAY 20, 2019

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, May 20, 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 Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Wanda Dawson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Norris Parker and Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, as well as Board Attorney Richard Schwartz. Also present were Wilson Times Reporter Drew Wilson, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison. There were more than 32 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 May 20, 2019, be approved. The motion passed unanimously. Mr. Schwartz made a correction on the agenda under Discussion/Action Items, Revised and Draft Policies, item #25. He indicated that Draft Policy 7110 should be listed as Draft Policy 7710, *Membership in Professional Organizations*. The Board accepted the correction to the agenda.

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

3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the April 15, 2019, Regular Board Meeting and the May 15, 2019, Special Board Meeting. Dr. Fitch made a correction to the May 15 minutes regarding the purpose of the meeting. The purpose should read, "The purpose of the meeting was to discuss 26 proposed policy revisions and draft policies. Policy 7340, *Employee Dress and Appearance*, was removed due to being last revised on July 16, 2018. This policy is current with mandates and state statues." The purpose originally stated that the Board would discuss 25 policies instead of 26 policies. Mr. Schwartz also made a correction to the May 15 minutes. Draft Policy 7110, should be listed as Draft Policy 7710, *Membership in Professional Organizations*.

   Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the minutes of the April 15, 2019, Regular Board Meeting and the May 15, 2019, Special Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

4. Under Good News Presentations, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Mr. Breen, recognized

the following groups and individuals:

- Fike High School Family and Consumer Science Program – The Board recognized the Fike High Family and Consumer Science Program led by Christa Mercer and Tiffany Ellis for winning the first annual Pamela Eatmon Award of Excellence Dessert Off. Students in the culinary classes at Beddingfield, Fike and Hunt High competed in the competition on March 15 during the elementary Battle of the Books event. They created tasty treats that were sampled and voted on by the elementary students. The winner was Fike with their Party Poppers. Dr. Mills and his wife sponsored the competition to honor the memory of Pamela Eatmon, a teacher at Fike High who recently passed away and also to highlight the cooking skills of high school students. Dr. Mills presented Fike with two silver platters – one to keep and one that will be presented to the winning school each year.

- Character Education

    - Precious Holden, senior at Fike High School - The Fike Business Department – consisting of Amber Inscoe, Steffanie Sharp, Linda Edmundson and Paula Cobb – are so proud of Precious and have loved having her as a student the past four school years. This year was particularly hard on the Career and Technical Education Department because the staff had a large number of family emergencies and/or deaths. When teachers needed to be out, Precious stepped in to help the substitute teachers with assignments – not just for her current classes but previous classes she had taken. Dr. Mills also congratulated her for placing first in Computer Applications at the Future Business Leaders of America State Leadership Conference. She will compete in the national competition this summer.

    - Blake Near, third-grader at Gardners Elementary School – Blake is an incredibly special young man who has an excitement for learning, school and life – which is not often seen in students his age. In the classroom, he is eager to answer questions and offers to help his classmates. He is also a great team player and loves to work in collaborative groups. His excitement for learning is infectious. Blake also demonstrates a high level of respect when speaking with others. He is quick to share a kind word with students or adults, and it's common for him to ask an adult how their day is going or how their weekend was. Principal Cheryl Baggett shared that Blake is not a fan of Fridays because it means he will not be at school for a few days.

    * Schwartz and Shaw provides $25 gift cards to students who are recognized for good character. We are grateful for this kind gesture!

5. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch advised the Board that the Policy Meetings scheduled for June 5 and August 5 had been cancelled. She then proceeded to thank the following groups or individuals:

- Chick-fil-A for partnering with Wilson County Schools (WCS) for another year of Smart Cookies in the elementary schools. She also thanked Board Member Debora Powell for attending the Smart Cookies at Winstead Elementary with the class of Krishona McCoy-Artis on May 6 and the Smart Cookies at Rock Ridge Elementary with the class of Elizabeth Willoughby on May 7. The final Smart Cookies is scheduled for May 21 at Stantonsburg Elementary with the class of Kimberly Barnes at 2 p.m. Board Member Velma Barnes will attend. Dr. Fitch also thanked Dr. Mills for doing such a great job interacting with the students and for making them feel special.
- The local businesses that supported staff during Teacher Appreciation Week.
- Barton College for presenting a four-year scholarship to Hunt High Senior Terry Lee Perry, Jr. for his involvement in The Gentlemen's Agreement. Barton will present a scholarship each year to a senior involved in the program. Dr. Fitch added that she hopes WCS will add a similar mentoring program for young ladies in the future.
- Interim Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Dr. Wanda Dawson for her service the past few months and for stepping into the role when there was a vacancy. Her last day with WCS is June 30. Dr. Norris Parker was recently hired as the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources.
- Board Member Gary Farmer for helping to secure a Spot Vision Screener for the local Lion's Club to assist with vision checks for all third-graders.

Dr. Fitch also advised the Board of the following:

- The Gamma Beta Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority is hosting the 24th Annual Baccalaureate Program on Sunday, June 2, 2019, at 4 p.m. at Fike High to honor high school graduates. All graduates in Wilson County are invited and Board members should RSVP to Angela P. Grantham at 252-230-7361 or agrantham@wilsoncc.edu if they would like to attend.
- At the April Board meeting, Dr. Fitch indicated that she would draft a letter to the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) regarding its May 1 Teacher Advocacy Day and ask the organization to consider announcing the date in advance so that districts could plan a teacher workday. The letter has since been mailed to NCAE and also to the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA). Dr. Fitch shared this letter during the meeting.
- Superintendent Dr. Mills has been selected as a member of the National Center for Education Research & Technology (NCERT). This is an international organization of world-class leaders in the superintendency from school districts across the United States and Canada. The members are nominated by their peers and recommended for membership by the NCERT National Board. The goal of NCERT is to support education's foremost thinkers and foster the development of world-class practices in education. Only 90 superintendents in the United States out of 18,000 are selected.

- Dr. Fitch shared that a nomination is being drafted for Dr. Mills to be in the running for North Carolina Superintendent of the Year. The nomination is due May 31.

6. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills shared information about events that occurred since the last Board meeting on April 15:

   - Spring Break was held April 22-26.
   - Teacher Appreciation Week was held May 6-10. Dr. Mills recognized the hard work of staff members and also thanked parents, PTO members and the following organizations for making staff feel special: Brewmasters, Chick-fil-A, Deans Farm Market, Blissful Boutique, Arby's, Domino's, Zaxbys, Lidl, Food Lion and Wildflours Cakes & Confections.
   - The WCS budget request was presented to the Wilson County Commissioners on May 7.
   - Classes ended at Wilson Academy of Applied Technology and Wilson Early College Academy on May 16.
   - Seniors at Wilson Early College Academy graduated with their high school diplomas on May 16 and their college degrees on May 17. He commended the 75 graduates for their hard work and wished them the best in the future.

   Dr. Mills also shared details about upcoming events:

   - The WCS 2019-2020 Teacher and Principal of the Year Celebration is scheduled for May 21 at 6 p.m. at Jones Elementary. The finalists for Principal of the Year are Barnes Elementary Principal Daniel Barnes and Springfield Middle Principal Marquis Spell. The finalists for Teacher of the Year are Britney Phillips, fourth-grade teacher at Lucama Elementary; Jenasis Rogers, eighth-grade English Language Arts teacher at Springfield Middle; and Will Edwards, biology teacher at Hunt High.
   - The Memorial Day Holiday is May 27.
   - The last day of school for students is May 30. The graduation ceremonies are scheduled for June 8 at Fike High (10 a.m.), Hunt High (1 p.m.) and Beddingfield High (4 p.m.).

7. Under Public Input, Natarsha Sanders addressed the Board during the Public Input portion of the meeting on Special Education. Dr. Fitch advised that the Administration would respond to her concerns.

8. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss one information item and three action items.

   Under Contracts Requiring Board Notification, Board Policy 2500, *Contracts*, states that the Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts involving amounts up to $90,000 and the Superintendent shall report such contracts exceeding $20,000 to the Board at its

next regularly scheduled meeting. The following contracts, which are less than $90,000, were approved by Dr. Mills:

Fire Alarm Inspection Contract	Johnson Controls Fire Protection	$32,999.60
Fire Ant Treatment Contract	Clegg's Termite & Pest Control	$56,929.00
Stantonsburg Gym Ceiling	J.P. Weaver Inc.	$45,400.00
Leadership Training & Associated Services	The Masonboro Group	$54,950.00
Transition Services to Students with Disabilities	The Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services	$27,532.00

Under 2018-2019 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments for the 2018-2019 State Public School Fund, Current Expense Fund, Federal Fund, Capital Outlay Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund budgets ending June 30, 2019. General Statue 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 2018-2019 Budget Amendments 105, 203, 305, 402 and 805 as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under 2018 Audit Extension, the accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC completed the 2017-2018 WCS audit. At the April Board meeting, it was reported that the firm found the individual school and school system books to be in good order. The audit report was originally due on October 31, 2018, but was delayed due to Hurricane Florence and because a new audit partner was assigned who needed additional time to become familiar with the engagement. The modified due date was May 13, 2019. At the February Board meeting, the Board voted to use Anderson Smith Wike for upcoming audit services. To conclude the business dealings with Carr, Riggs & Ingram, the Administration is requesting the Board approve an amendment to the contract to finalize the audit extension. General Statue 115C-447 requires an outside audit of school system accounts and accounts of individual schools at the end of each fiscal year. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board amend a contract to audit accounts for Carr, Riggs & Ingram, LLC. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Contract Requiring Board Approval, Board Policy 2500.1 states that all contracts involving expenditures exceeding $90,000 must receive prior approval from the Board. Moye Fence Company has submitted a bid of $99,483 for playground mulch at all of the elementary schools. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the contract for Moye Fence Company for playground mulch be approved as requested by the Administration pending legal review. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Committee Meetings/Instructional Services Committee - Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss three information items and two actions items.

Under 1Million Project Foundation, the Board received information about WCS being a part of Sprint's 1Million Project Foundation. In August 2017, Sprint launched the project with the mission of providing internet connectivity to one million high school students. Many students do not have internet access at home, and it's difficult for them to complete homework. In its first year, Sprint connected 113,000 students in more than 1,400 schools across 31 states. By the end of the 2018-2019 school year, Sprint will have provided internet access and devices to more than 250,000 students at 1,700 schools in more than 160 school districts in 33 states. WCS would like to consider this opportunity for students at the three comprehensive high schools who do not have internet access at home other than their cell phones. Students who qualify would receive a free filtered mobile hotspot for homework usage. A contract is currently being reviewed by the Board attorney.

Under NC Pre-K, the Board received information about WCS applying for a NC Pre-K site through the Wilson County Partnership for Children. If the site is approved, WCS would like to add one class of 18 students with one certified teacher and a teacher assistant. Per the NC Department of Public Instruction, currently 400+ students in Wilson County would qualify for Pre-K but are not being served. The goal would be for WCS to open additional sites and classes each year.

Under Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program, the Board received information about continuing participation in the CEP Program, which is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas as a part of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010. CEP allows the highest poverty schools to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled. Schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on direct certification. The Board reviewed the CEP Grouping for the 2019-2020 school year, the 2019-2020 WCS Family Income Survey and the 2018-2019 WCS Free and Reduced Price Schools Meals Household Application.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Mr. Mercer for the purpose of receiving the report and carrying through the motions.

Under Title I Eligibility, WCS is in the last year of being able to use data from the 2016-2017 school year. Currently, there are 15 schools in WCS that receive Title I funds. Much like the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program funds discussed earlier in the Board meeting, Title I funding is based on the percentage of students eligible for free or reduced lunch. All schools that are identified as having 75 percent or higher of their student population eligible for free or reduced lunch must be identified as Title I Schools and receive the federal funds. Schools with 40-70 percent are eligible for Title I funds, but they are not required to receive the funding. The Board also reviewed the following timeline:

- April: CEP data and Eligible Schools Summary Report (ESSR) data were analyzed by the district.
- May: NC Department of Public Instruction opened the window from May 6-June 30 so districts can report ESSR data. The ESSR data feeds into the State Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and is used to calculate poverty bands for funding determinations.
- June: NC Department of Public Instruction opens the CCIP window to complete district applications. Applications are due by June 30. If an extension is necessitated, then a written request can be submitted to the Northeast Federal Programs Administrator.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the Title I Eligibility based on the 2016-2017 data as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan, Wilson County Schools AIG plan will extend from the 2019-2020 to 2021-2022 school years. The AIG plan was updated and revised by the AIG Advisory Board using survey data, feedback and support from the NC Department of Public Instruction. The main focus of the plan is to serve more underrepresented populations. The criteria for identifying students have been revised to help meet the needs of a greater number of students. The plan also outlines the program's improved monitoring and evaluation process. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve the Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan for 2019-2022 as submitted by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Mercer turned the meeting back over to Dr. Fitch.

9. Under Wilson Community College Board of Trustees Appointment, the Board has a total of four appointments on the Wilson Community College Board of Trustees. The Board makes one appointment each year. The Board members received information about how to nominate someone for the vacant seat. Board members have until May 31 to notify the Superintendent's Office if there is someone they would like to nominate. Nominations will be presented at the June Board meeting for the Board's consideration and final approval. The current Wilson County Board of Education appointments to the Wilson Community College Board of Trustees and their four-year term expiration dates are as follows: Jerry Dorsey (June 30, 2019); Rene Smith (June 30, 2020); Alice Freeman (June 30, 2021); and Kenneth Jones (June 30, 2022).

Mr. Dorsey has indicated that he will not resume his seat. Dr. Fitch received an email from Board of Trustees Chair Alice Freeman with two names the Trustees would like considered – Tom Fyle, appointee of the governor whose term is ending this year, and Tracy Joyner, an educator with nearly 30 years of experience. Dr. Fitch nominated Dr. Carol White, retired educator/administrator with Durham Public Schools and Chair of the NAACP Education Committee.

Under Revised and Draft Policies – Second Reading, the Board is in the process of reviewing all of its policies to align them with NC General Statutes and the North Carolina School Boards Association policies. The policies were reviewed and discussed as first readings at the Board's policy meeting on May 15.

During the Policy Meeting, the Board did not request any additional changes to the following eight draft policies:

- Draft Policy 4302, *School Plan for Management of Student Behavior*
- Draft Policy 4315, *Disruptive Behavior*
- Draft Policy 4340, *School-Level Investigations*
- Draft Policy 5025, *Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol*
- Draft Policy 5220, *Collections and Solicitations*
- Draft Policy 7300, *Staff Ethics and Responsibilities*
- Draft Policy 7550, *Absences Due to Inclement Weather*
- Draft Policy 7710, *Membership in Professional Organizations*

Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the eight policies (4302, 4315, 4340, 5025, 5220, 7300, 7550 and 7710). The motion passed unanimously.

During the Policy Meeting, the Board requested additional changes to the following 15 draft policies:

- Draft Policy 3470/4305, *Alternative Learning Programs/Schools*
- Draft Policy 4201/7271, *Injury and Loss Prevention*
- Draft Policy 4210, *Release of Students from School*
- Draft Policy 4230, *Communicable Diseases – Students*
- Draft Policy 4240/7312, *Child Abuse - Reports and Investigations*
- Draft Policy 4300, *Student Behavior Policies*
- Draft Policy 4303, *Fair and Consistent Discipline Administration*
- Draft Policy 4328, *Gang-Related Activity*
- Draft Policy 4330, *Theft, Trespass and Damage to Property*
- Draft Policy 4331, *Assaults, Threats and Harassment*
- Draft Policy 4333, *Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats and Clear Threats to Safety*
- Draft Policy 4335, *Criminal Behavior*
- Draft Policy 4345, *Student Discipline Records*
- Draft Policy 5026/7250, *Smoking and Tobacco Products*
- Draft Policy 7425, *School Administrator Contracts*

Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the 15 policies (3470/4305, 4201/7271, 4210, 4230, 4240/7312, 4300, 4303, 4328, 4330, 4331, 4333, 4335, 4345, 5026/7250 and 7425) as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board voted on the following two policies separately based on input during the Policy Meeting on May 15:

- Draft Policy 4115, *Behavior Standards for Transfer Students*
- Draft Policy 4310, *Integrity and Civility*

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve Policy 4115, *Behavior Standards for Transfer Students*, as a second read. The motion passed 6:1, with Mr. Breen casting the dissenting vote.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve Policy 4310, *Integrity and Civility*, as a second read as presented. The motion passed 6:1, with Mr. Breen casting the dissenting vote.

10. At 8:41 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; 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); and to establish or instruct the staff of negotiating agents concerning the position to be taken in negotiating the material terms of a lease for real property as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318-11(a)(5). The motion passed unanimously.

    At 10:21 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously.

    Prior to closed session, the Board approved new policies but did not rescind the old policies. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to remove or rescind policies. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of the April 15, 2019, Regular Board Meeting, and/but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. 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 certified and classified positions, Substitute Teachers, as well as the attached list of Administrator Contract Renewals.

Administrative

Baker, Olinka-Assistant Principal
Talton, Mary-Catherine-Director of Child Nutrition

Certified

Hall, Miguel-Behavior Support Assistant
Harrell, Jr., Roy-JROTC

Classified

Knight, Michelle-Bus Driver
Porter, Heidi-Bus Driver

Substitute Teachers

DeBerry, Arnisa-Substitute
Jordan, Christina-Substitute
Joyner, Destinee-Substitute
Medlin, Autumn-Substitute
Morgan, Jasmine-Substitute
Pait, John-Substitute
Schans, Leia-Substitute
Stovall, Kaelah-Substitute
Todd, Maya Claire-Substitute
Wall, Judianne-Substitute

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative

May, Robin-Executive Director of Federal Programs

Transfers

Edwards, Michelle-Technology Coordinator

Administrative

Cyrus, Kelvin-Resignation

Certified

Baseaz Farias, Eduardo-Resignation
Beaver, Sheila-Resignation
Berry, Cynthia-Resignation
Biggs, Kimberly-Retirement
Castellanos, Lina-Resignation
Coney, Stacey-Resignation
Glover, Denise-Retirement
Griffin, Sonya-Retirement
Madrid Manzano, Maria-Resignation
McManus, Tedi-Resignation
Murphy, Cindy-Retirement
Raynor, Deatrice-Resignation
Rivera-Speight, Amelia-Resignation
Sanders, Natarsha-Resignation
Schneider, Benjamin-Resignation
Utt, Lauren-Resignation
Warholic, Kelly-Resignation
Wolzen, Bryce-Resignation

Classified

Jenkins, Deborah-Retirement
Parker, Joan-Retirement
Rawls, Deborah-Resignation
Strickland, Nancy-Retirement

12. There being no further business at 10:25 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