

**MINUTES**  
**DAVIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**Monday, March 4, 2024**

*\*Primary Elections are on Tuesday, March 5, 2024*

*The Davie County Board of Education met at 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 4, 2024, in the Board Room at the DCS District Office Mebane Education Center, 1200 Salisbury Road, Mocksville, NC 27028.*

Board Members Present:

Marie Helms, Vice-Chair

Joe Caudle

Paul Drechsler

Wendy Horne

Con Shelton

Cammie Webb, BOE

Staff Present:

Jeff Wallace, Superintendent

Jinda Haynes, Assistant Superintendent

Jennifer Lynde, Chief Academic Officer

Jill Wilson, Board Attorney

Clay Harris, Chief Operations Officer

Carol Stuart, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education

Absent:

W.G. "Dub" Potts, Chair

David Blattner, Director of Technology

**Closed Session**

Vice Chair Marie Helms called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. Joe Caudle made the motion to adopt the agenda for Monday, March 4, 2024. Con Shelton seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Vice Chair Helms called for a motion to go into closed session to preserve the attorney client privilege pursuant to the North Carolina General Statutes listed on the agenda, to review personnel and property matters protected by State Law, and to discuss student concerns made

confidential by General Statutes, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. Joe Caudle made the motion, seconded by Wendy Horne; the motion carried 6-0. The Board went into closed session at 5:16 p.m.

### **Open Session**

Vice Chair Helms reconvened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and asked Paul Drechsler to offer the invocation. Joe Caudle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Caudle made the motion, seconded by Wendy Horne, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, February 6, 2024, rescheduled regular Board of Education meeting as presented. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Board Report**

Vice Chair Helms reminded everyone that Tuesday, March 5, 2024, the primary elections are being held. March 7, 2024, is the PTEC Signature Awards event. Character Ed Awards night is scheduled for April 18, 2024 at the DCHS Auditorium at 6:00 p.m. for elementary schools and 7:15 p.m. for middle and high schools.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Wallace welcomed the large group. He asked for a moment of silence for the loss of student Kevin Romero-Ruano, on February 22, 2024. National School Breakfast Week is this week. Mr. Wallace thanked Joe Otranto for all he does for the school nutrition department. Superintendent Wallace also thanked the school social workers, as this week is National School Social Worker Week. DPI selected Leah Reynolds, with DCHS, and Dr. Blattner to serve on a Generative Artificial Intelligence state collaborative team.

PMR5 attendance is 89.5; this number is a bit low because of exams.

### **Recognitions**

Jennifer Lynde presented the results of the Davie County Schools District Spelling Bee held on Feb. 8, 2024. She thanked family and friends for their support and Mr. Potts for attending the Spelling Bee. Venezia Italian Family Restaurant, Skyline National Bank, and Davie Enterprise were the sponsors who made the event possible. Seventy-four words were called out. The top three students were: Dev Gandhi won third place. Alexandra Leszczuk won second place. Olivia Rareshide won first place. On March 17, 2024, Olivia will compete at the regional level.

Athletic Director Tim Devericks Recognized DCHS Indoor Track team, coached by Rob Raisbeck, Diane Williams, and Marc Sweet. Cooper Williams was the state champion in shot put and ranks 10th nationally in his class in the shot put in indoor track. AJ Sweet qualified for

the state meet for the pole vault and is ranked 10th nationally in his class in the pole vault. Mason Kuhnemann qualified for the state meet in the high jump.

Athletic Director Devericks recognized the swim team coaches Lance White, Tak Hirata, and Chadwick Zuleger. The team had five qualifiers for the state meet for Men's 200 Free Relay: Zach Hirata, Aiden Davis, Bryce Harnsberger, and Earnhardt Harris. The team had 13 regional qualifiers for the girl's team: Sophia Brady, Samara McDaniel, Sarah Rajacich, Kayden Richardson, Lilli Seats, and Logan White. The swim team had six regional qualifiers for the men's team: Aiden Davis, Xaiden Groff, Bryce Harnsberger, Earnhardt Harris, Zach Hirata, and Logan Zuleger. North Carolina Swimming ranks third nationally for qualifying time, so to have this many members of the swim team qualifying is an outstanding accomplishment. The team broke three records: Men's 200 Medley Relay (Aiden Davis, Logan Zuleger, Zach Hirata and Earnhardt Harris), Men's 200 Free Relay (Zach Hirata, Aiden Davis, Bryce Harnsberger, and Earnhardt Harris), and Men's Individual Back Stroke (Zach Hirata). The Coach of the Year in the Central Piedmont Conference is Lance White.

Athletic Director Devericks started off the wrestling team's recognition – State Champion in the 175 lb. class was Hunter Tester. Cayden Glass was runner-up for the 120 lb. class. State qualifiers were Aidan Szewczyk, Cayden Glass, Tiaj Thao, Andrew Davis, Brett Foster, Elliot Gould, Hunter Testa, and Brysen Godbey. They won the State Individual Team Championship. Regional qualifiers were Stephen Jacobs, Aidan Szewczyk, Cayden Glass, Tiaj Thao, Andrew Davis, Brett Foster, Elliot Gould, Jarred Alexander, Maddox Creason, Hunter Testa, Christian Boswell, Brysen Godbey, and Ryder Strickland. They won the Individual Regional Tournament. Other team members joined the group. This was the first time that DCHS won both the CPC Championship and Dual State Championship.

### **Consent Agenda**

Vice Chair Helms asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jinda Haynes added a personnel report addendum. Paul Drechsler made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented with the addendum. Wendy Horne seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Jinda Haynes introduced Cheryl Reeves as the new principal at Cornatzer Elementary School. Her husband and three of her seven children were with her. Mrs. Reeves started her career as an Instructional Assistant and Bus Driver. She earned her Bachelor's in Elementary Education at East Carolina University. She earned a master's degree in elementary education and administration at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. She was in the North Carolina Teaching Fellows program. She became a Math Impact Coach and then became an Assistant Principal at Davie County High School in 2021. She has taken on many projects and proven her leadership, including organizing credit recovery, revising flex time, leading professional development, and creating master schedules for the school. When asked during the interview what it meant to be a principal that people would want to follow, she said walking with the staff

and earning their trust is how she wants to lead. She will be introduced to the staff on Tuesday, March 5, 2024.

### **Business Items**

CDEC Jeremy Whitaker presented the CDEC roof project contract. On February 13, 2024, three bids were placed. DCS recommends contracting with Galliher for a new roof system that includes a 25-year warranty for \$114,690, with an additional bid of \$12,188 to replace the metal trim, which puts the total cost at \$126,878. Cammie Webb motioned to approve the contract; Con Shelton seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0.

Superintendent Wallace followed up on the renaming of the Central Davie Education Center. He asked the naming facility committee to stand: Amy Rose, Beth Carter, Clay Harris, Clyde Scott, Sr., Cindy Stone, Dub Potts, Jeff Wallace, Mary Anne Byerly, and Stevie Dulin; Mr. Potts and Mrs. Stone could not attend. He invited Brooke Suiter Rothwell (Julius Suiter's daughter) and Rodney Simmons to stand with the naming facility committee. They recommended to the board that the building be renamed to DCS Julius Suiter Education Center. Paul Drechsler made the motion, seconded by Con Shelton. The motion carried 6-0. There will be a renaming ceremony once new signs are installed.

The NCSBA Legislative Committee Service asks for a board member nomination every year. Mr. Potts currently serves on this committee. Wendy Horne nominated Marie Helms for the 2024 position. There were no other nominations. Con Shelton seconded the motion, which passed 6-0.

Clay Harris presented information on a surveillance server purchase. Current camera servers only store 10 days' of data; 30 days is the requirement. A new server is needed at a cost of \$276,482. DCS recommended that the board approve this purchase. Paul Drechsler made a motion. Wendy Horne seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

### **Committee/Staff Report**

Andy Deal, with Anderson Smith and Wike, presented the summary of the audited FY23. He gave copies of the bound financial statements to the board. Mr. Deal explained that the report was a "clean, unmodified report," which means it didn't note anything that needed to be modified during the audit. He gave the highest level that can be issued to our financial statements. Governmental funds show the financial snapshot as of June 30, 2023, except for nutrition information, which is held in a different account. The general fund was recorded at \$3.7 million dollars. Statement of revenues, expenditures, and net change of the Fund Balance showed an increase of just over \$18,000, which is pretty good for school districts. State public school fund revenues are just under \$45,000,000. Liabilities with retirement plans affect the view of statements. For the school year 2022-23, the statement of cash flow increased by \$163,000. Most schools lost cash, but DCS did not. After COVID, the government stopped sending money, inflation occurred, food costs and minimum wage increased, all of which hit the Food Service

really hard. The fact that DCS increased our cash shows a strong performance. Mr. Deal suggested closely watching minimum wage and higher food costs. He wanted to share three audit reports related to compliance: The first audit report relates to internal control, which had one finding related to child nutrition where bank reconciliations were not being prepared in a timely manner. The second audit report relating to federal grants was an unmodified report with no findings. The third audit report is the district's compliance with the major State programs was unmodified. Details about the audit findings in the Food Service program showed that bank reconciliations were not being prepared in a timely manner, perhaps because of turnover in the department; they did, however, increase their cash. In order to pay for salaries, the state requires \$45,000 to be transferred to the school food service budget; owing to an oversight, this transfer was not performed during FY23. There were no significant difficulties in performing the audit. Mrs. Helms thanked Mr. Deal and Mr. Harris for doing a great job being fiscally and financially mindful. Mr. Wallace thanked Mr. Harris, his team, and Mr. Otranto. Superintendents discuss School nutrition budgets at length; Davie County Schools is in better shape than ninety percent of schools.

**Public Address to the Board**

No one signed up.

**Adjourn**

Cammie Webb made the motion to adjourn with a second from Joe Caudle. The motion was approved with a 6-0 vote. The meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.



Marie Helms, Vice Chair



Jeff Wallace, Secretary

MH:JW:cs

Approved: \_\_\_