

MINUTES
DAVIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
Tuesday, June 4, 2024

The Davie County Board of Education met at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 4, 2024, in the Boardroom at the DCS District Office Mebane Education Center, 1200 Salisbury Road, Mocksville, NC 27028.

Board Members Present:

W.G. "Dub" Potts, Chair

Joe Caudle

Paul Drechsler

Wendy Horne

Con Shelton (arrived at 4:06 p.m.)

Cammie Webb (arrived at 4:03 p.m.)

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:

Marie Helms, Vice-Chair

Open Session

Chair Potts called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. Chair Potts asked Wendy Horne to offer the invocation. Joe Caudle led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Joe Caudle made the motion to adopt the agenda for Tuesday, June 4, 2024. Paul Drechsler seconded the motion. The motion carried 5-0.

Wendy Horne made the motion, seconded by Paul Drechsler, to approve the minutes of the Tuesday, May 7, 2024, regular Board of Education meeting, as presented. The motion carried 5-0.

Board Report

Chair Potts mentioned that Marie Helms could not attend the meeting due to work conflicts. Mr. Potts reminded the Board that the June, July, and August board meetings are held at 4:00 p.m. He referred to the list of Board of Education meetings for the 2024-25 school year. He reminded everyone of the Davie County High School's graduation ceremony that is scheduled for Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. at the War Eagle Stadium.

Superintendent's Report

Superintendent Wallace welcomed everyone. He congratulated the seniors on their accomplishments and commended Mr. Pruitt and the staff for their dedication in helping the students reach this milestone. The graduation will be on Saturday, June 15, 2024, at 8:30 a.m. The seniors did their Senior Walk at their respective elementary schools. The end of the year brings many changes. Michael Spillman will retire in June with 37 years of service to DCS. Anthony Davis, of 6 years, is leaving the DCS to be Yadkin County Schools' superintendent. Brenda Lyerly, a Cooleemee Elementary bus driver, dedicated her life to DCS; he thanked her for the decades she gave to DCS. Superintendent Wallace mentioned the positive impact Davie County High School's English teacher, Ashley Snider, has had on students and society. She had her senior English class do a pen pal project by hand writing letters to senior citizens in Davie County from February through May of this year. The students then made a trip to Seniors Services to meet their pen pals last month. It was wonderful for students and senior citizens alike. Superintendent Wallace said this project has gained national attention, even USA Today.

Ashley Snider thanked everyone for allowing her to speak. She said sometimes we throw stones in the pond and wait for its ripple effects. With inspiration from other teachers, this project has had massive ripples and created many connections. She is thankful to be a part of this supportive county. There was a win for humanities and a win for human connections.

The attendance PMR is 94.86, which has been good and only a half percent off from the same month pre-COVID-19. Superintendent Wallace reminded everyone that the classified staff received the second installment bonus of \$500. The certified staff received their state low-wealth in May and the remaining two-thirds of local supplement in June.

Recognitions

NCDA's 58th Annual Poetry and Art Contest. Presenters: Stefanie Morris and Angela Watson. Students created poetry and artwork to celebrate CTE month in February. Their work had to represent this year's theme: "Art of the Mind: The Connection Between Wellness and Career Success." All of these students had their work sent on to the national level competition.

Students from William Ellis Middle School:

Keylin Andrade-Bonilla - 1st Place in Poetry

Callen Whitten - 2nd Place in Poetry

Olivia Howard - 1st Place in Art
Will Helms - 2nd Place in Art
Keeley Carter - 3rd Place in Art

Stefanie Morris and Angela Watson introduced the winners from the middle school SkillsUSA 2024 State Competition. Skills USA is a CTSO that provides students with opportunities to compete in career-related topics and gain leadership skills.

William Ellis Middle School Students:

Carter James - 2nd Pin Design
Katy Beth Carter - 3rd in Spelling
Nirat Patel - 3rd in T-Shirt Design
Addie James, Miley Hagins, and Mia Wyatt - 1st in Bulletin Board (The team is eligible to compete in the Nationals in Atlanta later this month.)

Will Marrs introduced the winners from the high school SkillsUSA 2024 State Competition. SkillsUSA is a CTSO that provides students with opportunities to compete in career-related topics and gain leadership skills. Over the last few years, the group has grown from 12 to 50 students. Third-year students will go to Atlanta, GA, for competitions.

Stuart Robinson, Jaydon Leonard, and Slay Keaton: 1st Place Additive Manufacturing. They will be competing nationally in Atlanta, Georgia.
Caleb Coble and Ty Carter: 2nd Place Additive Manufacturing
Rylan Koontz: 3rd Place Automotive Maintenance and Light Repair
AJ Sweet, Caswell Moore, and Megan Clapper: 2nd Place Engineering Technology Design. They will be competing nationally as well.

Dr. Adriane Blackwelder introduced Christy Kauffman, the winner of the 2024 Davie County Schools Outstanding Elementary Mathematics Teacher award. Criteria were sent out to those who showed leadership roles. A district team looked at the submissions and placed their votes. She has finished her nineteenth year, nine of which have been at Cooleemee Elementary School. Angie Burgess says her class is a model class, and she is an active member of the School Improvement Team. Dr. Blackwelder was so impressed with Ms. Kauffman's vertical boards. Christy was selected for her math-related in-service training, professional activities, effectiveness, and contributions to math instruction in the school and district. She will be recognized at the NCCTM State Math Conference on November 14, 2024, in Winston-Salem. She will receive a one-year membership to NCCTM and will have her name published on the NCCTM website.

Mr. Pruitt, principal at Davie County High School, spoke on how the cheerleaders win competitions at both the state and national levels. Cheerleaders put in so much effort and time year-round. They have a fantastic leader in Mrs. Angie Stage. Angie Stage's team won the D1

competition in December. They later went on to win the small varsity state championship and then the grand championship. The team traveled in February, where they placed 18th out of 170 teams in small varsity teams. The team members are Alyssa Marion, Ava Williams, Avery Carter, Cloey Crotts, Deklyn Waszczeniuk, Ella Stage, Ellie Deas, Emily Dixson, Harmony Young, Kaylee Brake, Megan O'Neal, Mia Clair Myers, Riley Spaugh, Sadie Link, Sydney Tanis, and Claire Burris.

Emily Moore, AP at Cooleemee Elementary School, recognized Brenda Lyerly for being a DCS bus driver for 50 years, solely driving for Cooleemee Elementary School. Emily Moore said that Brenda Lyerly is self-sacrificing, devoted, punctual, and dedicated. She has spent 9,000 days driving a bus for Cooleemee and 300,000 miles driving multiple generations of children. Ms. Moore drove the bus route with Ms. Lyerly, who knew everything: which students belonged to which parents, and small details about the children. Ms. Moore thanked CTE for the token of appreciation, a metal decorative piece of a cutout school bus stating her 50 years of service, designed and made for Ms. Lyerly.

Consent Agenda

Cammie Webb made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda. Jinda Haynes informed the board members that there was a personnel addendum to include. Cammie Webb made the motion to adopt the Consent Agenda with the Addendum, as presented. Joe Caudle seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Assistant Superintendent Jinda Haynes introduced the new Assistant Principal for North Davie Middle School, Jami Gullick, who starts on August 1, 2024. Mrs. Gullick received her education from ASU. She taught for nine years and held various leadership roles. She then earned her Master's in Administration from Appalachian State University. She impressed the interview committee with her instructional background, charisma, and energy. Her family could not attend because of sports and church.

David Koonts, from Davie County, was introduced as the new Director of CTE and Federal Programs. He will begin in July but will collaborate with Anthony Davis in June. His wife, Nicole, and children, Anna and Nathan, were present. His third child, Dillon, could not attend. His grandmother was a chemistry teacher, and his mom was an EC teacher. Dub welcomed them back to Davie County.

Business Items

Joe Otranto, Director of School Nutrition, presented information regarding a new contract for produce with Foster Caviness. DCS is a member of Foothills Cooperative. The only bid we received came from Foster Caviness. Joe Caudle made a motion to approve the contract. Con Shelton seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Joe Otranto thanked the board for allowing him to serve DCS for the past two years. He will be retiring at the end of this month.

Michael Spillman, Director of Maintenance, presented information regarding the bids he received from architecture companies for the construction of the Advanced Manufacturing Lab at Davie County High School. DCS received bids from two architecture companies. Based on the pricing, DCS recommended approving the contract with Michael Graves. Based on the project estimate, the contract costs \$150,000. Paul Drechsler made the motion to approve the contract; Wendy Home seconded the motion. The motion carried 6-0.

Mr. Spillman thanked the board for the opportunity to serve Davie County Schools.

Committee/Staff Report

Mackenzie Ratledge, Director of Preschool, presented information to the Board regarding increasing tuition rates for the beginning of the 2024-25 school year. The Preschool program serves 252 students in all seven facilities. They maintain a 5-star license through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. In 2022, Preschool's rates increased. Because costs continue to rise, they are requesting to increase tuition rates for next year. In her presentation, Mrs. Ratledge showed a cost comparison: The market rate is \$865 per month. Private centers charge \$905 each month. DCS charges \$540 each month. Superintendent Wallace said DCS has to stay within a percent of the market rates. Chair Potts asked if employees could stay at the current rate, because we want to keep staff. Superintendent Wallace explained that because there is already a substantial cost reduction for employees, there will be a slight increase for employees to keep within guidelines. This information will be recommended to the board for a vote at the July 2, 2024, board meeting.

Karen Jarvis, Chief Communications Officer, discussed the desired changes to Policy 5015, which addresses policies for volunteers. She, along with the human resources team, is streamlining procedures. They are identifying areas that need changes, clarifying roles, and adding requirements for training for Level 1, which enhances the safety of the students. They will work with the BIB system, which is what is used for background checks on new hires. These policy updates will be recommended for a vote at the July 2, 2024, meeting.

Valerie Feezor, Director of Testing and Accountability, gave an update on Infinite Campus, the new student information system. The State Board of Education awarded a new contract to Infinite Campus. The transition to this system will be a 2-year process; we are in Phase 1. A needs assessment was completed in 2019 to show there was a need for change. A positive aspect of this system is that it is a comprehensive product. Online registration and payments are included, and there will be cost savings. In January, DCS confirmed participation in Phase 1; in March, we implemented a meeting with Infinite Campus and NCDPI. They did a trial run by uploading our data. In April, staff reviewed the data and attended training. In May, DCS met with eighty teaching

staff to give them an introduction. These teacher ambassadors will attend meetings and help with the roll-out of the new system. The data was due on May 31, 2024, so now Infinite Campus is building the system with our students' information. In July, Infinite Campus will be fully operational, and Mrs. Feezor will be conducting training sessions with the data managers. Showing students and parents how to access their information will be implemented in July and August. School Messenger messages are going out this week to notify parents that their portal information needs to be downloaded before transitioning to the Infinite Campus parent portal. It will be very important for parents to update their contact information as a way to audit and have clean data. Chair Potts asked how much training teachers would need. Mrs. Feezor told him that there would be a one hour training session plus 1.5 hours of videos that can be watched in a team or individually. He asked if this training would occur during a work day; she confirmed that it would be during a work day. He asked if there were hardware needs; Dr. Blattner said no extra hardware would be needed for the system to operate. Superintendent Wallace commended Ms. Feezor for the massive amount of work guiding everyone through this, especially during testing time. She has done a good job.

Public Address to the Board

No one signed up.

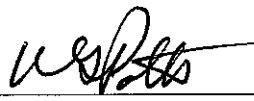
Closed Session

Chair Potts called for a motion to go into closed session at 5:08 p.m. 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. Cammie Webb made the motion, seconded by Con Shelton. The motion carried 6-0. The Board took a brief break and then went into closed session at 5:15 p.m.


The Board returned to Open Session at 5:45 p.m.

Adjourn

Paul Drechsler made the motion to adjourn with a second from Wendy Horne. The motion was approved with a 6-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.



W. G. Potts, Chair



Jeff Wallace, Secretary

WGP:JW:cs Approved: