

MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
AUGUST 29, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Thursday, August 29, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Dr. Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman
Henry E. Mercer, Vice-Chairman
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
Blake Boykin
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent Robin May, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ben Williams, Chief Finance Officer Shannon Collins, Executive Director of Secondary Education Zachary Marks, Executive Director of Facility Services Greg Woodard, Director of Facility Services Daryl Woodard, Springfield Middle School Principal Kelly Thomas, Board Clerk Linda Horrison and Board Attorney Katie Cornetto. Board Member Rhyen Breen was not in attendance.

The meeting was livestreamed through the Wilson County Schools (WCS) YouTube Channel. The public can go to YouTube to find the video or go to the WCS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and the district website for the YouTube link.

After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the agenda for today's Special Meeting be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Dr. Fitch led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a moment of silence.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a lease agreement for modular units and the reconstruction process for Springfield Middle.

Under Chairman's Comments, Dr. Fitch shared that the Board was meeting to discuss possibilities to better accommodate the students at Springfield Middle due to the tornado that struck the school on August 8.

Under Lease Agreement for Modular Units, the Administration presented the following lease agreements for modular units at Springfield Middle:

| Vendor | Monthly Cost | Total | Delivery Date | Vendor Setup Completion Date |
|----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Mobile Modular | \$37,282.20 | \$659,683.80 | 9/30/2024 | 10/14/2024 |
| Willscot | \$38,990.92 | \$830,712.56 | 10/31/2024 | 11/27/2024 |

Dr. Mills shared that the Administration is recommending Mobile Modular for the lease of two mobile units. The mobile units will each have eight classrooms and furniture will be included. It is estimated that the mobile units will arrive on September 30 and setup should be completed by October 14. After setup, work will begin on constructing walkways and ramps; installing temporary power by the City of Wilson; and adding fire safety measures. Dr. Mills shared that consideration was given based on the needs of the school for classroom space; temporary placement of the units; rules; and regulations. The Administration reached out to three companies but one could not meet the needs of the school. For insurance reasons, the timely selection of a vendor is important. Insurance will cover the cost of the mobile units, which is approximately \$659,683.80 with furniture included, and also the additional cost of the walkways, ramps and fire safety measures. Ms. Cornetto shared that the district's insurance plan includes \$13.6 million for reconstruction; \$1.5 million for contents outside of the mobile units; and extra expenses fund that includes \$5 million to cover the cost of modular units and related costs.

The Board discussed the possibility of a covered walkway or covered entrance. Dr. Mills shared this would be deducted from our eligible expenses and it is unclear at this time other expenses that may be involved. He also shared that other schools do not have covered walkways at their mobile units and to keep in mind that the units at Springfield Middle will be temporary.

Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Mercer that the Board approve the recommendation of the Mobile Modular lease agreement for Springfield Middle. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.

Under Reconstruction Process for Springfield Middle, currently, areas of the school have been reconfigured to accommodate the 6th and 7th graders until the mobile units arrive. The 6th and 7th grade wings were badly damaged in the tornado on August 8 and cannot be used. The wings are safely inaccessible to students and staff. Ms. Cornetto shared that the Administration is waiting on the scope of work from the insurance company to determine the type of work that needs to be done. The insurance company has been advancing funds to the district in anticipation of upcoming expenses. Ms. Cornetto recommended the Board consider hiring a Construction Manager to oversee the reconstruction after the district receives the scope of work.

There being no further business at 4:01 p.m., Mr. Boykin made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer and Ms. Barnes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 6-0.



Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman



Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary