

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting
September 9, 2024

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on September 9, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Randy M. Oxendine, Chair, Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Mrs. Gloria J. White, Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness, Dr. Omega T. Perry, and Mr. Jerry Stainback, School Board Attorney. Senior staff present were Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Aarika Sandlin, Chief Officer of Communication and Innovative Support, Ms. Chelsa Jennings, Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations, Mrs. Marsha Abbott, Director of Technology. Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, and Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation were absent.

Mr. Oxendine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 12, 2024 minutes was motioned by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. White with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mrs. White, and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the agenda.

VIII. A. Personnel Addendum

VIII. B. Surplus Declaration – Cafeteria Tables

VIII. A. NCSBA Delegates

X. B. Transfers Revised

Recognitions/Announcements

Educators of Excellence

The Board recognized the 2024-2025 nominees for educators of the year. Jozette Broughton of New Hope Elementary is the Teacher of the Year, Khris-Tina Stewart-Hendricks of Vance County High is the Beginning Teacher of the Year, Facetia Branch of Vance County Middle is the Assistant Principal of the Year, and Dr. Nealie Whitt, III of Vance County High is the Principal of the Year.

District C

Vance County Schools is a member of The Innovation Project, TIP, and through this collaboration high school students gain access to programs like SparkNC and District C, which provide real-world learning experiences to prepare them for future careers. Twenty-one students from fourteen NC school districts had the opportunity to collaborate in teams to solve real problems for real businesses in high-tech industries; they earned a \$250 stipend and lived on NC School of Science & Math Durham campus. Danielle Anderson is a Vance County Early College student and a SparkNC Ambassador that participated in District C over the summer and she shared her experiences with the Board.

Public Comments – None

Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only. Health Insurance Open Enrollment will begin the end of this month and continue throughout October. The State has dropped BCBSNC and move to Aetna and will become effective January 1, 2025.

Opening of Schools Update

Dr. Bennett shared that for the 2024-2025 academic year 12% of schools exceeded growth, 64% met growth and 24% are progressing. The district has 5,288 students enrolled and there are twenty-two vacancies as of September 3. There is enhanced safety and security measures like metal detectors at all schools, clear bags at ticketed events, Rave

App and School Emergency Response Teams continuing with standard operating standards. Staff are currently locating students who have not returned to school.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel

Mrs. White shared information from the September 3, 2024 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Chabre' Phillips	B/F	Assistant Principal	09/10/2024
Carver	Ja-Niya Perry	B/F	Teacher Assistant	09/10/2024
Clarke	Laura Hernandez	H/F	Teacher	08/30/2024
Clarke	Remonda Reid	B/F	EC Teacher Assistant	08/30/2024
Dabney	Desmon Richards	B/M	Child Nutrition Assistant	09/10/2024
Pinkston	Kaylom Crawley	B/M	EC Teacher	09/03/2024
VCMS	Alicia Pardo-Larmond	B/F	Teacher	09/09/2024
Zeb Vance	Amber Jones	W/F	Nurse	09/03/2024
ASC	Kerry Morrison-Thomas	B/F	AIG & Secondary Science Specialist	08/21/2024
Advance Academy	Gay Charisse Beran	A/F	Teacher	08/19/2024
Aycock	Devonda Bailey	B/F	Teacher	08/19/2024
Aycock	Ma Theresa Yantos	F/F	Teacher	08/28/2024
Clarke	Sarah Pelos	A/F	Teacher	08/22/2024
Dabney	Taylor Hedgepeth	W/F	Teacher	08/19/2024
E.M. Rollins	Chastity Judkins	B/F	Teacher Assistant	08/15/2024
E.O. Young	Chrystal Primiano	W/F	Teacher	08/19/2024
LB Yancey/Pinkston	Jeremy Bullock	B/M	Teacher	08/19/2024
New Hope	JaCari Diggs	B/M	Teacher	08/30/2024
Pinkston	Ivett Rivera	B/F	Teacher	08/23/2024
Pinkston	Keyana Kelly	B/F	EC Teacher Assistant	08/22/2024
Pinkston	Linda Hargrove	B/F	Social Worker	09/18/2024
STEM	Barbara Smith	B/F	Teacher	08/23/2024
STEM	Ruth Onger	B/F	Teacher	08/19/2024
VCEC	Matthew Harris	W/M	Teacher	08/13/2024
VCHS	Todd Jeffreys	W/M	Teacher	08/13/2024
VCMS	Dwaynna Ramsay	B/F	Teacher	08/13/2024
VCMS	Justus Baldwin	B.M	Teacher	08/22/2024
VCMS	Kyanna Kersey	B/F	Teacher	08/28/2024
VCMS	Onique Lawson	B/F	Teacher	08/22/2024
VCMS	Sarah Wheeler	W/F	Band Director	08/28/2024
VCMS	Tyriek Branch	B/M	Teacher Assistant	08/28/2024
Zeb Vance	Danielle Coburn	W/F	Teacher Assistant	08/19/2024

II. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
ASC	Aretha Garr	B/F	CTE Coordinator	To teach in another NC school system	09/13/2024
ASC	Mahalia Harrison	B/F	Program Specialist	To teach in another NC district	08/30/2024

ASC	Precious Daniel	B/F	Administrative Assistant	Career Change	08/30/2024
Clarke	Chaney Wiggins	B/F	Cafeteria Manager	Relocation	08/19/2024
LB Yancey	DeSean Thorpe	B/M	Teacher	Career Change	06/30/2024
Pinkston	Deborah Hawley	B/F	Teacher	To teach in another NC district	06/30/2024
VCMS	Damian Davis	B/M	Teacher	Career Change	08/08/2024
Zeb Vance	Jasmine Williams	W/F	Multi-Classroom Leader	To teach in another NC district	07/31/2024

III. TRANSFER/PROMOTION(S) – For Information Only

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION	/LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Tammy Johnson	Custodian	Cafeteria Assistant	Aycock	09/30/2024
ASC	Chelsa Jennings	Chief Human Resources Officer	Executive Director of Elementary Education	ASC	07/01/2024
ASC	Dr. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson	Executive Director of Elementary Education & Federal Programs	Director of Federal Programs	ASC	07/01/2024
ASC	John Russick	EC Executive Director of Compliance	Assistant Principal	VCMS	07/01/2024
Carver	Sharita Jones	Assistant Principal	Assistant Principal	Clarke	08/01/2024
Clarke	Olga King	Cafeteria Assistant	Aycock	Cafeteria Assistant	08/22/2024
Clarke	Venessa Lofters	Teacher	Zeb Vance	Multi-Classroom Leader	08/19/2024
Dabney	Angela Denton	Teacher	Teacher	STEM	08/19/2024
Dabney	Keith Gill	Head Custodian	Custodian	CFI	09/02/2024
Dabney	Michelle Wells	Assistant Principal	Program Specialist	VCHS	08/19/2024
Dabney	Natasha Williams	Teacher	Teacher Assistant	Dabney	08/19/2024
Dabney	Shiquasha Smith	Teacher	Teacher	E.O. Young	08/19/2024
EO Young	Janesha Marrow	Teacher	Teacher	Aycock	08/16/2024
EO Young	Samuel Owens Jr.	Custodian	Custodian	Pinkston	08/26/2024
Pinkston	Kevin Johnson	Custodian	Custodian	E.O. Young	08/26/2024
Pinkston	Kiara Burwell	Teacher	Teacher Assistant	Pinkston	08/01/2024
Pinkston	Mark Ellis	Custodian	Custodian	VCHS	08/26/2024
Pinkston	Mollie Terrell	Cafeteria Assistant	Cafeteria Assistant	E.O. Young	08/21/2024
Pinkston	Michele Duncan	Cafeteria Assistant	Cafeteria Assistant	VCHS	08/26/2024
VCHS	Gloria Holden	AVID Teacher	AVID Teacher	VCMS	08/15/2024
VCMS	Ashley Clark	Cafeteria Assistant	Cafeteria Assistant	E.M. Rollins	08/21/2024
VCMS	Candy Maghanoy	EC Teacher	EC Teacher	Zeb Vance	08/01/2024
VCMS	Davia Wilkins	Assistant Principal	Instructional Support	VCMS	08/19/2024
VCMS	Sudian Hylton	Teacher	Teacher	Advance Academy	08/19/2024
VCMS	Umeko Hunter	Social Worker	Teacher	VCMS	08/19/2024
Vance Virtual	Sherly Stephenson-Seib	Teacher	Teacher	Vance Virtual	08/19/2024
Vance Virtual	Tiffany Branch	Receptionist	Instructional Facilitator	Vance Virtual	08/19/2024
Zeb Vance	Candy Maghanoy	EC Teacher	EC Teacher	VCMS	08/19/2024

IV. LEAVE – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Elizabeth Whitby	W/F	FMLA	Teacher	09/15/2024
CFI	Nicholas Barrett	B/M	FMLA	Spark Lab Leader	08/16/2024
Clarke	Launtia Dallas-Decartaret	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	09/09/2024
Clarke	Sanya Randall	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	09/12/2024
Dabney	Barbara Newsome	B/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	08/19/2024
VCEC	Vicki-Ann Fullwood-Barrett	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/16/2024
LB Yancey	Jennifer Roberson	W/F	FMLA	Cafeteria Manager	08/19/2024
VCMS	Deris Mora	W/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/19/2024

V. CONTRACT/PART-TIME EMPLOYEE(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Vance County Early College	Marsha Harris	W/F	Guidance Counselor	09/06/2024

There were 22 vacancies as of 8/28/24 and ESS Substitute System information was shared.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Dr. Perry, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Finance

Mr. Suther shared information from the August 22, 2024 meeting. The contracts and large purchases were presented for approval.

Thomas Transportation

This contract of \$65,000 will provide transportation to and from school for McKinney Vento and foster students who are out of district.

Upon motion by Mrs. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Thomas Transportation contract.

VCHS Chiller

The VCHS chiller was struck by lightning and replaced with one from STEM Early High. Gupton Services will install the chiller from STEM at VCHS for \$195,000 and insurance will cover the \$10,000 deductible.

Upon motion by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. Gooche, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Gupton Services contract to stall the chiller STEM.

IT Equipment and Cafeteria Tables Surplus

Six hundred Dell Latitude 3410 laptops were recommended for surplus and staff will have the option to purchase devices and chargers for \$75. Cafeteria tables at Aycock, LB Yancey and Zeb need to be replaced because of damage, safety and wear and tear. Interior Elements, LLC will provide the tables to the schools using \$165,055.67 of School Nutrition Funds.

Aycock - \$63,099.66

LB Yancey - \$40,496.89

Zeb Vance - \$61,459.12

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved to surplus the IT equipment and cafeteria tables and the purchase new tables for Aycock, LB Yancey and Zeb Vance elementary schools.

Tiny House

The Tiny house is complete and ready for public sale. The sealed bid process will start at \$25,000 and all proceeds will return to the Vance County High School CTE department.

Upon motion by Dr. Perry and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the sealed bid process of the tiny house with all proceeds going back to the CTE department

Lottery Funds Capital Funding

The Public School Building Capital Fund (PSBCF) can be used to purchase land for public school buildings, project planning/design fees, construction of new public school buildings, renovations of existing public school buildings, enlargement of public school buildings, repair of existing public school building components and systems, equipment such as HVAC, plumbing, electrical and security, certain exterior improvements such as parking lots, athletic fields, playgrounds, and debt service. The Public School Buildings Repair and Renovation Fund (PSBRRF) can be used for enlargement, improvements to classroom facilities, equipment purchases for classroom facilities and project planning/design fees.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Dr. Perry, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Public School Building Repair & Renovation Funds (PSBRRF) and the Public school Building Capital Funds (PSBCF) to repair and/or replace the roofs at school sites and to resurface the parking lots.

Building and Grounds

Mr. Perdue shared information from the August 22, 2024 meeting. The HVAC project at Vance County Middle will be complete in September. The roofing and painting at Carver and New Hope are complete and the next project is roof placements and painting at EM Rollins and Pinkston. Approximately four bus drivers will be hired to eliminate double/triple routes for the middle/high schools. The department completed 231 work orders.

Policy

Mr. Horner shared information from the August 22, 2024 meeting. Presented were the 2000 Series – Board Operations. There were no changes. NCSBA recommended the following policy changes with substantial changes.

- 1510/4200/7270 School Safety
- 1710/4020/7230 Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
- 1720/4030/7235 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
- 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sex Discrimination – Prohibited Conduct and Grievance Procedures
- 7340 Staff Dress Code

Upon motion by Mrs. Cobb and seconded by Dr. Perry the Board voted (7-0) to accept the recommended changes to policies 1510/4200/7270 School Safety, 1710/4020/7230 Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law, 1720/4030/7235 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex, 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sex Discrimination – Prohibited Conduct and Grievance Procedures, and 7340 Staff Dress Code.

Curriculum

Mrs. Lewis shared information from the August 22, 2024 meeting. For the month of August, professional development was held for the early start schools and during the new employee orientation, forty-nine new staff members attended twelve content-specific sessions. The elementary and middle school summer programs reported 199 students attended the Read to Achieve camp, 84 attended the summer enrichment camp and 118 attended the math-focused summer enrichment program. The next mini seal category the district is seeking will be part of the Trusted Learning Environment initiative. The digital citizenship and internet safety curriculum is being developed, with student privacy lessons embedded in pacing guides. In addition, a student privacy playbook is being created for teachers with a standardized course syllabus for students and parents to ensure they understand how their information is protected. Early Start teachers have been trained on attendance procedures and grade books have

been set up. An update on the duties of IT security specialist are to monitor the network, respond to incidents and deploy cybersecurity training to staff. Mrs. White urged principals again that cursive writing should start in third grade per NCDPI and legislature guidelines.

Community & Business Relations

Mrs. Gooche shared information from the August 22, 2024 meeting. Facebook has over 8,000 followers and Instagram is a work in progress. The internal newsletter, News You Can Use, goes out each Wednesday with 500-600 people reading it. The Student Spotlight program kicks off on September 24 with VCHS, VCEC and EM Rollins. Posted on each elementary school's website and social media is a unique video highlighting their staff explaining the enhanced safety of metal detectors and being in many places as a normal part of the day. The district now provides an online option for volunteers to submit their volunteer applications. The Parks and Recreation allows VCS staff to utilize the facility free at Aycock Recreation. The Secretary of Information Technology will visit the district as part of the Governor's School Supply Drive.

New Business

The annual meeting of the NC School Board Association is scheduled for 4 p.m. on November 18, 2024 in Greensboro during the Annual Conference. School boards can participate in the advocacy and direction of NCSBA's future. The delegate assembly is comprised of up to four primary voting delegates from each district school board. This year, Mr. Oxendine, Dr. Perry, Mrs. White, and Mrs. Gooche will be the primary voting delegates and Mrs. Lewis will be the alternate delegate.

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented 38 student requests to transfer into the district and six to be released from the district.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Dr. Perry the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the 44 transfer requests.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to go into closed session pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 for the purpose of approving executive session minutes and discussing legal, personnel, and property issues pursuant to subsection (a) of the said statute at 6:44 pm.

The Board returned to the open session at 7:12 p.m.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, RANDY M. OXENDINE

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT