

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting
November 4, 2024

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on November 4, 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, Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation, Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education, and Mrs. Marsha Abbott, Director of Technology.

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 October 14, 2024 minutes was motioned by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

VIII. A. Personnel Addendum

X. B. Transfers

Recognitions/Announcements

U.S. Veterans

VCS recognized and celebrated the incredible dedication of staff who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Here are our district veterans Michael Alston, Milton Thomas, Garry Lunsford, David Hunt, Jesse Pendergrass, Richard Batts, Kim Pegram, Christian Salinas, Jesse Zackary, Odyssey Jones, Fred Jones, James Owens, Reginald Shearin, Stephanie Ayscue, Adrian David, Juliet Black-Jasnosz, Tiffany Branch, Tracey Fontanet, and Ralphel Holloman.

EC Teacher of the Year

Ms. Mega Naik was selected as the district's EC Teacher of the Year. Ms. Naik is an inclusion teacher at VCHS and will attend the NCDPI Exceptional Children's Conference in Greensboro to be honored in November.

Student Behavior Health Team

Ms. Natonna Robinson, Mrs. Sharon Pettiford and Ms. Karen Reece traveled to Asheville NC to support the emotional well-being of their school community. They received the Helping Hands award from Mr. Horner, Chief Officer of Student Services. The district provided 120 book bags filled with school supplies.

Public Comments – None

Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only.

School Improvement Plans

Dr. Batchelor-Crosson shared that all schools document their school improvement goals, actions and evidence in Indistar (NCStar). The key indicators are Turnaround Leadership - Prioritize Improvement, Monitor short and long-term goals, Talent Development – Target Professional Learning Opportunities, Instructional Transformation – Diagnose and respond to student learning needs, and Culture Shift – Building strong community and family relationships. Notes are taken during the monthly meetings and are available for public view.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Dr. Perry, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the School Improvement Plans for 2024-2025.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel – No Meeting

Mr. Perry shared information from the x, 2024 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Tiffany Ayscue	W/F	Child Nutrition Assistant	10/30/24
Dabney	Karin Jennings	B/F	Teacher	11/01/24
Transportation	Jhiquan Alexander	B/M	Bus Driver/Monitor	10/28/24
VCHS	Hannah Yeboah-Fenteng	B/F	Teacher	11/4/24
VCMS	Sheila Henderson	B/F	Exceptional Children’s Teacher	10/28/24

II. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maintenance	Alton Jones	B/M	Carpentry I	To work in another NC School System	10/31/24
ASC	Casey Jackson	W/F	Advanced Teaching Roles Coordinator	Career Change	11/30/24
ASC	Leslie Turner	H/F	Migrant Recruiter/ESL Support	Career Change	10/28/24
Pinkston	Ivett Rivera	H/F	Teacher	Career Change	12/20/24
Zeb Vance	Whitney Brodie	B/F	EC Teacher’s Assistant	Family Responsibility	12/20/24

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

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION	/LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Advance Academy	Angela Denton	Teacher	Teacher	Dabney Elementary	11/08/24

There were 19 vacancies as of October 22, 2024 and the ESS Substitute System fill rate was 86%.

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

Finance

Mr. Suther shared information from the October 24, 2024 meeting. The contracts and large purchases were presented for approval. NC ElevatED aims to build leadership capacity to influence the school communities. The strategic areas of support include leadership development, school transformation, instructional coaching and new educator programming. This is a one-year contract using \$125,000 of Federal Title I funds.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the NC ElevatEd contract.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Hartness shared information from the October 24, 2024 meeting. The punch list continues to be completed at VCMS and the HVAC controls system at New Hope installation has begun. Principals have submitted their top three school priorities for the County capital request budget 2025-2026. An estimate of 200K for the Carver restroom upgrades was received and roof replacement specifications are being designed by engineer, Dallas Brickhouse Jr for Pinkston and EM Rollins. Currently, there are 20 attendees signed up for the next Bus CDL class. A letter of opinion for the Board to consider as the decision is made on the Tiny House sale. There were 870 work orders completed.

Policy – No meeting

Curriculum

Mrs. Lewis shared information from the October 24, 2024 meeting. There were 337 staff members who earned a total of 993 professional development contact hours. The current AIG student headcount is 378 and an update on the program’s status, identification and referral process for 2024-2025 was shared. AIG pull out sessions will occur with the students’ classroom teacher and professional development will be provided to teachers. There were 466 technology work orders completed. The early warning system of Infinite Campus provides school administrators, counselors, principals and staff with a dashboard to monitor each student’s progress toward graduation and their likelihood of being promoted to the next grade. Collaborative plans are in place for the roll-out of the training and implementation of this system. The State Board of Education approved the Arts Education Proficiency Diploma Endorsement, based on recent legislation. This endorsement requires high school students to complete 40 hours of arts-related extracurricular activities and it will be noted on the diploma and transcript.

Upon motion by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted (7-0) to approve the Arts Education Proficiency Diploma Endorsement – Activity Verification Form.

Community & Business Relations

Mrs. Gooche shared information from the October 24, 2024 meeting. Cypress Creek Renewables will support the district by purchasing Liberty Bells for the Gargoyle Garden at CFI. Insights and analytics were shared and the upcoming events are below.

- October 25 from 9-11 am the district hosted the Pre-K Book or Treat
- November 1 at 8:45 am is the Burlington Ribbon Cutting and EMR Check Presentation
- November 15 at 10:30 am the Salvation Army Kettle Kickoff at Belk with VCHS Chorus
- November 20 is the Student Spotlight Recognitions and Student Leadership Vance Visit
- December 7 at 3:00 pm is the Henderson Christmas Parade
- December 3 at 10:30 is the Clarke Resource Center Ribbon Cutting

New Business - None

Field Trip Request

The district is partnering with The Henderson Institute to take 25 high school students to attend the HBCU’s College Fair at the St. James Sports Complex in Springfield VA. Students will have a chance to meet representatives from a variety of colleges and universities on Saturday, November 9, 2024. Student will travel from Henderson on a charter bus from 6:00 am and return at 9:00 pm.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the district field trip to Springfield VA on November 9, 2024.

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented three student requests to transfer into the district.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the three transfer requests.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, 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 6:57 p.m.

Tiny House

Upon motion by Dr. Perry and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) accepted the \$30,000 offer "As Is" without any conditions.

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 6:58 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, RANDY M. OXENDINE

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT