MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING
NOVEMBER 25, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Education held a Special Meeting on Monday, November 25, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Dr. Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. with the following members present:

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

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ben Williams, Assistant Superintendent Robin May, Chief Finance Officer Shannon Collins, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch, Board Clerk Linda Horrison and Board Attorney Katie Cornetto. Also present was *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley.

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 this meeting of November 25, 2024, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch shared the purpose of the meeting was to conduct architectural interviews for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School and discuss Request for Qualifications (RFQs). During the interviews, the Board met the proposed project team and became familiar with the firm's qualifications, experience, key personnel, project approach, and ability to meet the stated objectives for the project. Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Dr. Mills, who along with Dr. Williams, shared information regarding funding for the construction. The district was allotted $32,000,000 for the construction of Frederick Douglass Elementary; the current remaining balance is $29,366,102.90; and the estimated amount remaining for construction is $26,766,102.90.

Under Architectural Interviews – Request for Qualifications – Architect for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary School, WCS sought qualification proposals from skilled, experienced architectural firms who specialize in school building construction for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. RFQs for an architect were publicly let and closed on November 13. The Administration received RFQs from the following firms: Boomerang Design, ClarkNexsen, CPL Architecture Engineering Planning, Davis Kane Architects, DTW Architects and Planners LTD, Moseley Architects, Oakley Collier Architects and SfL+a Architects. During the Special Meeting, architecture firms were given 30 minutes to present their proposal to the Board, followed by 10 minutes of questions from the Board, the Administration and the Board's attorney. In advance of the interviews, each firm submitted references to Dr. Ben Williams for at least three different school districts and/or governmental entities for whom their firm had performed similar work.

The architecture firms were scheduled to present to the Board at the following times:

- 10:00 A.M. – CPL Architecture Engineering Planning
- 10:45 A.M. – SfL+a Architects
- 11:30 A.M. – Boomerang Design
- 12:45 P.M. – ClarkNexsen
- 1:30 P.M. – Moseley Architects
- 2:15 P.M. – Oakley Collier Architects
- 3:00 P.M. – DTW Architects and Planners LTD
- 3:45 P.M. – Davis Kane Architects

At 12:33 p.m., after a presentation by Boomerang Design, it was the Board's consensus to take a recess. The meeting reconvened at 12:55 p.m.

After interviews, the Board members shared the following preferences of architecture firms:

- Mr. Mercer – SfL+a Architects, Moseley Architects and Oakley Collier Architects
- Ms. Barnes – Oakley Collier Architects
- Mr. Boykin – Oakley Collier Architects and SfL+a Architects
- Mr. Breen – Oakley Collier Architects and SfL+a Architects
- Ms. Powell – Oakley Collier Architects
- Ms. Boyette – Oakley Collier Architects
- Dr. Fitch – Oakley Collier Architects.

The Board members also shared that some of the firms did not seem to be able to work within the project's budget, which was a red flag. The Board members did appreciate the firms that discussed incorporating historical factors, referred to the school as a legacy facility and shared that they had worked with Barnhill Contracting Company on previous projects. At a past meeting, the Board selected Barnhill Contracting Company for the Construction Manager At-Risk (CMAR) building method for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary. After deliberations, it was the Board's consensus to move forward with selecting an architecture firm for the construction of the new Frederick Douglass Elementary.

Mr. Breen and Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the Board make the selection of Oakley Collier Architects for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary design. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

There being no further business at 4:44 p.m., Mr. Boykin made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Barnes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

William B. Boykin, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary