MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 15, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, April 15, 2024, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

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

The meeting was televised on Spectrum and Greenlight Channel 22; and livestreamed through the Wilson County Schools (WCS) YouTube Channel. The public could also view the meeting by downloading the WCSTV22 app and through links on the WCS Facebook, Instagram and Twitter pages and the WCS website.

Others present were Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Instructional Services Robin May, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto and *The Wilson Times* Reporter Olivia Neeley. There were 52 citizens in attendance. Due to extenuating circumstances, Ms. Barnes participated in the meeting remotely through Google Meet. All votes were taken by roll call.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, that the agenda for the April 15, 2024, meeting of the Wilson County Board of Education, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

II. At Dr. Fitch's request, Mr. Mercer led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

III. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the March 18, 2024, Regular Board meeting. Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes and Mr. Breen, that the minutes of the March 18, 2024, meeting stand approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IV. Under Good News Presentation, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Mr. Mercer, recognized the following:

- Rock Ridge Elementary Battle of the Books Team - The Rock Ridge Elementary Battle of the Books Team was recognized for winning 1st place in the Elementary Battle of the Books Competition. The team was coached by Media

Coordinator Cori Burroughs and the team members were: Rylie Gifford, Reid Johnson, Collin Hensley, Alyssa Kirkman, Savannah Kirkman, Mollie Bailey, Cora Boykin and Kyle Lalata. The local Battle of the Books competition was held on March 15. All of the students did a great job working as a team to answer questions about the books they have read this year. The program is voluntary for students and requires that the participants read and become experts on 10 books. Being a part of the team is a huge commitment. This is the third year in a row that Ms. Burroughs' team has won the event, and all of the students are new to the team except for Rylie and Alyssa.

- Forest Hills Middle Battle of the Books Team - The Forest Hills Middle Battle of the Books Team was recognized for winning 1st place in the Middle School Battle of the Books Competition. The team was coached by Media Coordinator Angie Morgan and the team members were: Jude Nicholson, Adrean Tolson, Milo Boyd, Ava Morris, Sanjana Bala Suthagar, Azlynn Speck and Mason Mitchell. The middle school competition was also held on March 15 at the same location as the elementary competition. The students voluntarily read 15 books and then competed against other middle school teams to answer questions about those books. This is the second year in a row that Ms. Morgan's team has won the event, and all of the students are new to the team except for Jude Nicholson. Special thanks as well to the WCS Technology Services Department for their involvement in the event and all the staff members who volunteered.
- Wilson Arts - Wilson Arts was recognized for providing exceptional learning opportunities for our third-grade students over the past few years. Executive Director Cathy Hardison accepted the Good News Award on behalf of Wilson Arts. A few months ago, Wilson Arts secured grant funding so that every WCS third-grader could experience La Candela Flamenco, which is a world-class flamenco dancing group. Approximately 704 students saw the performance in two shows at the historic Boykin Center - at no cost to the students. They really enjoyed the show and learning about Spanish culture. In past years, Wilson Arts has also brought two renowned ballet companies - the New York Theater Ballet and the Collage Dance Collective - to the Boykin Center for our third-graders. We truly appreciate our partnership with Wilson Arts and their willingness to provide opportunities for our students that they might not get to experience otherwise.

V. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch:

- Congratulated the students, families and partners involved in this year's 4-H Livestock Show and Sale. The dedication and commitment by the students paid off with the successful presentations and sale of all the animals, which allow students to earn funds that can be used to defer college costs. The generous support of the students' efforts by the public continue to make this event successful year after year. She thanked everyone involved in this event.
- Congratulated 10 semi-finalists for WCS Teacher of the Year and five semi-finalists for WCS Principal of the Year. The selection process will continue until the winners in each category are announced. She also offered kudos to all the teachers and principals who were nominated and considered for this recognition.
- Congratulated everyone on the success of the Whirli-Wellness Fair that was held this past weekend.

- Announced that the next Board meeting is scheduled on May 20, 2024, and will be held in the auditorium at Fike High School beginning at 6:30 p.m. Any person who desires to appear before the Board may sign up to do so in one of the following ways: (1) in person at the WCS Central Office (117 NE Tarboro St., Wilson) by noon on the day of the Board meeting; (2) in person at Fike High School by the side entrance as you enter the auditorium between 5:30-6 p.m. on the day of the Board meeting; and (3) by email to publiccomments@wilsonschoolsnc.net by noon on the day of the Board meeting.
- Shared that the last day of school for early college students is May 9 and their last day of college is on May 6. Graduation for Wilson Early College Academy is scheduled on May 14 and Wilson Academy of Applied Technology on May 16. She congratulated each of these students for their accomplishments that will allow them to not only earn their high school diploma, but their associate degree or two years toward a four-year college degree.

VI. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills:

- Shared that the WCS Educator Job Fair held on March 23 was a success with more than 50 candidates attending. School leaders were able to interview candidates and offer contingency contracts onsite. He thanked the Human Resource Services Department for organizing the job fair, school leaders for attending, Darden Middle for hosting and the Facility Services Department for their assistance. Dr. Mills added that it's not too late to work for WCS and to visit the Employment page on the district website if you are interested in teaching or other positions.
- Thanked Barnhill Contracting Company and Nelson Aerial Productions for creating an amazing documentary of the vibrant history of Frederick Douglass School - as it is today as an elementary school and as it was in the past as a high school. Those who were interviewed in the video were incredible and their stories brought the school to life. Special thanks to Dr. Fitch and Principal Casey Wester for starring in the video and to Assistant Superintendent Dr. Ben Williams, Executive Director of Facility Services Greg Woodard and Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch for their assistance behind the scenes. The video can be viewed on YouTube under the title *Frederick Douglass School: The Future's Past* and through links on the district website and social media sites.
- Advised that the end of the school year is quickly approaching. The early colleges only have a few weeks left of school, and their awards days are coming up. Awards Day at both Wilson Academy of Applied Technology and Wilson Early College Academy is April 26. We are also looking ahead to Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the first week in May.
- Shared that Hearne Elementary and Lucama Elementary were recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) on April 11 for being two of 10 schools in the state highlighted for their innovative approaches to learning. The schools are now a part of the Canopy Project database, which is a collaborative effort to showcase a diverse set of learning environments and document the designs that were implemented to advance equity and student-centered learning. The schools in the database adapt to students' strengths and needs, create joyful and rigorous learning experiences, and reflect the values and priorities of their communities. There are only 319 schools identified in the

national database, so it's a huge accomplishment that out of the 10 schools from North Carolina, two are from WCS. Hearne and Lucama were both recognized for how they have exceeded growth while being a part of Opportunity Culture, which extends the reach of excellent teachers and their teams. The schools utilize staff in Advanced Teaching Roles, as well as teacher assistants and retired educators that serve as tutors to provide tailored small group instruction to students both during and after school. The Canopy Project was launched by the Christensen Institute in 2018 and is stewarded by Transcend and the Center on Reinventing Public Education. The database is updated annually to spark connections between learning communities and spot trends in practice so that education leaders, school designers and researchers can replicate the innovative designs.

VII. Under Public Input, no one from the public addressed the Board during this portion of the meeting.

VIII. Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Chair Henry Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss an information/action item.

Information/Action Item

A. Under Review of Frederick Douglass Elementary School Plans and Update, Skinner Farlow Kirwan (SFK) Architecture and Barnhill Contracting Company presented an update on the Frederick Douglass Elementary School plan. The plan that was presented can accommodate a capacity of 382 students with add-ons such as a shelter for the front entrance and smaller classrooms for the Board's consideration. The plan also included an option to increase the capacity to 600 if needed. The Board expressed concerns about the split dining and serving areas; students sharing the cafeteria/kitchen and dining area with the bus entrance to the parking lot; and the lack of a covered area/shelter to protect students from the weather during car rider drop off/pickup and boarding buses. Based on projections, the project still appears to be over budget. The Board instructed SFK to revisit the plan and resubmit with design changes.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services – Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss information and action items.

Information Items

A. Under Contracts Requiring Board Notification – Instructional Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that the Superintendent is authorized to enter into contracts involving amounts up to $90,000.00, and at least monthly, the Superintendent shall report to the Board all contracts approved by the Superintendent that exceed $30,000.00. The following contracts, which are less than $90,000.00, have been approved by the Superintendent:
   - Anatomage, a program for a Clinical Table for CTE, Animal Science, Health Science and Child Development pathways at Fike High, in the amount of $79,465
   - Barnes Equipment Inc., for a tractor for Beddingfield High Agricultural Department, in the amount of $31,491.25

- Edia, for a middle school math program, student license and teacher/administrator professional development sessions, in the amount of $71,900
- Newsela, for an online education platform for content, in the amount of $42,201

B. Under Revised Policy 4150, *School Assignment* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) policies.

C. Under Revised Policy 5030, *Community Use of Facilities* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

D. Under Revised Policy 6315, *Drivers* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

E. Under Revised Policy 6340, *Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials and Supplies* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

F. Under Revised Policy 7241, *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

G. Under Revised Administrative Regulation 3103-R, *Alternative Degree Completion*, this administrative regulation is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

H. Under Rescinded Administrative Regulation 3103-E1, *Wilson County Schools Authorization to Test*, this administrative regulation is being rescinded because the form is no longer in use by WCS and Wilson Community College.

I. Under Revised Administration Regulation 3103-E2, *Community College Release Form*, this administrative regulation is being revised because the form has been updated by WCS and Wilson Community College.

J. Under Revised Administrative Regulation 3103-E3, Community College Release Checklist, this administrative regulation is being revised because the form has been updated by WCS and Wilson Community College.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Mr. Mercer, to carry through the motion for an action item.

Action Item

A. Under Revised Policy 6316, *Other Employees as Bus Drivers* – Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve Revised Policy 6316, *Other Employees as Bus Drivers*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Mr. Mercer turned the meeting over to Dr. Fitch.

IX. Discussion/Action

A. Under Joint Resolution of the Wilson County Board of Education and the Wilson Board of County Commissioners to Enter into a Continuing Contract for the Lease-Purchase of Nine Activity Buses for WCS, at the Board of Education meeting on March 18, 2024, the Board was presented with options to purchase activity buses for WCS. Based on the presentation and the Board's discussion, the Board approved the proposal to purchase nine activity buses. The proposal will require the Board of Education to enter into a continuing contract for the lease-purchase of nine activity buses, such contract to extend through the 2028 fiscal year. It is recommended that the Wilson County Board of Education adopt this Resolution to present to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners for approval pursuant to G.S. 115C-441 (c1). Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, Mr. Breen and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the joint resolution of the Wilson County Board of Education and the Wilson Board of County Commissioners to Enter into a Continuing Contract for the Lease-Purchase of Nine Activity Buses for WCS. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Wilson County Board of Education Resolution Requesting Use of Capital Outlay Funds for Beddingfield High School Classrooms and Wilson County Schools HVAC Projects, the Resolution has been prepared by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, for the Wilson County Board of Education to request use of capital outlay funds for Beddingfield High classrooms and HVAC projects. At the Board of Education's October 16, 2023, meeting, the Board voted to seek approval from the Wilson County Board of Commissioners to authorize the transfer of $1.3 million from the WCS current expense fund balance to capital outlay funds to provide partial payment for the completion of the Beddingfield High HVAC renovation project due to an unforeseen cost increase to the project. At the November 6, 2023, Special Meeting of the Wilson County Board of Education, the Board adopted the Resolution which was subsequently approved by the Wilson County Board of Commissioners. Due to additional cost savings identified by WCS since November 2023, the $1.3 million in capital outlay funds are no longer necessary for completion of the Beddingfield High HVAC project, but instead will be used to fund the renovation and creation of Beddingfield High classrooms for Game Art Design, Culinary Arts, and any subsequent change orders for the WCS HVAC projects pursuant to G.S. 115C-426(f)(2). The Administration is requesting the Board adopt a new resolution requesting the Wilson County Board of Commissioners' approval to use the $1.3 million in

capital outlay funds for the Beddingfield High classrooms and change orders for HVAC projects. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin and Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve the Wilson County Board of Education Resolution Requesting Use of Capital Outlay Funds for Beddingfield High School Classrooms and WCS HVAC Projects. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval - Administrative Services, Board Policy 6420, *Contracts with the Board*, states that any contract for materials, equipment, or service involving expenditures in excess of $90,000 must be reviewed by the Board attorney and approved in advance by the Board unless provided otherwise in Board Policy. The following contracts exceed $90,000 and require Board approval pending legal review:
   - Daimler Truck Financial, for a lease to own agreement for nine activity buses, the amount of the lease is $1,192,158.00, with $287,344.04 to be paid yearly for five years.
   - Point Security, Inc., for purchase and service agreement for Open Gates Weapons Detection Systems for Beddingfield High, Fike High and Hunt High, in the amount of $93,717.32, from the NC Safer Schools Grant and local funds.
   - Alliance Technology Group, for purchase and service agreement for Evolv Weapons Detection Systems for Beddingfield High, Fike High and Hunt High, in the amount of $380,221.51, from the NC Safer Schools Grant.

   Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the contracts with Daimler Truck Financial, for a lease to own agreement for nine activity buses in the amount of $1,192,158.00; Point Security, Inc, for purchase and service agreement for Open Gates Weapons Detection Systems for Beddingfield, Fike and Hunt High Schools, in the amount of $93,717.32; and Alliance Technology Group, for purchase and service agreement for Evolv Weapons Detection Systems for Beddingfield, Fike and Hunt High Schools, in the amount of $380,221.51. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under 2024-2025 Local Current Expense and Capital Outlay Budgets, the 2024-2025 Local Current Expense Budget request is for $28,082,892, including Capital Outlay Budget request for $1,250,000. At the last Board meeting, the Administration presented the proposed budgets and asked for feedback to prepare for approving a finalized budget. General Statute 115C-432 requires the Board of Education to adopt a budget for the fiscal year. The budget includes a request for a 2% local supplement increase. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the 2024-2025 Local Current Expense Budget Request for $28,082,892 with a Capital Outlay Budget Request of $1,250,000. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. At 7:20 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Wilson County Board of Education go into closed session to consider confidential personnel matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and (6) and

115C-319 through 321; to consider confidential student matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and N.C.G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

At 8:22 p.m., Ms. Barnes made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously, 7-0.

XI. Reporting from Closed Session, Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, to approve the Closed Session minutes of the March 18, 2024, meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Mr. Breen, that the Board approve personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion unanimously, 7-0. The list of personnel recommendations is attached.

XII. There being no further business at 8:24 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Boykin, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Christine L. Fitch
Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS
April 15, 2024

E = Emergency License = One-year non-renewable license. Not an option for those who have already completed a college education program. Has 18 hours of related coursework. Experience and graduate pay.

I = Interim = Temporary or provisional (certified) hire.

P = Permit to Teach = Replaces emergency license. One-year non-renewable license. Has less than 18 hours of related coursework. Paid on A-00 scale.

R = Residency License = Replaces lateral entry. One year with option to renew twice. Three-year max. Enrolled in a college education program. Has 24 semester hours of related coursework. Experience and graduate pay.

V = Volunteer = Offers to undertake a position without monetary compensation.

Administrative

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment	Contract Date	Experience in Education
White, Stanley	To Be Determined	Assistant Principal	Principal Intern, Greene County Schools	4/23/2024 - 6/30/2026	14 yrs.

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Barron, Linda	Instructional Services	Instructional Tutor (Temporary Part-Time)
Lucas, Cynthia	Student Services	Part-Time Nurse

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Braswell, Melissa	Elm City MS	Exceptional Children (EC) Personal Care Assistant
Cascell, April	Hunt HS	School Nutrition Assistant

Classified (Continued)

Recommendation	Site	Position
Earp, Audrey	Rock Ridge ES	After School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) Assistant
Harris, Stacy	Lee Woodard ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Hinnant, Velma	Fike HS	Custodian
Parker, Lynn	Rock Ridge ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Porter, Heidi	Lee Woodard ES & Stantonsburg ES	Data Manager
Savage, Lakelia	New Hope ES	ASCEP Assistant
Shirley, Jeffrey	Vinson-Bynum ES	Custodian

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Bossolono, Helaina	Certified
Bowden, Rashika	Non-Certified
Grunberg, Hayley	Certified
Pender, Noel	Non-Certified
Perry, Shemeka	Non-Certified
Smith, Deborah	Non-Certified

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Batts, Roger (V)	Speight MS	Baseball
Ward, Alyssa (V)	Speight MS	Girls Soccer

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Administrative

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Pennica, Heather	Technology Services	Executive Director for Technology Services	Resignation	5/24/2024

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Arceo, Manuel	Speight MS	Band/Chorus Teacher	Resignation	4/19/2024
Darden, Jeanette	Beddingfield HS	English Teacher	Resignation	6/13/2024
Davis, Linda	Barnes ES	EC Teacher	Retirement	6/30/2024
Eason, Amber	Frederick Douglass ES	3rd Grade Teacher	Resignation	6/30/2024
Johnson, Marcus O.	Hunt HS	EC Teacher	Resignation	3/25/2024
Pitts, Amanda	Stantonsburg ES	Multi-Classroom Leader II	Resignation	6/30/2024
Whitener, Anika	Forest Hills MS	7th Grade Science Teacher	Resignation	3/22/2024

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Barnes, Taina	Human Resources	Substitute Teacher	Resignation	8/31/2021
Beckwith, Lucy	School Nutrition	Substitute School Nutrition Assistant	Resignation	4/4/2024
Johnson, Lois	Central Office	Owens Scholarship Counselor	Resignation	1/31/2024
Jones, Steven	Speight MS	In School Suspension Coordinator	Resignation	3/28/2024
Pittman, Michael	Hunt HS	EC Teacher Assistant-Job Coach /Bus Driver	Resignation	4/5/2024
Summerlin, Christie	Wells ES	School Secretary	Retirement	6/30/2024
Villarreal Zapata, Perla	Wilson Academy of Applied Technology	School Secretary/ Bookkeeper	Resignation	3/28/2024