MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
DECEMBER 9, 2024

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, December 9, 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
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 Instructional Services Robin May, Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams 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 20 citizens in attendance.

I. After calling the meeting to order, Dr. Fitch asked for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the agenda for December 9, 2024, meeting of the Wilson County Board of Education, be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 5-0.

II. Dr. Fitch introduced Ms. Horrison, who, acting as a notary public, administered the oaths of office to elected Board Members David Batts, District 2; John Kyle, District 4; and reelected Board Member Blake Boykin, District 6. All three were elected to serve four-year terms. (Oaths of office attached)

III. Board Policy 2200, *Election of Officers/Organization of Board*, states the Board will elect a Board Chair and a Vice-Chair to serve for a term of one year or until his or her successor is elected. An organizational meeting for the election and qualification of officers may be held at the regularly scheduled December meeting of the Board and as often thereafter as the Board will determine appropriate. The officers will be elected in the following order: Board Chair, Vice-Chair. If necessary at any meeting held to elect officers, the Superintendent will serve as chairperson of the Board for the purpose of conducting the election of the Board Chair.

A. Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Dr. Mills for the election of a Board Chair for the coming year. Dr. Mills opened the floor for nominations for Chair. Mr. Breen nominated Mr. Boykin, seconded by Ms. Boyette; and Ms. Powell nominated Dr.

Fitch, seconded by Dr. Fitch. Dr. Mills asked for a motion to close nominations. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to close nominations. The motion passed 7-0. Dr. Mills asked the Board members to vote by a show of hands in favor of Mr. Boykin as Chair. The vote was 5-2, with Dr. Fitch and Ms. Powell casting the dissenting votes. Dr. Mills recognized that Mr. Boykin would be the Board Chair.

B. Dr. Mills then turned the meeting over to newly elected Board Chair Mr. Boykin for the election of a Board Vice-Chair for the coming year. Mr. Boykin opened the floor for nominations. Ms. Boyette nominated Mr. Breen, seconded by Mr. Kyle; and Ms. Powell nominated Dr. Fitch. Dr. Fitch asked for her name to be removed from consideration. Mr. Boykin closed nominations and recognized that Mr. Breen would be the Board Vice-Chair by acclamation.

IV. At Mr. Boykin's request, Ms. Powell led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

V. Mr. Boykin presented for approval the minutes of the November 25, 2024, Special and Regular Board meetings. Mr. Boykin asked for approval of the minutes. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the minutes of the November 25, 2024, Special Board meeting and the November 25, 2024, Regular Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- Shared that the Springfield Middle 6th and 7th graders and their teachers were able to settle into their new mobile unit classrooms on December 2 after spending the first 14 weeks of school in shared spaces after a tornado destroyed those wings on August 8. The two spacious mobile units each consist of eight classrooms with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility, internet access, door card access, security camera coverage and fire alarm systems. The teachers whose classrooms were destroyed have been able to begin to purchase items for their mobile unit classrooms using funds that were raised by the generosity of the community. In total, more than $30,000 was raised. Insurance funds will also be available at a later date for replacement needs. Dr. Williams and his staff are actively working with the architect and builder on the reconstruction plan for the two damaged wings and hope to begin the process soon. Dr. Mills thanked the *Wilson Times* and EdNC for their great coverage of the mobile units. Copies of the articles were provided to the Board members. Dr. Mills also thanked everyone who has supported Springfield Middle during this process, and thanked the students, staff and families for all of their support. It was a challenging time that was made better by everyone working together. He also shared his appreciation for Dr. Williams and the Facility Services staff for all they have done behind the scenes to make things work.
- Advised that Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) and Wilson Early College Academy (WECA) have begun their recruitment process for next school year. Early college staff recently visited the 8th grade classrooms in our middle schools to share information with students, and information meetings are being held for families this week. The online application period begins

December 11 for 8th graders who are interested in attending one of the early colleges next year. The application will be housed on the district and early college websites beginning December 11, and the application deadline is December 20. If students or families have questions or need assistance completing the application, they should contact WAAT or WECA.

- Shared that he hoped everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving Break and that it's hard to believe it's almost time for Winter Break. The traditional schools have an early release day on December 20, and then students will return January 6. The early colleges start their break next week. Dr. Mills wished students well as they take exams and stated that he hopes everyone has a safe and relaxing holiday with family and friends.

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

VIII. Under Information/Discussion/Action

Information Items

A. Under 2023-2024 Audit Report, the accounting firm of Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC conducted the 2023-2024 audit of WCS. Adam Scepurek of Anderson, Smith & Wike PPLC presented the findings of the clean audit to the Board. The school system accounts and accounts of individual schools were determined to be in good order. General Statute 115C-447 requires an outside audit of these accounts at the end of each fiscal year.

B. 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 and the Superintendent shall report such contracts exceeding $30,000 to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The following contracts, which are less than $90,000, have been approved by the Superintendent:
   - CDW-G, for 27 computers in the computer labs for Career and Technical Education (CTE) classrooms at Fike High, in the amount of $30,962.29, funded by CTE;
   - Follett Software, LLC, for a one-year renewal of library and resource manager software, in the amount of $58,280.37;
   - Softchoice Corporation, for a one-year renewal of Microsoft licenses for student and staff devices, in the amount of $68,849.53.

C. Under Revised Policy 1310/4002, *Parental Involvement* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) policies.

D. Under Revised Policy 2302, *Remote Participation in Board Meetings* – 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 3225/4312/7320, *Technology Responsible Use* – 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 3227/7322, *Web Page Development* – 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 Policy 3410, *Testing and Assessment Program* – 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.

H. Under Revised Policy 3420, *Student Promotion and Accountability* – 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.

I. Under Revised Administrative Regulation 3460-R, *Graduation Requirements*, this administrative regulation is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

Action Item

A. Under Beddingfield High School Culinary Arts Design, the Administration asked the Board to review and approve the design for the Beddingfield High Culinary Arts classroom. Dr. Williams shared a draft design with the Board. The Administration, along with Culinary Arts Teacher Ebony Lineberger and Oakley Collier Architects, met today to discuss design options. Ann Collier from Oakley Collier attended the Board meeting. Dr. Williams shared that a conceptual layout is the best utilization of space for the classroom; hands-on learning in the kitchen; and required café space. He shared that according to NC Department of Public Instruction guidelines, some equipment changes will be needed in the hands-on learning kitchen area; and after completion of the equipment in the layout of the conceptual design, the Culinary Arts Classroom at Beddingfield High will accommodate any programs taught within that curriculum. Dr. Williams also shared that the goal is to have the project completed by August 2025. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the design for the Beddingfield High Culinary Arts Design. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IX. At 7:25 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, 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 7:53 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch and Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. Reporting from Closed Session, Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the Inter-District Reassignment Requests, but do not release for public inspection due to confidential student records. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the Closed Session minutes of the November 25, 2024, meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Batts, that the Board approve personnel recommendations as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. The list of personnel recommendations is attached.

XI. There being no further business at 7:54 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Dr. Fitch, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

William B. Boykin, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary