

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting  
January 27, 2025

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on January 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, Chair, Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Mrs. Gloria J. White, 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, Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education, and Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation. Mr. Randy M. Oxendine was absent.

Mrs. Gooche 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 December 9, 2024 minutes was motioned by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, with a unanimous (6-0) vote.

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mrs. White, and seconded by Dr. Perry, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the agenda.

**III. Minutes Revised**

V.C. 2023-2024 Outstanding Academic Performance Educators

VIII. A. Personnel Addendum

X. B. Transfers Revised

**Recognitions/Announcements**

**School Board Appreciation Month**

January is School Board Appreciation Month in North Carolina. School board members tackle the enormous job of governing school districts, and their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children. They are required to attend seminars and training sessions to keep abreast of the latest trends in educational leadership and are deeply involved in community activities, visiting the schools in their district, and attending extracurricular events. As a token of appreciation, each member received a special gift from a district principal. Thank you for the job you do and believing in public education.

**School Bookkeepers**

The district's school bookkeepers have attended a three-month two-day a week training from the NCASBO Treasurer's Academy. The program is designed to equip school treasurers with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage school finances. Presented with a certificate are the bookkeepers from each of the schools.

Kim Pulley - Carver	Nadia Lopez - Aycocock
Tamara Nelson - Dabney	Jodi Pulley - E.O. Young
Veronica Miranda - E.M. Rollins	Kristan Davis - STEM
Regina Watkins - Vance County Middle	Sadaris Edgerton - Vance County High
Shonda Robinson - Administrative Service Center	Tammy Pegram - Vance County Early College
Tracy Potter - Zeb Vance	Laurie Hernandez - Pinkston
Hazel Henry - Vance Virtual Village Academy & Advance Academy	Sandra Williford- New Hope

**2023-2024 Outstanding Academic Performance Educators**

District educators were recognized for performing in the top 25% of the state and/or top 25% of the district. The Innovation Project and the TSL grant's focus is supporting educators in high-need schools who improve student achievement and close achievement gaps. By doing so the educators received a performance-based compensation bonus.

3 <sup>RD</sup> Grade Reading Teachers	Ty-Mhaj Hart, Angel Gilchrist, Lillian King
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Teachers	Fe McCoy, Alfreda Murphy, Stephanie Black
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Reading Teachers	Dawn Morgan-Pennant, Stephanie Brown, Joshua Tilghman
4 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teachers	Fe McCoy, Loricia Martin, Elma Ball
5 <sup>th</sup> Grade Math Teachers	Francie McKenzie, Tina Moore, Jhaneille Downer
Middle School Math Teachers	Angela Foster, Nedralee Bartley, Kenneisha Mitchell
CTE Teachers	Francis Brown, Alison Yarborough
Administrators	Kristen Boyd, Donald Johnson, Regina Rainey, Dr. C’Monee Wilkins, Dan Sandlin, Dr. Michael Putney, Dr. Jeffrey Batten, Letitia Fields, Canecca Mayes, Lavonda Williams, Dr. Carnetta Thomas, Juliet Black, Dr. Shannon Bullock, Joy Suther, Dr. Harold Thompson, Edward Ortega, Alice Hinson, Dr. Stephanie Ayscue, Facetia Branch, Desmond Thompson, Nowell Brooks, Angela Cusaac, Debbie Hite

Public Comments – None

**Superintendent’s Report**

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only. Staff who have access to LINQ can print their W-2 and others will be receiving their copy in the mail.

**Board of Education (BOE) Standing Committees**

The BOE has standing committees to consider, discuss and investigate issues that need extensive deliberation prior to presentation to the full Board at its regular meetings. It is recommended that Mr. Oxendine be the committee chair for the Personnel Committee. Listed below are the committee assignments.

Policy: Chair Linda Cobb, Randy Oxendine, Omega Perry  
 Aim: High Student Achievement and Productive Citizens in a Global Society

Finance: Chair Gloria J. White, Linda Cobb, Omega Perry  
 Aim: Organizational Productivity

Curriculum: Chair Ayana Lewis, Dorothy Gooche, Gloria J. White  
 Aim: High Student Achievement and Productive Citizens in a Global Society

Personnel: Chair Randy Oxendine, Ruth Hartness, Gloria White  
 Aim: Quality and Caring Professionals

Building and Grounds: Chair Ruth Hartness, Dorothy Gooche, Ayana Lewis  
 Aim: Healthy and Safe Environment

Community and Business Relations: Chair Dorothy Gooche, Randy Oxendine, Linda Cobb  
 Aim: Strong Community, Parent and Business Partnerships

Appeals #1: Chair Dorothy Gooche, Omega Perry, Ruth Hartness, Randy Oxendine

Appeals #2: Chair Dorothy Gooche, Linda Cobb, Gloria White, Ayana Lewis

The Board of Education Chair will be ex-officio on all committees.

Upon motion by Mrs. Gooche, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the 2025 Board of Education Standing Committees.

**New Business** – None

**Board of Education Standing Committees**

**Personnel** – No Meeting

**I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Clarke	Caisha Vann	B/F	Teacher Assistant	12/17/24
Vance County High	Rosalie Ferrer	PI/F	Teacher	01/09/25
Vance County High	Alphonso Collins	B/M	Campus Support Specialist	01/07/25
Transportation	Mark Hodges	B/M	Bus Monitor	01/22/25
Transportation	Rudolph Bates	B/M	Bus Driver/Monitor	01/22/25

**II. RESIGNATION(S)**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
Pinkston	Tyron Faines	B/M	Cafeteria Assistant	Relocation	12/16/24
Zeb Vance	Danielle Coburn	W/F	Teacher Assistant	Career Change	12/31/24
Dabney	Taylor Hedgepeth	W/F	Teacher	Family Responsibility	01/03/25
ASC	Christopher Hardy	B/M	Job Coach	Employment with another NC School System	01/10/25

**III. LEAVE(S) – For Information Only**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Dabney	Deborah Parrish	W/F	FMLA	Child Nutrition Asst.	12/09/24-01/16/25
Vance County High	Karen Suarez	W/F	FMLA	Teacher	01/10/25-02/19/25
Vance County Middle	Tonique Cheek	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	11/14/24-06/13/25
Maintenance	Raymond Weaver, Jr.	W/M	FMLA	Central Service Support	12/10/24-01/05/25
STEM	Doron Anderson	B/M	FMLA	Teacher	01/06/25-01/31/25
Vance County Middle	Andrea Reavis	B/F	WC	Counselor	01/06/25-01/29/25

**IV. TRANSFER/PROMOTION(S) – For Information Only**

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION/LOCATION		EFFECTIVE DATE
Pinkston	Jacqueline Jackson	Teacher Assistant	Tutor	Pinkston	01/09/25
ASC	Yulanda Henderson	Human Resources Specialist	Administrative Assistant	ASC	11/15/24

**V. RETIREMENT(S)**

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Susan Wheeler	W/F	Cafeteria Manager	01/31/25

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

**Finance** - No Meeting

**Building and Grounds** – No Meeting

**Policy** – No Meeting

**Curriculum** – No Meeting

**Community & Business Relations** – No Meeting

**New Business** - None

**Field Trip Request** - None

Vance County High School request to travel to Havelock, NC on February 7-8, 2025 and to Winterville, NC on February 14-15, 2024 for wrestling competitions.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the two VCHS wrestling competition field trips requests.

**Transfer Requests**

Dr. Bennett presented fourteen student requests to transfer into the district and eight releases.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) approved the twenty-two transfer requests.

**Executive Session**

Upon motion by Mrs. Gooche and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) 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 6:28 pm.

The Board returned to the open session at 6:55 p.m.

Upon motion by Mrs. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (6-0) agreed to hold three principal's salaries harmless to the decrease reported by NCDPI from January 2025 through June 30, 2025. Salaries will be appropriate from local funds. After that time, the principal's salary will reflect the state scale and understand that this is a temporary and one-time adjustment.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, the Board voted unanimously (6-0) to adjourn the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

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BOARD CHAIR, DOROTHY W. GOOCHE

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SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT