MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MARCH 17, 2025

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, March 17, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Blake Boykin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with the following members present:

Blake Boykin, Board Chair
Rhyan Breen, Board Vice-Chair
David Batts
Beverly Boyette
Dr. Christine L. Fitch
John Kyle
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, 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 15 citizens in attendance.

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

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

III. Mr. Boykin presented for approval the minutes of the February 17, 2025, Regular Board meeting. Mr. Boykin asked for approval of the minutes. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the minutes be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- FIRST North Carolina Advocacy Day Representatives – The Board recognized Taylor Jordan, a junior at Wilson Academy of Applied Technology, and Addison King, a sophomore at Wilson Early College Academy, for being invited to the North Carolina General Assembly last month for the FIRST North Carolina Advocacy Day. FIRST stands for "For

Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology," and it is a renowned global STEM initiative that challenges high school students to design, build and program industrial-sized robots and to compete in events that promote teamwork, innovation and problem-solving. Taylor and Addison were selected to represent the WCS FIRST robotics team, otherwise known as the WhirlyBots, and joined other student representatives from across the state in advocating for the growth and expansion of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and robotics programs for K-12 students. They had the opportunity to engage with a number of representatives during the event, including Wilson's own Dante Pittman, North Carolina House of Representative, to underscore the critical need for continued support and funding for these programs. We are proud of Taylor and Addison for their outstanding leadership and dedication to advocating for not only STEM and robotics, but also for the WhirlyBots and our district. Their involvement in this event highlights not only their individual commitment to STEM and robotics education but also the collective efforts of our district to inspire the next generation of innovators. We also want to thank WhirlyBots Coach/WCS Systems Engineer Kevin Bosso and Executive Director of Technology Dr. Pam Batchelor for attending the event along with two parent mentors - Mr. Jordan and Mr. King.

V. Under Chairman's Report, Mr. Boykin:

- Congratulated Sharon High-Jones, Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher at Fike High, for winning the Educator of the Year Award and Eli Kicklighter, Hunt High student, for winning the Youth Community Service Award during the 54th Annual Human Relations Celebration held on March 10, 2025.
- Shared that the 4-H Show and Sale will be held on March 27, 2025, with several students participating from across the district.

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

- Shared that since the last regular Board meeting, we've celebrated School Social Work Week, National School Breakfast Week and Read Across America Week, where many Board members and district leaders spent time serving breakfast and reading to students. We also participated in the Wilson Education Partnership's Circus Extravaganza Spelling and Trivia Bee on March 13, 2025, which raised $17,500 for our district. Dr. Mills congratulated Mr. Breen and his team for their victory. The district also held the Elementary and Middle School Battle of the Books Competitions on March 5, 2025, where New Hope Elementary and Forest Hills Middle won first place.
- Reminded everyone about the upcoming WCS Career Fair, which will showcase the variety of careers available in the district. Anyone who is interested in working for WCS is invited to attend the event on March 22, 2025, between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. at Darden Middle. Representatives from our schools and departments will be in attendance and preliminary interviews will be held onsite. Attendees should bring copies of their resume and their most recent transcript.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:40 p.m., two people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:46 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speakers.

VIII. Under Committee Reports/Administrative Services – Committee Chair Rhyan Breen shared that the committee met today to discuss information and action items.

Information Items

A. Under Contracts Requiring Board Notification – Administrative 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 are less than $90,000 and pending attorney review:
   - FaciliServ, to provide service to six basketball backstops in the Beddingfield High gym and six basketball backstops in the Hunt High gym, including electrical goal lifts, in the amount of $49,564.09
   - Royalwood Associates, Inc., to sand the gym floor, apply two coats of Hillyard oil-modified gym seal, paint new court markings to match existing markings, apply two coats of Hillyard oil-modified gym finish and supply a generator for the Fike High gym, in the amount of $41,127.77
   - Playworld, for a new K-2 playground piece for Gardners Elementary, in the amount of $34,587.85
   - Playworld, for a new 3-5 playground piece for Jones Elementary, to include an ADA swing, in the amount of $38,085.99

B. Under Beddingfield High School Culinary Arts and Springfield Middle School Reconstruction Update, a site meeting was held at Beddingfield High on March 12, 2025. The meeting included Berry Building Group, Oakley Collier Architects, Beddingfield High Principal Jenny Hayes, Executive Director of Facility Services Greg Woodard, Career & Technical Education Director Matthew Crayton and Dr. Ben Williams. The team reviewed the current drawings for the Beddingfield High Culinary Arts classroom. Feedback from the meeting was noted, and the final plans will be submitted to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the building inspector for approval. Once the plans have received all final approvals, the work will be bid out for Berry Building Group to begin construction.

   A site meeting was held at Springfield Middle on March 14, 2025. The meeting included Barnhill Contracting Company, Oakley Collier Architects, PDC Engineers, Springfield Middle Principal Kelly Thomas, Assistant Executive Director of Facility Services Daryl Woodard, Dr. Ben Williams and Greg Woodard. The team discussed the coordination of work between Barnhill Contracting Company and WCS, to include coordinating reconstruction during the daily operations at Springfield Middle. The permits for the reconstruction drawings are under review and Barnhill Contracting Company expects those back this week. Barnhill Contracting Company mobilized at Springfield Middle on March 17, 2025, and demolition in the damaged wings also began on March

17, 2025. During the week of April 14, 2025, and April 21, 2025, the roof and steel will be delivered. The target date for the wings to be completely dried in is projected for the end of May, which means the interior work can start without weather issues. The target date for Springfield Middle students to return to the 6th and 7th grade classrooms is January 2026, upon return from break.

Action Items

A. Under 2024-2025 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments for the 2024-2025 State Expense Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Expense Fund, Capital Outlay Expense Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund budgets. General Statute 115C-434 authorizes the Board of Education to make appropriations for the budget year. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch, that the Board approve the State Expense Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Expense Fund, Capital Outlay Expense Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund amendments. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under 2024-2025 Audit Contract, the accounting firm of Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC is presenting WCS with an auditing contract, not to exceed $50,000. The accounting firm has contracted with 85 of the 115 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) in North Carolina. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch and Mr. Batts, that the Board approve the contract with Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC for the 2025-2026 audit contract. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval – Administrative Services, Board Policy 6520, *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 attorney review:
    - Barnhill Building Group, an amendment to the Frederick Douglass Elementary contract for redesign and preconstruction services, in the amount of $113,753
    - Swift Way Transit, LLC, an amendment to the contract to provide services to our EC students across the district, in an amount not to exceed $1,000,000 (originally not to exceed $750,000)

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch and Mr. Batts, that the Board adopt the Barnhill Building Group amendment to the Frederick Douglass Elementary contract for redesign and preconstruction services, in the amount of $113,753; and the Swift Way Transit, LLC, amendment to the contract to provide services to our EC students across the district, not to exceed $1,000,000. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services – Committee Chair Beverly Boyette 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 and the Superintendent shall report such contracts exceeding $30,000 to the Board at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The following contracts are less than $90,000 and have been approved by the Superintendent:
   - Raptor Technologies, for a visitor and volunteer management platform that will replace IdentiKid, in the amount of $20,099.20
   - Apple Education, to purchase iPads for a visitor and volunteer management platform that will replace IdentiKid, in the amount of $32,985.76

B. Under Revised Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements* - 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 policies.

Action Items

A. Under Revised 2024-2025 Traditional Calendar, the 2024-2025 Traditional Calendar has been revised due to inclement weather. The following changes are being recommended:
   - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 19-21, 2025, will change from Instructional Days to Non-Days
   - Friday, March 14, 2025, changed from an Optional Teacher Workday to an Instructional Day
   - Friday, April 18, 2025, will change from a Holiday to an Optional Teacher Workday
   - Monday, April 21, 2025, will change from an Annual Leave Day to a Holiday
   - Wednesday, June 4, 2025, will change from an Early Release Day to a regular Instructional Day
   - Thursday, June 5, 2025, will change from a Mandatory Workday to an Early Release Day
   - Wednesday, June 11, 2025, will change from an Optional Teacher Workday to a Mandatory Workday
   - Monday and Tuesday, June 16-17, 2025, will become Optional Teacher Workdays
   - Wednesday, June 18, 2025, will become an Annual Leave Day.

   The Administration recommended adoption of this revised calendar. A copy of the previously approved calendar and the proposed calendar have been provided for the Board's discussion and approval. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the Revised 2024-2025 Traditional Calendar. The motion passed 6:1, with Ms. Boyette casting the dissenting vote.

B. Under Revised 2024-2025 Restart Calendar, the 2024-2025 Restart Calendar has been revised due to inclement weather. The following changes are being recommended:

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 19-21, 2025, will change from Instructional Days to Non-Days
- Friday, March 14, 2025, changed from an Optional Teacher Workday to an Instructional Day
- Friday, April 18, 2025, will change from a Holiday to an Optional Teacher Workday
- Monday, April 21, 2025, will change from an Annual Leave Day to a Holiday
- Wednesday, June 4, 2025, will change from an Early Release Day to a regular Instructional Day
- Thursday, June 5, 2025, will change from a Mandatory Workday to an Early Release Day
- Wednesday, June 11, 2025, will change from an Optional Teacher Workday to a Mandatory Workday
- Monday and Tuesday, June 16-17, 2025, will become Optional Teacher Workdays
- Wednesday, June 18, 2025, will become an Annual Leave Day.

The Administration recommended adoption of this revised calendar. A copy of the previously approved calendar and the proposed calendar have been provided for the Board's discussion and approval. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the Revised 2024-2025 Restart Calendar. The motion passed 6:1, with Ms. Boyette casting the dissenting vote.

C. Under Revised 2024-2025 Early College Calendar, the 2024-2025 Early College Calendar has been revised due to inclement weather. The following changes are recommended:

- Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, February 19-21, 2025, will change from Instructional Days to Non-Days
- Thursday, May 15, 2025, will change from an Optional Teacher Workday to an Instructional Day
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025, will change from an Optional Teacher Workday to a Mandatory Workday
- Thursday, Friday and Monday, May 29-30, 2025, and June 2, 2025, will become Optional Teacher Workdays.

The Administration recommended adoption of this revised calendar. A copy of the previously approved calendar and the proposed calendar have been provided for the Board's discussion and approval. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the Revised 2024-2025 Early College Calendar. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under 2025 Summer Reading Camp Sign-on Bonus, per North Carolina Session Law 2021-8 Section 7.(b), each LEA is required to provide a signing bonus of at least $1,200 (with the total amount to be determined by the local Board of Education) to any teacher that meets all of the following criteria:

- Is associated with high growth in reading based on EVAAS data
- Was awarded a reading performance bonus administered by the NCDPI
- Accepts employment to provide instruction during reading camp

The bonus can be funded out of PRC-085-Literacy Intervention. The Administration recommended the Board approve a sign-on bonus amount of $1,500 for reading camp teachers that meet the qualifications. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the 2025 Summer Reading Camp Sign-on Bonus. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

E. Under 2025 Summer Reading Camp Performance Bonus, per North Carolina Session Law 2021-8 Section 7.(b), each LEA is required to provide a performance bonus of at least $150 per student to a teacher who provided instruction at a third grade reading camp:

- For students assigned to that teacher
- For those students who did not previously demonstrate proficiency that demonstrated proficiency at the end of the reading camp on an alternative assessment

The total amount is to be determined by the Board of Education. Any bonuses are not subject to retirement. The Administration recommended the Board approve a performance bonus of $150 per student for reading camp teachers that meet the qualifications. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the 2025 Summer Reading Camp Performance Bonus. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

F. Under WCS Fees 2025-2026, the Administration presented the proposed schedule of student fees for approval that will be utilized for the 2025-2026 school year, per WCS Board Policy 4600, *Student Fees*. This included parking fees for all traditional high schools; senior fees for all traditional high schools; technology fees for every school; and yearbook fees that vary at each school. The fees have not changed since the previous year and can be waived if the student qualifies. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board adopt the WCS fees for 2025-2026. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

## IX. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEM

A. Under 2025-2026 Board of Education Meetings, Policy 2300, *Board Meetings*, state that regular meetings will be held at a predetermined time and place to conduct business of the Board. The Superintendent shall keep on file the schedule of regular meetings with the predetermined time and place. The schedule will be revised only in accordance with legal requirements for notice. In the past, regular meetings have been scheduled on the third Monday of the

month, with the exception of November, December and January. During these months, the meetings are scheduled on the second Monday of the month. The Administration recommended a schedule of regular Board meetings for the 2025-2026 school year that included the following change from past meetings: June 1, 2026 (first Monday), due to Human Resources meeting required deadlines by June 15. The Board will need to take formal action to approve the schedule of regular Board meetings for the 2025-2026 school year. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board adopt the 2025-2026 Wilson County Board of Education meetings. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. At 7:09 p.m., Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, 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 8:05 p.m., Dr. Fitch made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Batts, passed unanimously, 7-0.

XI. Reporting from Closed Session, Dr. Fitch 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.

Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch, that the Board approve the Closed Session minutes of the February 17, 2025, meeting, but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve personnel recommendations as amended. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0. The list of personnel recommendations is attached.

XII. There being no further business at 8:08 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch and Mr. Batts, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

William B. Boykin, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

**RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS**
**March 17, 2025**

**Certified**

| Recommendation | Site | Position |
|---|---|---|
| Wall, Judianne | Forest Hills MS | During the Day Math Tutor |

**Classified**

| Recommendation | Site | Position |
|---|---|---|
| Acevedo, Juliana | Gardners ES | School Nutrition Assistant |
| Capozzi, Karen | Financial Services | Assistant Finance Director |
| Evans, Dianne | Transportation Services | Bus Driver |
| Harris, Reginald | School Nutrition | Part-Time School Nutrition Warehouse Clerk |
| Jones, Ayasia | Vinson-Bynum ES | After-School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) Assistant |
| Petersen, Jason | Facility Services | Carpenter I |
| Pulley, Terrance | Facility Services | Painter I |
| Ross Glaze, Khimani | Technology Services | Technology Technician II |
| Toler, Melinda | Hunt HS | School Nutrition Assistant |

**Substitute Teachers**

| Recommendation | Position |
|---|---|
| Austin, Anne | Non-Certified |
| Collins, Rebecca | Non-Certified |
| Deans, Timothy | Certified |
| Edmondson, Kolanthia | Non-Certified |
| Fox, Latrice | Non-Certified |
| Pinkney, Andre | Non-Certified |
| Williams, Janet | Non-Certified |

**Coaches**

| Recommendation | Site | Position |
|---|---|---|
| Boswell, Robert | Fike HS | Asst. Baseball |
| Hemphill, Hunter | Fike HS | Asst. Boys Track, Asst. Girls Track |
| Lewis, Eric | Fike HS | JV Baseball |
| Baines, Alisha | Forest Hills MS | Boys & Girls Cross Country |
| Jones, Kiara | Forest Hills MS | Asst. Softball |
| Sherrod, Tichina | Forest Hills MS | Asst. Softball |
| Hall, Michael | Hunt HS | Asst. Boys Lacrosse |

## RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

### Certified

| Employee | Site | Position | Action | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bissette, Tressa | Forest Hills MS | 6th Grade Math Teacher/Multi-Classroom Leader | Resignation | 4/8/2025 |
| Kirby, Crystal | Student Services | School Social Worker | Resignation | 2/25/2025 |

### Classified

| Employee | Site | Position | Action | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bellamy Hinton, Tashica | Barnes ES | Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver | Resignation | 2/25/2025 |
| Evans, Jasmine | Stantonsburg ES | Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver | Resignation | 2/24/2025 |
| Horne, Lisa | School Nutrition | School Nutrition Training & Catering Manager | Resignation | 2/28/2025 |
| McCaleb, William | Transportation Services | Mechanic II | Resignation | 3/7/2025 |
| Murphy, Tiah | Vick ES | Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver | Resignation | 3/5/2025 |

## DISMISSALS

### Classified

| Employee | Site | Position | Action | Effective Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Richardson, DeVito | Speight MS | In School Suspension Coordinator | Dismissal | 3/11/2025 |