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

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, February 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 32 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 Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the agenda. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Mr. Boykin presented for approval the minutes of the January 27, 2025, Regular Board meeting. Mr. Boykin asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the January 27, 2025, minutes be approved. Dr. Fitch asked for the minutes to be amended on page 10, letter N, Under Repealed Policy 2671, *Appointment of Wilson Technical Community College Trustees*, by revising the following statement, "this policy is being repealed by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, as the Board of Trustees of Wilson Community College is no longer appointed by the Board of Education." The revised statement will read, "the Board is being asked to repeal this policy as requested by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, as the Board of Trustees of Wilson Community College is no longer appointed by the Board of Education." The maker and seconder of the motion agreed to the friendly amendment. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- National Board Certification Recipients and Renewals - The educators who recently earned or renewed their National Board Certification were recognized. This certification is an advanced teaching credential that goes beyond state licensure. WCS currently has 52 educators with the certification, and North Carolina leads the nation with more than 24,000 educators who are National Board Certified. The educators who earned or renewed their certification are:
    - Amber Glover, teacher at Beddingfield High, earned initial National Board Certification for Social Studies: History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
    - Serita Braswell, teacher at Vinson-Bynum Elementary, earned initial National Board Certification for Literacy: Reading-Language Arts/Early and Middle Childhood
    - Drucilla Lamm, teacher at Vinson-Bynum Elementary, maintained her certification in Generalist/Middle Childhood
    - Amy Crawford, teacher at Rock Ridge Elementary, maintained her certification in Generalist/Early Childhood
    - Jill Wheeler, teacher at Fike High, maintained her certification in Social Studies: History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
    - Kimberly Smith, teacher at Wilson Early College Academy, maintained her certification in History/Adolescence and Young Adulthood
    - Michelle Hickey, counselor at Lee Woodard Elementary, maintained her certification in School Counseling/Early Childhood through Young Adulthood

  Dr. Mills shared that earning and maintaining this certification is a rigorous process and shows the commitment of the educators to education and lifelong learning. He also thanked Beginning Teacher Coordinator Amy Evans for guiding the educators through the process.

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

- Recognized the current 2024-2025 WCS School-Level Teachers of the Year and the District Teacher of the Year:
    - Teresa Speight (Barnes Elementary)
    - Craig Herring (Beddingfield High)
    - Evonne Dantzler (Daniels Learning Center)
    - Brittany Kopka (Elm City Middle)
    - Angela London (Fike High)
    - Tressa Bissette (Forest Hills Middle)
    - Britney Beamon (Frederick Douglass Elementary)
    - Cheyenne Warrick (Gardners Elementary)
    - Geremy Howell (Hearne Elementary)
    - Lisa Wheeler (Hunt High) – WCS District Teacher of the Year
    - Lindsey Pitt (Jones Elementary)
    - Kristina Stark (Lee Woodard Elementary)

- Allison Ethridge (Lucama Elementary)
- Nicole Hunt (New Hope Elementary)
- Joan Bogart (Rock Ridge Elementary)
- Teresa Dantzler (Springfield Middle)
- Mary Elizabeth Walker (Stantonsburg Elementary)
- Toshieka Artis (Vick Elementary)
- Morgan Byers (Vinson-Bynum Elementary)
- Rachelle Williams (Wilson Academy of Applied Technology)
- Olympia Jenkins (Wilson Early College Academy)
- Sallie Creech (Wells Elementary)

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

- Shared registration information for kindergarten and the NC Pre-K Program. Families of incoming kindergartners are asked to attend Kindergarten Registration Night on March 6, 2025, from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in the elementary schools. During that time, students will take a mandatory assessment and families will have a chance to complete registration and ask questions. More information can be found on the district website and social media sites.
- Shared information 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. Dr. Mills added that we are looking forward to a great event and are ready to welcome new members to our WCS family - come work for the best at WCS!
- Recognized Assistant Superintendent for Administrative Services Dr. Ben Williams. On January 28, 2025, Dr. Williams, who prefers to work behind the scenes, was in the spotlight as a presenter at the Public School Forum's Eggs & Issues event in Raleigh. Educators, policymakers and community members were in attendance to dive into current topics in our state education policy. Dr. Williams presented about the Wilson Area School-Based Health (WASH) Centers and what a great resource the clinics are for students and staff. The WASH Centers are a partnership between our district and the Wilson County Health Department and the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson. Dr. Williams did a great job not only representing our district, but also Wilson County. WCS is unique in being able to offer the WASH Centers, and they are valuable for our students and staff.
- Advised that he is keeping up to date with the latest forecasts regarding possible winter weather mid-week, and he appreciated everyone's patience as we make decisions for our students, staff and families.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:46 p.m., three people from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:54 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 action items.

Action Items

A. Under 2024-2025 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments for the 2024-2025 State Public School Fund and Federal Expense 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 2024-2025 Budget Amendments as recommended. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under 2025-2026 Calendar for Budget Development, the calendar for budget development was presented by the Administration. The Administration is recommending the Board hold a Budget Work Session on March 17, 2025, during the Administrative Services Committee Meeting and approve the proposed budget during the regular Board meeting on March 17, 2025.
If an additional Budget Work Session is needed, the Administration is recommending the Board hold a Special Meeting on March 31, 2025, to approve the proposed budget. The Budget Request can be forwarded to the Wilson County Board of Commissioners on April 10, 2025, in preparation for the education budget presentations on April 17, 2025. G.S. 115C-429 requires that a budget be submitted to the Board of Commissioners by May 15.
Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Batts, that the Board approve the 2025-2026 Calendar for Budget Development as provided by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Contract 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 contract exceeds $90,000 and requires Board approval, pending attorney review: Oakley Collier Architects, for design and architectural services for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary, in the amount of $2,000,000. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch, that the Board approve a contract with Oakley Collier Architects, for design and architectural services for the new Frederick Douglass Elementary, for $2,000,000. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under Certified and Classified Supplement Information, the Administration is seeking the Board's approval to provide a 1% increase in the local supplement for certified and classified staff. The final supplement installment for certified and classified staff is scheduled for the May pay period. The current supplement levels for certified staff are 8% and 6% for classified staff. During the Administrative Services Committee Meeting, the Board members discussed the impact of the supplements to the district; providing a 1% increase supplement increase for all certified and classified personnel effectively immediately; and authorizing the Administration to move forward with a tier-based flat rate schedule. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Batts, that the Board

move forward with a 1% certified and classified supplement effective immediately and instructed the Administration to start development of a flat tiered supplement. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

Under Committee Reports/Instructional Services – Committee Chair Beverly Boyette shared that the committee met today to discuss action items.

Action Items

A. Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval – Instructional 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:
   - E Therapy Staffing Solutions LLC, for Exceptional Children contracted services, in an amount not to exceed $100,000
   - Tiber Creek, for network access control system, in the amount of $166,271.07 (funded through a cybersecurity grant)

   Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve contracts with E Therapy Staffing Solutions LLC, for the Exceptional Children contracting services, not to exceed $100,000; and Tiber Creek, for network access control systems, for $166,271.07. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Arts Proficiency Endorsement Documents, the Administration presented a list of eligible extracurricular activities that qualify for the Arts Endorsement and the Arts-Related Extracurricular Activity Form provided by the state for students to document their hours. Approved forms will be added to the WCS Board Policy website. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the Arts Proficiency Endorsement Documents. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Revised Policy 3226/4205, *Internet Safety* – 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.

D. Under Revised Policy 3440, *Recognizing Excellence* – 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.

E. Under Revised Policy 4320, *Tobacco Products – Students* – 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.

F. Under Revised Policy 5022, *Registered Sex Offenders* – 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.

G. Under Revised Policy 5026/7250, *Smoking and Tobacco Products* – 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.

H. Under Draft Policy 5150, *Reporting to External Agencies* – Second Reading, this policy is being drafted by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLP, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

I. Under Revised Policy 6120, *Student Health Services* – 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.

J. Under Revised Policy 6140, *Student Wellness* – 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.

K. Under Revised Policy 8305, *Federal Grant Administration* – 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.

It was the consensus of the Board to approve all the policies listed on the agenda items C-K as a second reading in one motion. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve Revised Policy 3226/4205, *Internet Safety*; Revised Policy 3440, *Recognizing Excellence*; Revised Policy 4320, *Tobacco Products - Students*; Revised Policy 5022, *Registered Sex Offenders*; Revised Policy 5026/7250, *Smoking and Tobacco Products*; Draft Policy 5150, *Reporting to External Agencies*; Revised Policy 6120, *Student Health Services*; Revised Policy 6140, *Student Wellness*; and Revised Policy 8305, *Federal Grant Administration.* The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IX. At 7:08 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 8:17 p.m., Dr. Fitch made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, passed unanimously, 7-0.

X. 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 Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the Closed Session minutes of the January 27, 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 and 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 8:18 p.m., Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette and Ms. Powell, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

William B. Boykin, Chairman

Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

RECOMMENDED PERSONNEL ACTIONS
February 17, 2025

Administrative

For Information - Transfers

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment	Effective Date	Experience in Education
Luper, Dr. Denise	Hunt HS / Administrative Services	Assistant Principal / Hearing Officer	WCS Administrator	2/1/2025 - 6/30/2025	30 + yrs.

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Boykin, Kansas	Stantonsburg ES	4th Grade Teacher
Fuller, Sharon	Speight MS	Exceptional Children (EC) Resource Teacher
McBride, Peyton	Hunt HS	Math Teacher
Proctor, Mary	Lucama ES	Kindergarten Teacher

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Bunn, Ellen	Rock Ridge ES	After School Care Enrichment Program (ASCEP) Student Assistant
Hunt, Braeden	New Hope ES	ASCEP Student Assistant
Jackson, Zah'Nya	Frederick Douglass ES	ASCEP Assistant
Jenkins, Angelia	Transportation Services	Transportation Safety Assistant
Nichols, James	Facility Services	Warehouse Clerk
Vekris, Bo ram	Fike HS	School Nutrition Assistant

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Brinkley, Crystal	Non-Certified
Davis, Autumn	Non-Certified
Jackson, D'Andrea	Non-Certified
Jacobo, Elias	Non-Certified
Lamb Jr, Anthony	Non-Certified
Marcantel, Danielle	Certified
Warner, Robert	Non-Certified
Wild, Deborah	Certified

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Harrison, Jacob	Beddingfield HS	JV Baseball
Hurdle, Riley	Beddingfield HS	Head Varsity Football
Barron, Douglass	Darden MS	Head Girls Soccer

Coaches (Continued)

Recommendation	Site	Position
Branch, Reginald	Darden MS	Cross Country
Edwards, Marques	Darden MS	Asst. Head Softball
Lyons, Eric	Darden MS	Head Boys Basketball
Speight, Tiyatti	Darden MS	Head Softball
Simmons, Joshua	Elm City MS	Asst. Baseball
Boykin, Jeffery	Fike HS	Asst. Baseball
Hull, Michaela	Fike HS	Asst. Softball
Jones, Bobby	Fike HS	Asst. Athletic Director
Lumley, Taylor	Fike HS	Girls Lacrosse
Pittman, Mark	Fike HS	Girls Track
Warren, Larry	Fike HS	Asst. Varsity Boys Basketball
Davis, Arnechia	Forest Hills MS	Head Softball
Newsome, Allison	Forest Hills MS	Asst. Girls Basketball, Asst. Softball
Sherrod, Tichina	Forest Hills MS	Asst. Cheeleading
Batts, Roger	Speight MS	Asst. Baseball
Evans, Bradley	Springfield MS	Asst. Softball
Hendricks, Johnathan	Springfield MS	Asst. Cross Country
Johnson, Clay	Springfield MS	Asst. Baseball
Thomas, Josh	Springfield MS	Asst. Girls Soccer

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Fowler, Stacia	Jones ES	5th Grade Teacher	Resignation	3/14/2025
Parker, Shaquille	Darden MS	7th Grade Math Teacher	Resignation	2/10/2025
Sutton, Tearra	Barnes ES	EC Teacher (Self-Contained)	Resignation	2/13/2025

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Bullock, Sonya	Barnes ES	EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Resignation	2/13/2025
Dixon, Tyanna	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant/ Bus Driver	Resignation	2/3/2025
Dublin, Haley	Forest Hills MS	School Nutrition Manager	Resignation	1/29/2025
Garrett, Linda	Vinson-Bynum ES	EC Personal Care Assistant	Resignation	2/7/2025
Hayes, Donnie	Elm City MS	Custodian	Retirement	2/28/2025
Simpson, Anna	Human Resource Services	Substitute Teacher	Resignation	1/30/2025
Vick, Cornelius	School Nutrition	Warehouse Delivery Clerk	Resignation	1/30/2025