MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 14, 2025

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, April 14, 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, Chief Finance Officer Shannon Collins, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison, as well as Board Attorney Katie Cornetto. There were 29 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 Ms. Boyette and Dr. Fitch, that the agenda be approved. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

III. Mr. Boykin presented for approval the minutes of the March 17, 2025, Regular Board meeting and April 7, 2025, Special Board meeting. Ms. Boyette asked for a correction on page 2, under Roman Numeral V – Chairman's Report. Eli Kicklighter is listed as a Rock Ridge Elementary student that won the Youth Community Service Award during the 54th Annual Human Relations Celebration held on March 10, 2025. Eli attends Hunt High. Mr. Boykin asked for approval of the minutes. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Dr. Fitch, that the Board approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of March 17, 2025; and the Special Board meeting of April 7, 2025. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

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

- Human Relations Award Winners - The Board recognized Sharon High-Jones, an Exceptional Children Teacher at Fike High, and Eli Kicklighter, a sophomore at Hunt High, for being recognized recently at the 2025 Human Relations Awards ceremony. Ms. High-Jones received the Wilson Committee for Persons with Disabilities Educator of the Year Award, a well-deserved recognition of her passion, dedication and outstanding contributions to students with exceptional needs. With 23 years of teaching experience, she is not only an incredible educator but also a mentor, advocate and true leader in our community. Her impact reaches far beyond the classroom, and her commitment inspires those around her. Eli received the Human Relations Youth Community Service Award, a testament to his compassion, initiative and dedication to helping others. In addition to volunteering with the Rock Ridge 4-H Club and summer camps, Eli went above and beyond by organizing a supply drive to support students and staff after Springfield Middle was damaged by a tornado. His selflessness and drive to make a difference at such a young age are truly commendable. We are so proud of both Ms. High-Jones and Eli and incredibly grateful for their service.
- United Way Award Winners - The Board recognized the success of the 2024 WCS United Way Campaign. As a district, $40,526 was raised, which was an 18 percent increase from the previous year. Each school, as well as Central Office and the Administrative Services Departments, had their own campaign led by coordinators. Eight of the coordinators were recognized at the meeting for going above and beyond. They earned awards from the United Way of Wilson County for the success of their campaigns, which was evaluated based on per capita giving. The coordinators were:
    - Marsha Spell from Wilson Early College Academy - Gold Award
    - Amy Galeazzi from Stantonsburg Elementary - Silver Award
    - Nicole Boyce from Wells Elementary - Silver Award
    - Amber Lynch from Central Office - Silver Award
    - Samantha Charles-Dixon from Daniels Learning Center - Bronze Award
    - Lisa Temple from Wilson Academy of Applied Technology - Bronze Award
    - Ashley Watkins from Rock Ridge Elementary - Bronze Award
    - Lisa Ellis from Vick Elementary - Bronze Award

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of these coordinators to the United Way, especially considering their many other responsibilities. Also, because of the success of the district campaign, WCS was recognized as a Campaign of Impact in the region by the United Way of North Carolina, and Ms. Lynch, who oversees the district campaign, was recognized as the Campaign Coordinator of the Year by United Way of Wilson County. United Way is the only organization that WCS raises money for as an entire district because we believe so strongly in its mission and appreciate all that it does in our community. While only the per capita award winners were recognized at the meeting, we applaud all of our schools for outstanding campaigns this year. WCS proudly supports United Way and the positive change it champions.

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

- Congratulated the students that participated in the Wilson County Livestock Show and Sale. Ms. Powell, Ms. Boyette and Mr. Boykin attended the banquet held prior to the event.
- Thanked Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) Executive Director Robin Williams and her Board for the Beginning Teacher luncheon held last week. The Board is thankful for WEP and the Beginning Teachers.
- Shared that the Special Board Meeting held on April 7, 2025, was very productive. During the Special Meeting, the Board was presented a new format for the budget that is much easier to read and an update on Frederick Douglass Elementary, which is moving along quickly. Mr. Boykin thanked Ms. Collins for creating the new budget format.
- Congratulated Frederick Douglass Elementary for being identified as a North Carolina STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) School of Distinction. This is the first WCS school to achieve this status. Since 2014, only 54 schools across the state have achieved this status.
- Lastly, Mr. Boykin wished everyone a happy and safe Easter and Spring Break.

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

- Shared that since the last regular Board meeting, we've celebrated National Assistant Principals Week; hosted an exciting district STEMposium event for students and families; congratulated Frederick Douglass Elementary for being named a NC STEM School of Distinction; and held the WCS Career Fair on March 22. The Career Fair was a success with more than 90 candidates attending to learn about the variety of careers available in the district. Dr. Mills thanked the entire Human Resource Services Team for organizing the job fair and the school and department leaders for participating and making the attendees feel welcomed. He said that it was the best job fair he has attended in the district and also thanked the Facility Services Department for their assistance and Darden Middle for hosting. Though the Career Fair is over, it's not too late for those who still want to work for WCS. Visit the Employment page on our district website to learn more.
- Shared that Spring Break is on the horizon for our traditional schools and wished our students and staff a safe and relaxing break. He added that he hopes everyone comes back ready to finish the year strong. The early colleges only have a few weeks left of their school year, and their Awards Days are coming up on May 2. We are also looking ahead to Teacher Appreciation Week, which is the first week in May, and soon it will be time for graduation and wrapping up the school year.

VII. Under Public Input, at 6:45 p.m., one person from the public began addressing the Board during this portion of the meeting. Public Input ended at 6:48 p.m. It was the Board's consensus to have the Administration respond to the speaker.

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 Cafeteria Improvements, the 2025-2026 dining upgrades from School Nutrition were presented for the middle and high schools. The following upgrades were shared:
   - Middle and High Schools
     - New seating in all dining rooms
     - Summer painting schedule
     - Teacher seating
     - Condiment counters
     - Line partitions
   - Water Stations
     - Potential Water Filling Stations (limits waste on styrofoam cups)
       - Beddingfield High has a water filling station in the commons area outside the cafeteria.
       - Elm City Middle, Darden Middle and Speight Middle have working water fountains within the dining room.
       - Fike High, Forest Hills Middle and Springfield Middle water fountains do not work.
       - Hunt High has no water fountain in the dining area.
   - Digital Signage and Announcements
     - School Nutrition will work with the Technology Department to implement digital media.
   - High School Dishwashers
     - All three high schools will receive new dishwashers
       - Implementing – 2 yearly (fixed or replaced)
   - 2026/2027 School Year
     - Refurnish all elementary schools with new seating/teacher seating.

B. 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:
   - Unifirst Uniforms, for a uniform contract for WCS Facility Services, School Nutrition, Transportation and Custodial staff members, in the amount of $46,531.68 ($894.84 per week for one year)
   - Brame, for 200 (14 inch) student chairs and 400 (16 inch) student chairs, in the amount of $36,095.38
   - Universal Equipment Co., for dining room teacher seating, tables and condiment containers for middle and high schools, in the amount of $46,215.28

Action Items

A. 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:

- White's International Truck, for the purchase of a fuel truck, in the amount of $159,507.14
- Universal Equipment Co, for dining room seating for the middle schools, in the amount of $225,626.80

Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Mr. Batts, that the Board approve the contracts for White's International Truck for the purchase of a new fuel truck for $159,507.14; and the contract with Universal Equipment Company for dining room seating in the middle schools, in the amount of $225,626.80. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under Request for Qualifications (RFQ) - Design/Build Security Vestibules at Hunt High, Fike High and Elm City Middle Schools, the Administration is requesting approval from the Board to submit an RFQ for an architect and general contractor to design and build the security vestibules at Hunt High, Fike High and Elm City Middle. The Administration plans to complete the application for Public School Building Renovation and Repair Funds for the security vestibules. Mr. Breen made the motion, seconded by Dr. Fitch and Mr. Batts, that the Board direct the Administration to move forward with an RFQ to design and build the security vestibules at Hunt High, Fike High and Elm City Middle. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under 2024-2025 Budget Amendments, the Administration presented budget amendments for the 2024-2025 State Expense Fund, Local Special Revenue 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 and Mr. Batts, that the Board approve the budget amendments for the State Expense Fund, Local Current Expense Fund and Federal Expense Fund. 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.

<u>Information Items:</u>

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:

- Pathful, Inc., for Pathful Explore Renewal for five middle schools, three high schools and two early colleges, in the amount of $35,530.00
- Encore Technology Group, for replacement cabling at Gardners Elementary (Summer 2025), in the amount of $74,498.36
- Edia, for Math Instructional Resource for grades 6-8, in the amount of $77,530.00

- Newsela Inc. for Literacy Instructional Resource for grades K-8, in the amount of $77,678.08

B. Under Revised Policy 4334/5053/7345, *Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones)* - 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.

C. Under Revised Policy 4342, *Student Searches* – First Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies.

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:
    - AYA, for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.00
    - Dragonfly Vision, LLC, for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.00
    - Instructure, for a subscription to Mastery View Predictive Assessments, Item Bank, Desmos Tools and Master Connect, in the amount of $142,725.13
    - Lexia, for renewal of PowerUp Literacy Student Subscription and Core5 Reading unlimited licenses with School Success Partnership Renewal, in the amount of $189,960.00
    - The Interpreter Network, for sign language interpreting services, in an amount increased from not to exceed $20,000.00 to $200,000.00
    - Kinetic Physical Therapy and Wellness, Inc., for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount increased from not to exceed $900,000.00 to $1,800,000.00

    Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the contracts for AYA, for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.00; Dragonfly Vision, LLC, for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount not to exceed $90,000.00; Instructure, for a Mastery View Predictive Assessments, Item Bank, Desmos Tools and Master Connect subscription, in the amount of $142,725.13; Lexia, for renewal of PowerUp Literacy Student Subscription and Core5 Reading unlimited licenses with School Success Partnership Renewal, in the amount of $189,960.00; The Interpreter Network, for sign language interpreting services, in an amount increased from not to exceed $20,000.00 to $2,000,000.00; and Kinetic Physical Therapy and Wellness, Inc., for Exceptional Children contracted personnel, in an amount increased from not to exceed $900,000.00 to $1,800,000.00. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

B. Under North Carolina Alternative Schools' Accountability Model, WCS must identify and be approved to participate in the Alternative Schools' Accountability Model. Schools using Option B are included in the North Carolina Accountability Report and Every Student Succeeds Act. The Administration is requesting approval to participate in Option B for Daniels Learning Center. Option B is the Alternative Schools' Progress Model (ASPM), which Daniels participated in for the 2024-2025 school year. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen and Ms. Powell, that the Board approve Option B for Daniels Learning Center, Alternative Schools' Progress Model. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

C. Under Proficiency Summer School 2025, the Administration shared a plan for Proficiency Summer School 2025. Proficiency Summer School is a Board of Education approved opportunity for students who have not demonstrated proficiency on North Carolina End-of-Grade (EOG), End-of-Course (EOC), or NC EXTEND1 testing. Students receive additional instruction and then take the associated state test(s) again. The plan will serve all students who have not scored proficient on: EOG and NCEXTEND1 Grades 3-8 Math; EOG and NCEXTEND1 Grades 4-8 Reading (Grade 3 Reading EOG students will follow the Read to Achieve guidelines and attend Summer Reading Camp); EOC English 2, NC Math 1 and NC Math 3; and EXTEND1 Grade 10 English 2 and NC Math 1. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, Mr. Breen, Dr. Fitch and Mr. Batts, that the Board approve the revised Proficiency Summer School 2025. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

D. Under Revised Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements* - Second Reading, this policy is being revised by the law firm of Poyner Spruill, LLC, to comply with general statutes and align with the NCSBA policies. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell and Dr. Fitch, that the Board approve Revised Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

IX. 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 8:16 p.m., Dr. Fitch made the motion to reconvene to Open Session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, 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.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Breen, that the Board approve the Closed Session minutes of the March 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 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 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
April 14, 2025

Administrative

Recommendation	Site	Position	Previous Employment	Contract Date	Experience in Education
Mudd, Dr. Kelly Anne	Instructional Services	Director of Grants and Special Programs	Principal, Edgecombe County Schools	6/16/2025 - 6/30/2027	19 yrs.

Certified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Ash, William	Hunt HS	Career & Technical Education (CTE) Public Safety Teacher
Daniels, Xavier	Hunt HS	CTE Business Teacher
Morton, Karen	Vick ES	Part-Time School Social Worker

Classified

Recommendation	Site	Position
Andrews, Jessica	Transportation Services	Transportation Safety Assistant
Askew, Spencer	School Nutrition	Warehouse Clerk
Coleman, Alexius	Jones ES	NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant
Joyner, Bryson	Barnes ES	Exceptional Children (EC) Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
McAllister, Faith	Vick ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Kent, Jesse	Facility Services	Carpenter II
Smith, Michaelia	Beddingfield HS	EC Personal Care Assistant
Tedder, Bryan	Elm City MS	Custodian
Ward, Theola	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Williford, Kaitlyn	Speight MS	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver
Williams, Michael	Rock Ridge / Lucama ES	Custodian

Substitute Teachers

Recommendation	Position
Davenport, Jessica	Non-Certified
Farely, Ardella	Non-Certified
Jones, Ayasia	Non-Certified
McNair, Christie	Non-Certified
Sowell, Tatjana	Non-Certified
Spencer, Emma	Non-Certified
Wilson, Izaak	Non-Certified

Coaches

Recommendation	Site	Position
Battle, Amari	Beddingfield HS	Asst. Football
Knight, William	Beddingfield HS	Asst. Football
Powell, Cameron	Beddingfield HS	Asst. Football
Randolph, Quantavius	Beddingfield HS	Asst. Football

RESIGNATIONS/RETIREMENTS

Administrative

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Lane, Christine	Rock Ridge ES	Assistant Principal	Resignation	6/13/2025
Sage, Scott	Instructional Services	Executive Director of Accountability and Testing	Retirement	6/30/2025

Certified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
Blanton, Clifton	Elm City MS	8th Grade Math Teacher	Retirement	6/30/2025
Bowen, Leighann	Elm City MS	8th Grade Math Teacher	Resignation	6/30/2025
Ervin, Alicia	New Hope ES	EC Adapted Curriculum Teacher	Resignation	8/1/2025
Glover, Brittany	Forest Hills MS	6th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Resignation	5/12/2025
Heitt, Merriann	Forest Hills MS	EC Adapted Curriculum Teacher	Resignation	3/21/2025
Herrera, Elijah	Darden MS	8th Grade Social Studies Teacher	Resignation	3/20/2025
Kidd, Jeffrey	Hunt HS	Math Teacher	Retirement	6/30/2025
Lancaster, Crystal	Instructional Services	Academically & Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Specialist	Resignation	3/28/2025
Lankford, Elizabeth	Darden MS	6th Grade English Language Arts (ELA) Teacher	Resignation	6/11/2025
Leary, Emily	Daniels Learning Center	Elementary Intervention Teacher	Resignation	4/14/2025
Lentz, April	Elm City MS	6th Grade Math Teacher	Resignation	6/30/2025
Ortiz, Mary Melissa	Forest Hills MS	7th Grade Math Teacher	Resignation	6/30/2025
Stevens, Carlton	Darden MS	8th Grade ELA Teacher	Resignation	6/11/2025
Vincent, Kimberly	Beddingfield HS	School Counselor	Retirement	4/30/2025
Werline, Kathlene	Darden MS	English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher	Retirement	6/10/2025

Classified

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
James, Florence	Rock Ridge ES	Secretary/Bookkeeper	Retirement	6/30/2025
Johnson, Maritza	Springfield MS	Clerical Assistant/Receptionist	Retirement	7/31/2025
McCutcheon, Thomas	Transportation Services	Mechanic II	Resignation	4/23/2025

Classified (Continued)

Employee	Site	Position	Action	Effective Date
McNeil, John	Daniels Learning Center	Student Support Intervention Specialist	Resignation	4/3/2025
Parris, Amy	Forest Hills MS	Custodian	Resignation	3/28/2025
Perez, Rachel	Wells ES	Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Resignation	4/17/2025
Pulley, Terrance	Facility Services	Painter I	Resignation	4/11/2025
Roberts, Rosemary	New Hope ES	EC Teacher Assistant/Bus Driver	Retirement	6/30/2025
Simmons, Kimberly	Transportation Services	Transportation Safety Assistant	Resignation	3/20/2025
Taylor, Michael	Fike HS	Custodian	Resignation	4/9/2025