

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting
June 9, 2025

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on June 9, 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, Dr. Omega T. Perry, Mr. Randy M. Oxendine, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness and Mr. Jerry Stainback, School Board Attorney. Senior staff present were Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent, 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, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education and Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation

Mrs. Gooche called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the May 12, 2025 minutes was motioned by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mr. Oxendine, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

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

- CTE Local Application and the Personnel Addendum

Recognitions/Announcements

Distinguished Leadership Program

Dr. Shannon Bullock, principal at LB Yancey and Mrs. Regina Rainey, principal at Carver, completed the Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program that was a year-long program designed and provided by the NC Principals and Assistant Principals' Association.

Hunt State Policy Fellows Session

Dr. Michael Putney, principal at Dabney, was a speaker at the Hunt State Policy Fellows session in Raleigh NC. The Hunt State Policy Fellows program develops elected officials and policymakers into education-focused leaders. This bipartisan program equips local leaders in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina with critical insights into the challenges and opportunities in education and the spark needed to develop thoughtful policy positions. Dr. Putney shared his expertise on K-12 education.

SAVE Promise Club/Just U & Me Mentoring

Vance County students, Sophia Castorela, Demaria Williams, Thlaila Ragland and Anahi Carreno attended the National SAVE Conference in Philadelphia, PA on April 26, 2025 with adviser, Taylor Evans. Vance County is the most active chapter in the region. Just U & Me Mentoring program mentors' students from Carver and LB Yancey Elementary schools on Saturday mornings and the following students have served for three years.

Launtica Brown, Chelsea Evans, Juelz Holden, Kathrine Ayscue, Aiyanna Jones, Anahi Carreno, Nia Branch, Orquidia Martiniz, and Brianna Royster. Others who have mentored are Launtina Brown, Clinton Johnson, Na'Qviva Kearney and Jesus Romero.

Robotics Competition

Vance County Schools' RoboVance teams showcased their talents at the District Competition, with the top three finalists advancing to the BrickEd state competition in Salisbury, NC, on April 26. At the district level competition, which was held on April 5th, Carver Elementary, EM Rollins STEAM Academy, and Zeb Vance Elementary took the top three places.

Using LEGO Spike Prime kits and extensions, these teams programmed their robots to complete complex tasks on custom maps. The last event of the Finals is a mystery task that the teams have to engineer and code on the fly and Carver won by being the only team to score maximum points on this task. Carver Elementary earned a first-place finish, and EM Rollins STEAM Academy came in 4th. Thanks to RobVance coordinator, Stephen Jones and the dedicated staff who inspire our students to achieve success.

BETA Club – District of Distinction

The Board of Education honored the district being recognized as a National Beta District of Distinction. The district has received this honor for the last 7 years. This award is given to those deserving districts who offer National Beta in all schools in their district, and who induct qualifying students in all eligible grades (4-12). Vance County Schools is one of only 78 districts to receive this award nationwide.

Vance County High School Track

The Board of Education honored Vance County High student Clarence Debnam, who recently represented the Vipers at the NC High School Athletic Association state track meet, held at NC A&T University. Debnam won his heat and came in 6th place overall. He ran the 400-meter race in 49.64 seconds, which was a personal record. He will be attending the University of North Carolina at Greensboro in the fall.

Vance County Middle School (VCMS) Athletics

VCMS was honored by the Board of Education for their athletic accolades during the 2024-2025 school year. Head Coach, Mr. Michael Rice, shared that these achievements reflect the hard work, commitment, and growth of our student-athletes and coaches.

Fall Sports Records: Football (5-2), Boys Soccer (6-3), Volleyball (0-8)

Winter Sports Records: Boys Basketball (5-8), Girls Basketball (10-4), Wrestling (4-4)

MAC-10 Girls Basketball Conference Champions

MAC-10 Wrestling Conference Champions

Individual: Altrevin Burwell, Roman Rivera

Spring Sports Records: Baseball (1-5), Softball (1-6), Girls Track, Boys Track

MAC-10 Boys & Girls Track and Field Conference Champions

Comments from the Public - None

Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only.

Summer Programs

All summer programs for 2024-2025 will be maintained during the month of July. The first phase of credit recovery started last week and phase two will be held at Advance Academy and Vance Virtual Village Academy. Vance County High averages 200 students in attendance daily and the Read to Achieve Reading camp will begin next week with 248 students registered. MiCentro and the ESL summer camp will also start next week.

July School Board Meeting

Dr. Bennett shared that with the end-of-year close out, it is suggested that the July 14 board meeting be canceled.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Career and Technical Education Local Application

Dr. Ross-Putney shared that this plan is recommended for approval every year and this is the second year with no changes. All programs, services and activities administered through this local application will be in accord with the

CTE assurances listed in Part VI of the local application. The development of the application for state/federal funding for secondary career and technical education was coordinated by the director for CTE.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel

Mr. Oxendine shared information from the June 3, 2025 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
STEM	Leon Rattray	B/M	Custodian	6/09/25

II. RETIREMENT(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Maintenance	Joseph Norwood	W/M	Supervisor	5/30/25
Dabney	Dr. Michael Putney	B/M	Principal	8/01/25

III. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Tammy Johnson	W/F	Custodian	Career Change	6/06/25
VCMS	Mark Baldwin Jr.	B/M	Teacher Assistant	To continue education	5/19/25
VCMS	William Massenburg	B/M	Teacher	Career Change	5/19/25

IV. LEAVE(S) – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
VCMS	Teresa Pugh	B/F	FMLA	Receptionist	6/04/25-6/30/25
Clarke	Maya Gordon-Todd	B/F	Medical	Teacher	5/07/25-06/13/25
Dabney	Jessica Norwood	W/F	FMLA	Teacher	4/03/25-6/13/25
VCMS	Tassandra Cockburn	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	4/23/25-6/13/25

V. TRANSFER/PROMOTIONS(S) – For Information Only

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION/LOCATION		EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Nicholas Barrett	Art Teacher	Spark Lab Leader	CFI (VCHS)	8/18/25
CFI (VCHS)	Kristin Maxbauer	Spark Lab Leader	CFI Director	CFI	7/01/25

The district has 48 projected vacancies and the ESS substitute fill rate is 93%. The Educator of Excellence banquet was held on June 11, 2025 at the Henderson Country Club at 6 pm.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Finance

Mr. Suther shared information from the May 22, 2025 meeting on the contracts, large purchases and the amendments/transfers #4.

Contracts/Services and Large Purchases

EM Rollins & Pinkston Roofing Projects

ARS Extreme Construction will begin this summer using funding from Capital Outlay – NC Lottery Proceeds. \$290,289.00 for Pinkston and \$779,136.00 for EM Rollins for a total of \$1,033,050.00.

EM Rollins & Pinkston Maintenance Painting & VCHS Flooring Contracts

Kirkman Floors will top scrub/recoat floors and pressure wash the bathrooms at VCHS this summer for \$32,025.00 using Restart Funds. Production Painting will paint the interior of EM Rollins and Pinkston schools including walls, ceilings, doors, frames and cubbies. \$216,040.00 for EM Rollins and \$121,540.00 for Pinkston using Capital Outlay funds.

NCSBT EO/GL Renewal for 2025-2026

The NC School Boards Trust is offered to participating boards of education as an alternative to insurance for managing various risks. Additionally, NC School Board Association has various renewal agreements for next school year.

NC School Board Association (NCSBA)	Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (estimates)
Membership Dues	\$14,085
Legal Assistance Fund	\$1,500
Policy Updates	\$6,900
On-Line Webhosting	\$3,650
Action Center Contribution	\$3,000
ED Law Subscription	\$900
Subtotal NCSBA	\$30,035
NC School Board Trust (NCSBT) - E&O/General Liability	\$25,107 (actual)
Estimated: Annual Total NCSBA & NCSBT	\$55,142

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Contracts/Services and Large purchases.

Amendments and Transfers #4 for the Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Budget

This resolution reflects the budget amendment #4 for the district based on current revenue and requirements for fiscal year 2024-2025. The total appropriation for amendment #4 is \$91,645,074.00

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Budget Resolution # 4.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Hartness shared information from the May 22, 2025 meeting. Discussion was held regarding the Carver restroom renovation and was decided to table until the next meeting. The district will receive three new yellow buses through state replacement and several new drivers are in the onboarding process. The Greenhouse contractor will start installation this week and the Tiny house is in the permitting process with the City/County. The fuel tank has a leak that is housed at the Maintenance/Transportation department. Diesel tank replacement has been completed and cost \$135,000. There were 2,545 work orders completed.

Policy

Mr. Horner shared information from the May 22, 2025 meeting. The 9000 policy series – Fiscal Management had no changes. The 2025 Spring updates were presented and recommended for approval that had minor changes as punctuation and legal/cross references.

Policy Code: 1310/4002 Parental Involvement (Required)

Policy Code: 1510/4200/7270 School Safety (Required)

Policy Code: 1710/4020/7230 Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (Required)

Policy Code: 1720/4030/7235 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex (Required)

Policy Code: 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sex Discrimination Prohibited Conduct and Grievance Procedures (Rescind)

Policy Code: 1725/4035/7236 Title IX Sexual Harassment Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process (Required)

Policy Code: 1726/4036/7237 Title IX Sexual (Required)

Policy Code: 1735/4329/7311 Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited (Required)

Policy Code: 2302 Remote Participation in Board Meetings

Policy Code: 2342 Voting Methods (Required)
Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use (Required)
Policy Code: 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress
Policy Code: 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability (Required)
Policy Code: 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
Policy Code: 4023/7233 Pregnant and Parenting Students and Employees (Required)
Policy Code: 4040/7310 Staff-Student Relations (Required)
Policy Code: 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
Policy Code: 6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services (Required)
Policy Code: 6330 Insurance for Student Transportation
Policy Code: 7130 Licensure

Minor Changes

Policy Code: 1300 Governing Principle-Parental Involvement (Required)
Policy Code: 1500 Governing Principle-Safe Orderly, and Inviting Environment (Required)
Policy Code: 1600 Governing Principle-Professional Development (Required)
Policy Code: 1700 Governing Principle-Removal if Barriers (Required)
Policy Code: 1742/5060 Responding to Complaints (Required)
Policy Code: 1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation (Required)
Policy Code: 2500 Hearing Before the Board (Required)
Policy Code: 4331 Assaults and Threats (Required)
Policy Code: 7100 Recruitment and Selection of Personnel
Policy Code: 7335 Employee Use of Social Media (Required)
Policy Code: 7340 Employee Dress and Appearance
Policy Code: 7820 Personnel Files (Required)
Policy Code: 9210 Care and Maintenance of Grounds and Outdoor Equipment (Required)

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the 2025 Spring updates and tabled policy 3400.

Curriculum

Mrs. Lewis shared information from the May 22, 2025 meeting. In the month of April, 203 staff members earned CEUs that accounted for 545 contact hours. The 2024-2025 Mock Assessment data for grades 3-8 was presented. Teacher feedback showed a request for an increase of student exposure and stamina-building opportunities. No schools have a significant decline in performance and it was attributed to the Science Content Series all 5th and 8th grade teachers participated in with NC Elevate. Middle school grade-level comparison of ELA and Math mock EOG data was also shared. The district's 2024-2025 field trip report was shared showing 304 field trips were taken across the district, with the Center for Innovation being the most visited destination, followed by the Henderson YMCA. The furthest trip was to Langley Air Force Base in Hampton VA and October was the most active month with 64 trips taking place. Third – Fifth graders from Zeb Vance, Carver and EMR advanced from local competition to the state level. Carver earned 1st place and EMR secured 4th place at the BrickEd Domino Effect Robotics competition in Salisbury NC. Project Lead the Way provided a \$20,000 grant to support science implementation to Pinkston Street, LB Yancey and EMR. Each school lab is operated slightly differently but with a common goal of deepening student engagement in STEM. The continuation of the Restart reform model at VCHS and EMR was presented for approval.

Upon motion by Mrs. Lewis and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Restart Continuation plan.

Community & Business Relations

Mrs. Sandlin shared information from the May 22, 2025 meeting. Upcoming events are graduation ceremonies on May 23 and June 6 and the Educator of Excellence banquet on June 11. Information continues to be shared about 2025-2026 enrollment for Pre-K and other grades. Analytics indicate 588,671 views on the district's Facebook page, over 78,000 people engaged and nearly 11,000 interactions. The district has 9,107 followers. There were 146 requests for facility rentals this year and 193 approved school volunteers. Teacher of the year frames will be showcased above the teacher classroom door for next year. The communications and technology departments will be working together

through Title II compliance of Web Content Accessibility Guidelines that requires audits of the current digital content, updating websites and documents and training staff on the new guidelines. The YMCA is hosting all of the Safety Around Water programs and with the cell phone legislation, QR codes connected to instructional information are vetted.

New Business - None

Field Trip Request

Vance County Schools has been invited to participate in SparkNC's Exchange 2025, a multi-day experiential learning event for SparkNC students across the state. Students will be exposed hands-on, future-ready learning experiences and peer networking in a college environment. The trip is July 13-15 at UNC Wilmington.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the field trip request for Vance County Schools students to travel to UNC Wilmington NC on July 13-15, 2025 to attend the SparkNC Exchange 2025 Student Event.

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented four student release requests to transfer out of the district and six to transfer into the district.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the 10 transfer and release requests.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mrs. Gooche and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) 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 7:07 pm.

The Board returned to the open session at 7:39 p.m.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mrs. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, DOROTHY W. GOOCHE

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT