

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting
February 9, 2026

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on February 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Gloria J. White, Dr. Omega T. Perry, Mr. Randy M. Oxendine, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness, Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, 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. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations, and Dr. Stephanie Ayscue, Executive Director of Secondary Education. Mrs. Marsha Abbott, Chief Technology Officer and Mrs. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education were absent.

Mrs. Lewis 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 January 12 & 21, 2026 minutes was motioned by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mrs. Cobb, and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the agenda with additions.

- Public Comments
- School Calendar Revisions
- School Consolidation
- Personnel Addendum
- Transfers/Releases Revised

Recognitions/Announcements

Black History Month

February is Black History Month and Dr. Ross-Putney and Dr. Tim Hall shared that the district is highlighting the history in Social Studies with the theme of Connecting the Past with the Present in a host of traveling exhibits, student quotes and NC Voices. The traveling exhibit, Making Our Voices Heard: North Carolinians Fighting for Civil Rights, is part of North Carolina's America 250 initiative and highlights the stories of everyday North Carolinians who played important roles in the struggle for civil rights.

Love the Bus Month

During Love the Bus Week, February 9-13, district bus drivers were honored for their dedication, kindness, and professionalism in ensuring safe, reliable transportation. Mr. Perdue and Mr. Kevin Ross recognized drivers with perfect attendance and shared the proclamation. Buster the bus visited Carver Elementary promoting Love the Bus Month.

"Perfect Attendance"

Drivers: Rudolph Bates, Albert Bullock, Jacqueline Fields, Shirley Jones, Sheldon Purnell, Patricia Terry
Monitor: Linda Teague

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month

Dr. Ayscue and Dr. Elain Webb expressed appreciation to the Board members for their dedication and service to the students and staff of Vance County Schools by gifting cookies from the Culinary class. NC Department of Public Instruction announced historic gains in CTE during a statewide press conference, highlighting record credential attainment and strong alignment with workforce needs. North Carolina ranks second nationwide for K-12 CTE participation, with more than 36% of students enrolled in CTE courses. During the 2024–25 school year, students

earned a record 382,964 industry-recognized credentials, the highest total in state history. Below of NC Governor's proclamation.

School Counselor Appreciation Week

Mr. Horner shared that School Counselor Appreciation Week is February 2-6 and the district has sixteen counselors serving students and families. Counselors are the first to see when a student is struggling and the first to respond. Their work ensures that students are not only academically supported but emotionally and socially as well. They are essential leaders in the Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) as they collaborate with teachers, administrators and support staff to identify student needs. This work is data informed, student centered and deeply impactful. The 2026 theme is "**School Counselors Amplify Student Success**," highlighting their crucial role in academic, social-emotional, and career development. This week honors the essential, often behind-the-scenes, work counselors do for students.

Proclamation

Whereas, school counselors are employed in public and private schools to help students reach their full potential; and

Whereas, school counselors are actively committed to helping students explore their abilities, strengths, interests, and talents as these traits relate to career awareness and development; and

Whereas, school counselors help parents and guardians focus on ways to further education, personal, and social growth of their children; and

Whereas, school counselors work with teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set ambitious goals for themselves; and

Whereas, school counselors seek to identify and utilize community resources that can enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs and help students lead fulfilling and impactful lives; and

Whereas, comprehensive developmental school counseling programs are an integral part of the educational process that enable all students to achieve success in school;

Now, Therefore, I, Josh Stein, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 2 – 6, 2026, as "**National School Counseling Week**" in North Carolina and commend its observance to all residents.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-seventh day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-sixth and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and fiftieth.

Comments from the Public

Michele Duncan, Sharita Jones and Dorothy Wortham expressed the petition for supplement increases for certified and classified staff.

Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only. W-2s, and 1099s were issued this month.

NCDPI Certificates

Principals were recognized for receiving certificates from NC Department of Public Instruction.

Certificate of Achievement — 2024-2025 Outstanding Graduation Rate: VCEC - 95.6%

Exceeded Academic Growth - 2024-2025 School Year: Aycock, VCMS, EOY, Pinkston, VCEC

Academic Growth — 2024-2025 School Year: Carver, Clarke, New Hope, EM Rollins, AdVance Academy,
LB Yancey, STEM

School Calendar Revisions

Dr. Bennett shared that as the district focuses on hours lost during the snow and remote days used, there are a solid number of instructional hours above the 1025-hour requirement. However, it is recommended to extend the early-release day on Friday, February 13th, to a full day of instruction, and propose changing March 27th to a regular student day before spring break. This will add a level of security that keeps the district in compliance, even if another storm requires closures.

Approval of the School Calendar Revisions was motioned by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. White, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

School Consolidation

Vance County Schools leadership is recommending to the Board of Education that we consolidate New Hope Elementary with Dabney Elementary and Carver Elementary with EO Young Elementary. While this recommendation is driven by declining enrollment and funding challenges, our priority remains creating a stable, high-quality environment where every child can thrive. Both schools are underutilized, has high operational costs, and/or may need replacement due to its age and condition. Below is the timeline of the consolidation and closure of the facilities.

- January 2026: Students, staff, and community notified of the beginning of the consolidation discussion
- January 13, 2026: Meetings with staff at Carver & New Hope Elementary Schools
- January 20, 2026: Meetings with staff at Carver & New Hope Elementary Schools
- January 21, 2026: Consolidation Public Hearing
- January 2026: New Hope & Carver staff members receive priority for transferring to other school positions
- January 2026: New Hope & Carver students select their school of choice for the 26-27 academic year
- June 2026: School year ends
- June 30, 2026: New Hope and Carver close
- August 2026: Students and staff start at new schools

Approval of the School Consolidation was motioned by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Dr. Perry, with a unanimous (5-2) vote. Mrs. White and Mrs. Lewis abstained.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel

Mr. Oxendine shared information from the February 3, 2026 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Pinkston	Tanisha Terry	B/F	Teacher	01/26/26
Transportation	Lee Christine Williams	B/F	Bus Driver/Monitor	02/02/26

II. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
VCHS	Kenneth Northcutt Jr.	B/M	Band Director	01/30/26
Zeb Vance	Jennifer Rogers	WF	Art Teacher	02/20/26
Maintenance	Austin Edwards	W/M	Roofer	02/13/26

III. LEAVE(S) – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Dabney	Eric Watkins	B/M	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	01/05/26-03/30/26
EO Young	Latessa Wilkerson	B/F	FMLA	Teacher Assistant	12/15/25-02/27/26
VCMS	Sallie Nelson	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	12/15/25-02/16/26
ASC Wake Co.	Natalie Ricks	W/F	FMLA	Early Literacy Specialist	04/21/26-05/08/26

***Note:** Extended Medical Leave does not qualify as FMLA.

IV. SUBSTITUTE(S)

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
L.B. Yancey	Brunnetta Shearin	B/F	EC Certified Substitute	02/09/26

The district has 30.5 projected vacancies. Three schools recorded fewer than five absences during the reporting period of January 1-26 are New Hope, STEM and VCMS.

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 the Waite Psychological and Aya Healthcare Contracts.

As of the date, one candidate applied for the psychologist position within the district but later declined. This had made the district rely more heavily on contract providers. Ceasing the assessments completed between March and June has caused an influx of assessments that needed to be completed in July, August and September and there were a number of preschool referral meetings conducted in July that required assessments, which created approximately 53 referrals for 2024-2025. This prompts the \$30,000 request to increase the current contract cap from \$120,000 to \$150,000 to ensure continuity of services.

Evaluations Requested 2024-2025: 45

Re-evaluations 2025-2026: 188 potential

Evaluations requested 2025-2026: 67

Upon motion by Mrs. Cobb and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the \$30,000 contract increase for Waite Psychological.

AYA Healthcare

As of the date, one candidate was recommended for the Autism position at Clarke but declined the offer. AYA Healthcare can provide a contract employee for an hourly rate range from \$75-\$86 per hour for a 37.5 work week to equal between \$2,812.50 -\$3,225.00. Funds allocated for this new contractor will be redistributed from the current provider and additionally, no new funds are needed to support this position.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the AYA Healthcare contract.

Other Financial Required Items:

Amendment #1 Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

The total amended appropriation is \$82,932,742. This is an increase of \$2,710,190 from this year's Initial Budget Resolution. Of the Local County Appropriation, currently 33% is restricted for Charter Schools. This is an increase from previous years of 30%. The amended budget resolution for the current year does not require an appropriation from general fund balance at this time. District leaders have been told to keep spending levels at an appropriate level for necessary items and we have put in place other controls. The district is working as hard as possible to not use fund balance and will continue to closely monitor funding as the year progresses. All purchase orders for the year must be encumbered by February 27 so that finance staff can start the year end process. The majority of the funds allocated by the Board are for Instructional Program purposes. As is common with all school district budgets, the majority of the funds are used for Salaries and Benefits. The state budget dictates the rates for salaries and benefits and has mandated a minimum pay of \$15 per hour. We are budgeting the retirement rate at 24.67% and the hospitalization rate per person is \$8,500. These are increases from the previous year. Even though a state budget has not been formally passed at this time and we do not expect one this fiscal year, during one of the mini-budget bills, benefit rates were officially increased to this new percentage and dollar amount. It is to be noted at this time that the state did not fund the increases otherwise known as unfunded mandates.

Vance County Schools								
Amendment #1 Budget Resolution - Fiscal Year 2025-2026								
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Education of the Vance County Public Schools:								
		<u>INITIAL</u> <u>BUDGET</u>		<u>Amendment</u> <u>Thru 1.15.26</u>	<u>Amendments</u> <u>Thru _____</u>	<u>Amendments</u> <u>Thru _____</u>	<u>Final</u> <u>Amendment</u>	<u>Final Budget</u>

Section 1: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the **State Public School Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

State Fund Expenditures								
5000	Instructional Program Funds	46,837,079	89.2%	356,045				47,193,124
6000	Support Services Program Funds:	5,694,297	10.8%	620,311				6,314,608
7000	Ancillary Services		0.0%					0
8000	Non-Programmed Charges		0.0%					0
	Total State Funds Appropriation	52,531,376	100.0%	976,356	0	0	0	53,507,732

Section 2: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the **State Public School Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

State Revenues:								
3100	State Public School Fund	51,950,952	98.9%	961,802				52,912,754
3100-12	Driver Training	148,401	0.3%	784				149,185
3100-15	School Technology Fund	165,511	0.3%	13,770				179,281
3100-CRF	COVID Relief FUNDS (ALL CRF PRCs)		0.0%					0
3200	State Textbook Fund	266,512	0.5%					266,512
Fund 1	Total State Public School Fund Revenue	52,531,376	100.0%	976,356	0	0	0	53,507,732

Section 3: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the **Local Current Expense Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Local Current Expense Funds:								
5000	Instructional Program Funds	2,020,095	19.3%	53,099				2,073,194
6000	Support Services Program Funds:	4,898,077	46.8%	250,280				5,148,357
7000	Ancillary Services	3,500	0.0%	36,522				40,022
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	3,534,327	33.8%					3,534,327
	Total Current Expense Appropriation	10,455,999	100.0%	339,901	0	0	0	10,795,900

Section 4: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the **Local Current Expense Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Local Revenues:								
	County Appropriation -VCS	10,455,999	100.0%	17,019				10,473,018
	Fines & Forfeitures & Misc. Rev		0.0%	322,882				322,882
	Fund Balance Appropriated		0.0%					0
Fund 2	Total Local Current Expense Revenues:	10,455,999	100.0%	339,901	0	0	0	10,795,900

Section 5: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the **Federal Grants Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Federal Funds Expenditures								
5000	Instructional Program Funds	6,388,270	81.7%	361,291				6,749,561
6000	Support Services Program Funds:	607,585	7.8%	270,377				877,962
7000	Ancillary Services		0.0%					0
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	823,442	10.5%	147,023				970,465
	Total Federal Grants Fund Appropriation	7,819,297	100.0%	778,691	0	0	0	8,597,988

Section 6: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the **Federal Grants Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Federal Grant Funds Revenue								
17	Career Technical Education - Prog Improv	203,101	2.6%	18,487				221,588
49	IDEA Title VI-B Preschool Handicapped	61,878	0.8%	56,155				118,033
50	ESEA Title I - Basic Program	4,656,385	59.5%	37,127				4,693,512
51	ESEA Title I - Migrant Education		0.0%					0
59				25,374				25,374
53	School Nutrition Equipment Grants		0.0%					0
60	IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped	1,592,375	20.4%	6,227				1,598,602
70	IDEA Title VI-B Early Intervening Services	274,832	3.5%					274,832
82	IDEA Title VI-B State Improvement Grant	19,239	0.2%					19,239
103	Title II - Improving Teacher Quality	523,159	6.7%	21,974				545,133
104/111	Title III - Language Acquisition/Sig Inc	176,800	2.3%	4,571				181,371
105	ESEA Title I - School Improvement	254	0.0%	278,012				278,266
108	ESEA Title IV - Student Support	230,707	3.0%	82				230,789
109	Rural & Low-Income Schools	11,940	0.2%	330,682				342,622
110	21st Century Grant		0.0%					0
115	ESEA Title I - Targeted Support		0.0%					0
118/119	IDEA Title VI-B - Special Needs Targeted	17,180	0.2%					17,180
145	Stronger Connections	51,447	0.7%					51,447
163	ESSER 1.0 - Primary Funding		0.0%					0
165-170	ESSER 1.0 - Supplement Grants		0.0%					0
171	ESSER 2.0 - Primary Funding		0.0%					0
172-180	ESSER 2.0 - Supplemental Grants		0.0%					0
181	ESSER 3.0 - Primary Funding		0.0%					0
184-206	ESSER 3.0 - Supplemental Grants		0.0%					0
Fund 3	Total Federal Grants Funds Revenues	7,819,297	100.0%	778,691	0	0	0	8,597,988

Section 7: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the **Child Nutrition Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Child Nutrition Fund Expenses								
7200	Nutrition Services	5,049,600						5,049,600
	Total Child Nutrition Fund Appropriation	5,049,600	100.0%	0	0	0	0	5,049,600

Section 8: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the **Child Nutrition Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Child Nutrition Revenues								
	State Funds		0.0%					0
	Local Funds		0.0%					0
	Federal Funds	5,049,600	100.0%					5,049,600
	Fund Balance Appropriated		0.0%					0

Fund 5	Total Child Nutrition Fund Revenue	5,049,600	100.0%	0	0	0	0	5,049,600
Section 9: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the Other Specific Revenue Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:								
Other Restricted Expenses								
5000	Instructional Program Funds	2,494,529	77.6%	410,413				2,904,942
6000	Support Services Program Funds:	320,565	10.0%	90,117				410,682
7000	Ancillary Services		0.0%					0
8000	Non-Programmed Charges	398,795	12.4%					398,795
	Total Other Restricted Fund Appropriation	3,213,889	100.0%	500,530	0	0	0	3,714,419
Section 10: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Other Specific Revenue Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:								
Other Restricted Revenues								
4110	Local Revenue -Restricted by County	1,193,000	37.1%					1,193,000
3200	Other State Revenue	1,047,567	32.6%	327,102				1,374,669
37xx/38xx	Other Federal Revenues (E-Rate, Medicaid, ROTC, misc.)	200,000	6.2%	24,156				224,156
4210	Tuition & Fees	34,000	1.1%	3,990				37,990
44xx/4910	Contributions/Misc. Revenues	306,341	9.5%	56,627				362,968
4840	Insurance Proceeds			10,049				10,049
4880	Indirect Cost Revenue	128,000	4.0%					128,000
4890	Grant Revenues	304,981	9.5%	78,606				383,587
	Fund Balances Appropriated		0.0%					0
Fund 8	Total Other Restricted Fund Revenues	3,213,889	100.0%	500,530	0	0	0	3,714,419
Section 11: The following amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the public schools in the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:								
Capital Outlay Expenses								
Category I (Land & Buildings)								
	General Supplies & Materials	100,000						100,000
	General Contracts	50,000						50,000
	HVAC/Boilers							0
	Electrical							0
	Plumbing/Sewer							0
	Architects Fees							0
	Carpentry/Roofing	21,000						21,000
	Other/General Maintenance	130,000						130,000
	Improvements to Sites & Paving	224,000						224,000
	Contingency/Unbudgeted							0
	Total Category I Projects	525,000	45.6%	0	0	0	0	525,000
Category II (Furniture & Equipment)								

	Technology Upgrades - Computer Devices	437,677						437,677
	General Furniture & Equipment							0
	Reserve - Not Designated							0
	Total Category II Projects	437,677	38.0%	0	0	0	0	437,677
Category III (Motor Vehicles)								
	Activity Bus Replacement							0
	Yellow Bus Replacement (State)	114,714		114,712				229,426
	Maintenance Vehicles	75,000						75,000
	Reserve - Not Designated							0
	Total Category III Projects	189,714	16.5%	114,712	0	0	0	304,426
	Total Capital Fund Appropriation	1,152,391	100.0%	114,712	0	0	0	1,267,103

Section 12: The following revenues are estimated to be available to the **Capital Outlay Fund** for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026:

Capital Outlay Revenues								
	County Appropriation	850,000	73.8%					850,000
	County Funding - CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) Carryover		0.0%					0
	State Funds (School Bus Purchases)	114,714	10.0%	114,712				229,426
	Other Financing Sources		0.0%					0
	Fund Balance Appropriated (PY Bal fund 4)	187,677	16.3%					187,677
Fund 4	Total Capital Outlay Revenues	1,152,391	100.0%	114,712	0	0	0	1,267,103

In summary, the following funding amounts are hereby appropriated for the operation of the Vance County Public Schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

Fund 1	State Public School Fund	52,531,376	65.5%	976,356	0	0	0	53,507,732
Fund 2	Local Current Expense Fund	10,455,999	13.0%	339,901	0	0	0	10,795,900
Fund 3	Federal Grants Fund	7,819,297	9.7%	778,691	0	0	0	8,597,988
Fund 4	Capital Outlay Fund	1,152,391	1.4%	114,712	0	0	0	1,267,103
Fund 5	Child Nutrition Fund	5,049,600	6.3%	0	0	0	0	5,049,600
Fund 8	Other Restricted Fund	3,213,889	4.0%	500,530	0	0	0	3,714,419
	Total Appropriation for Vance County Schools	80,222,552	100.0%	2,710,190	0	0	0	82,932,742

Section 13: All appropriations shall be paid first from revenues restricted as to use, and second from general unrestricted revenues.

Section 14: The Superintendent is hereby authorized to transfer appropriations within a fund under the following conditions:

	A. Amounts transferred between functions and sub-functions and objects of expenditures within a function without limitations and without a report to the Board of Education being required.
	B. Amounts may be transferred not to exceed 25% between functions of the same fund with a report and approval on such transfers being required of the Board of Education.
	C. Amounts may not be transferred between funds nor from any contingency appropriations within a fund.
	D. In addition the Board authorizes the Superintendent to fully maximize its resources and allows for the further amendment of revenues and expenditures by program report code as may be needed to meet those goals. Further should NCDPI, the State, or the Federal governments release additional CRF/COVID/CARES Revenues/Funding prior to the Board next approval of a budget amendment, the Superintendent has approval to use those resources for the benefit of the district and in accordance with any NC State Board of Education Policies, and/or State or Federal legislation/policies.

Section 15: Copies of the Budget Resolution shall be immediately furnished to the Superintendent and school Finance Officer for direction in carrying out their duties.

Adopted by the Vance County Board of Education, this the 9th day of February, 2026

By:									
	Chair, of the Board of Education								
By:									
	Superintendent								

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved Amendment #1 Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2025-2026.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Hartness shared information from the January 22, 2026 meeting. EMR's roofing is 99% complete and the engineer is designing a roof replacement for VCMS. The annual fleet inspection was completed and the district's score was 53.83. The score dropped due to a couple of buses not scoring as well as in the past. Duke Energy has completed the new route of supplying power to Dabney which will give the school more reliable power during storms. NCDEQ conducted a compliance evaluation on EO Young's waste water plant and no issues were noted. The department completed 1,731 work orders for the month.

Policy

Mr. Horner shared information from the January 22, 2026 meeting. The 6000 Policy Series – Support Services had no changes. The Fall Custom Minor Updates were presented and recommended to accept the changes.

Fall Custom Minor Updates

Policy Code: 1600 Governing Principle - Professional Development

Policy Code: 2127 Board Member Technology

Policy Code: 2302 Remote Participation in Board Meetings

Policy Code: 3227-7322 Web Page Development

Policy Code: 4130 Discretionary Admission

Policy Code: 4150 School Assignment

Policy Code: 4152 Unsafe School Choice Transfer

Policy Code: 4240 Child Abuse-Reports and Investigations

Policy Code: 7425 School Administrator Contracts

Policy Code: 7910 Retirement

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Fall Custom Minor Updates.

Curriculum

Dr. Ross-Putney shared information from the January 22, 2026 meeting. A total of 155 contact hours were logged with 60 staff members earning CEU credits for the month of December. An overview of AdVance Academy's learning experiences was highlighted showing expanded opportunities beyond classroom instruction. Students have opportunities to explore their interests and passions through audio-visual production, podcasting, and hands-on STEM and computer science applications. These learning opportunities were developed in response to recommendations from the school's Cognia Accreditation process. Teachers work with students weekly to support resume development and essential life skills to prepare them for future academic, career and personal success. The proposed 2026-2027 school calendars were presented noting that there are 215 employee workdays and 176 instructional days for students. An update on the VCHS Restart Application was shared with goals to increase student achievement and growth, improved instructional quality, a reduction in the reliance on virtual recovery, improvements in attendance and school climate and a stronger data-driven decision-making process. The Technology department completed 566 work orders for the month.

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

Community & Business Relations

Mrs. Gooche shared information from the January 22, 2026 meeting. Recent events were shared and upcoming events are below. Innovative School Application opens February 2-27 with opportunities for families to visit school campuses on January 28 and February 4. The team is working on digitizing Historical Archives and have shared hundreds of photos on Facebook monthly. Vance County Schools is a Blue-Ribbon Awards recipient through the NC School Public Relations Association.

February 12 – ESL Family Engagement Night

February 27 – Tiny House Opening

February 28 – New Hope and Dabney’s Student Spotlight

PreK and Kindergarten Marketing enrollment is ongoing for the 2026-2027 school year

New Business - None

Field Trip Request – None

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented nine requests to transfer into the district and four to be released from the district.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the thirteen transfer/release requests.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mrs. Lewis 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 6:58 pm.

The Board returned to the open session at 7:34 p.m.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Gooche, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:34p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, AYANA F. LEWIS

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT