

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in virtual session on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 at 8:30 am with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Carrie Sutton, Nathan Warfel, Judy Musgrave, Charles McKellar and Donna Vann.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly, Associate Superintendents, Ron Phipps, Betty Musselwhite, Lindsay Whitley, Mary Black, Ruben Reyes, Stacey Wilson-Norman, and Clyde Locklear; Board Attorney Nick Sojka.

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Mr. West wished everyone a Happy New Year called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

1.02 CONSIDER a Motion pursuant to Board Policy Codes 2300 and 2450, effective for this meeting only, to waive any requirements that board members participate in the meeting in-person, and to ratify and formally adopt the virtual meeting format described in the Meeting Notice. Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Susan Williams, the board members unanimously approved item 1.02.

2. RECOGNITIONS

The Board recognized Rebecca Criste as a NC Finalist for Presidential Award for Excellence

The Board recognized the following individuals for Heroic and Lifesaving Action to save the life of a Jack Britt student during a Cross Country event in Moore County:
Frank Sanchez, Morgan Krout, Bob Curtin, John Buchholz, Mike Devine and Tami Devine

3. Superintendent's Update / District Highlights - Dr. Marvin Connelly

3.01 Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly provided the following update on where we are with managing the impact of COVID-19 on CCS.

Number of Positive CCS cases from the day we left for winter break December 18th

Dec 18-24: 11 positives and 10 staff members quarantined

Dec 25-31: 12 positives and 10 staff members quarantined

January 1 – 7: 75 positives and 76 quarantined

We have significant concerns with the number of CNS staff members who have tested positive as well as the number of classroom teachers who have tested positive or have had to be quarantined. At the November 13th Board meeting, the Board approved students returning in January if the metrics support a

return. As all of us know, the metrics are very high at this time. We have continued to monitor the metrics daily for community spread as well as the number of positive cases of COVID-19 among CCS students and staff members. As a reminder, we are monitoring several metrics and factors that impact our transition from Plan C to Plan B. Along with the medical metrics, we have considered the impact on student academic success, students' social and emotional success, staff wellness and the ability to staff classrooms upon our return.

As a reminder, the four overall metrics that we have been monitoring are:

- Case positivity – 15.20% (goal of 5-7%)
- Daily new cases per capita (100k) 14 day decline
- Rate of Acceleration - < 7 days (goal 14 day)
- Active clusters – 0

Other non-scored metrics: Hospitalizations, ability of students and staff to adhere to the current guidelines, contact tracing and turn around, and staff readiness in terms of the buildings being prepared

Considering all of these things and after much analysis, review, and discussion with my cabinet I am adjusting the return plan as follows:

We are working with Dr. Green and Cumberland County Health Department to provide the opportunity for all CCS staff to get vaccinated. As you may be aware, all educators, including Board members, are considered essential workers and have been prioritized for the vaccine in Phase 1B Group 1 and Group 2. Those educators who are age 50 or above are in group 1, and all others are in group 2. Dr. Green feels confident that they will begin to vaccinate educators the last week of January. By the first of March, all educators should have the opportunity to get vaccinated.

With this in mind, and given the high and concerning COVID-19 metrics currently present in our community, we are adjusting the face-to-face learning timeline in response to those metrics, and in order to align the anticipated return with the planned vaccination schedule. Therefore, we will begin the cohort AA/BB reentry at the end of this quarter. EOC testing will be March 8-11 and the first cohorts will return on March 15th at the beginning of the 4th quarter. This will give us a solid 3 weeks in person prior to Spring Break. Of course, the year-round schools' timeline is slightly different since they return on April 12th. Hopefully, we will experience success during this time period and staff and students will prove that they can follow the guidelines, and we won't have COVID-19 spread within the school setting as the research suggests.

Additionally, we anticipate that during the next few weeks, the case positivity rates will decrease the further we get from the holidays and the impact. If for some reason at that time the metrics are still too high, certainly, the BOE could direct us differently. If that is the case, we will implement the will of the Board. Additionally, if there is a different path that the Board would like for us to take at this time, we will respond accordingly.

We truly appreciate the tireless patience of all of our students, families, and staff during the global pandemic. We also thank the essential staff who continued to provide onsite support with food, technology, delivery of goods, building maintenance, and security during the quarantine period.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

We had 34 submissions for Public Comment this morning. Pete Horne and Betty Musselwhite read aloud submissions until the 30 minute period expired. All submissions were shared with the Board in writing. Submissions were submitted from:

Michelle Hallas	Sara Self	Tracee Moore	Pat Moore
Michael Diago	Bernice Brown	Proszy Sellarz	Hailey Smith-Williams
Michelle Harris	Amanda Fitzgerald	Melissa Elias	Deedee Harris
LaShonda Underwood	David Reeds	Jessica Legette	Jennifer Thorn
Debbie Reynolds	Judy Cote	Harold Moore	Sharmon Thompson
Meagan Kramer	Michelle Martinez	Steve Hallas	Kelley Williams
Rochelle Bullock	Jackie O'Conner	Bobbi Jones	Anna Haley
Mark Jones	Iris Campbell	Kim Molnar	Stephanie Klootwyk
Wendy Scruggs	Kelli Canady		

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Nathan Warfel, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda.

6. APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA.

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the November 13, 2020 Special Board meeting and the December 8, 2020 Regular Board Meeting

6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee

6.03 CONSIDER Approval of Leaves of Absence and Special Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Personnel Committee

6.04 CONSIDER Approval of Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee

6.05 CONSIDER Approval of Bid/Purchase Contract Lenovo All-in-One Desktop Computers as recommended by the Finance Committee

6.06 CONSIDER Approval of Resolution: Support myFutureNC Attainment Goal as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

6.07 Consider Approval of Policy 5020 - Visitors to Schools, Policy 5030 - Community Use of Facilities, Policy 7510 - Leave as recommended by the Policy Committee (First Reading)

6.08 Consider Approval of Revised Policies (1510/4200/7270 School Safety, 2342 Voting Methods, 3300 School Calendar and Time for Learning, 4400 Attendance, 6305 Safety and Student Transportation Services) (Second Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee

7. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report – Charles McKellar

8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Student Support Services Committee Report – Susan Williams

9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report – Greg West

9.01 RECEIVE Annual Audit Report

April Adams and Linda Suggs from Cherry Bekaert provided the Board with the Annual Audit Report. Their summary concluded with a clean opinion, good internal controls and no significant deficiencies identified.

Carrie Sutton made a motion to accept the Audit Report. Charles McKellar seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report – Deanna Jones

11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report – Donna Vann

12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report - Carrie Sutton

13. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report – Nathan Warfel

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

15. CLOSING ITEMS

15.01 Chairman's Update

On behalf of this Board of Education, we continue to thank our tremendous premier professionals and the supportive families and committed community for their support in these uncertain times.

Our schools and Central Services will be closed in January 18th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr holiday.

We appreciate your attendance at today's virtual meeting. Our next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on February 9, 2021 and we look forward to being with you again in February.

15.02 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:36 AM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent