

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in-person and virtual on Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 6:30 PM with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Nathan Warfel, Charles McKellar and Donna Vann. Judy Musgrave and Carrie Sutton participated by virtual session.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly and Board Attorney Nick Sojka. Associate Superintendents participated both virtual and in-person when needed: Ron Phipps, Betty Musselwhite, Joe Desormeaux, Lindsay Whitley, Mary Black, Ruben Reyes, Stacey Wilson-Norman, and Clyde Locklear.

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Mrs. Chisolm called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charles McKellar and the Invocation by Susan Williams.

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 as read.

2. RECOGNITION

2.01 The Board Recognized Ms. Jennifer Senter – NC AGT Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted (6-12)

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

3.01 Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly began by sharing observances during the month of April:
Month of the Military Child

Child Abuse Prevention Month

Next, Dr. Connelly provided an update on Plan A. We successfully transitioned to “Plan A” this week. Around 61 percent of CCS students are enrolled in the in-person learning option, while 39 percent of them have remained remote learners. Our premier professionals have worked diligently to accommodate the learning options selected by families and continue to provide high-quality learning experiences for our students. Similar to school districts across the state and nation, our schools are navigating through some staffing challenges related to quarantines and resignations. However, our premier professionals have been resilient and have deployed a variety of strategies that were built into their reopening plans to address these challenges. As we prepare to close out this current school year and begin planning for the fall, we are in close contact with local and state officials to stay abreast of health and safety protocols that may impact our back-to-school plans in the fall.

This week, our leadership team attended a webinar with staff from DPI to learn more about ESSER funds, including the required back-to-school plan that each district must submit as part of the planning process for ESSER III funds.

At this time, one change we foresee is the elimination of Wellness Wednesdays when we return this fall, allowing students to attend school for in-person learning five days each week.

Another anticipated change is the virtual learning option for students. In the fall, we do not plan to offer a full-time virtual learning option at every school. We will allow families who want their children to remain virtual to enroll in one of our Cumberland Academies. I will continue to keep the Board updated as we work through the planning process. Of course, the safety of our students and staff remains our top priority, while we also work to transition back to our normal school operations.

In closing, Dr. Connelly shared his deep appreciation for the continued leadership of our Board as we navigate through this school year.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

We received no speakers for Public Comment this evening.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Greg West, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda.

6. APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA.

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Greg West, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Regular Board Meeting and the March 16, 2021 Special Board Meeting

6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Student Release List (Students approved to attend school outside of Cumberland County)

6.03 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee

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

6.05 CONSIDER Approval of Memorandum of Agreement: FTCC, Cumberland County Board of Education and Cumberland Polytechnic High School as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

6.06 CONSIDER Approval of the Cooperative Innovative High School Renewal Form (CIHS) as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

6.07 CONSIDER Approval of Memorandum of Agreement: Career and College Promise Program (Non-CIHS) as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

- 6.08 CONSIDER Approval of School Calendars for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 as recommended by the Curriculum Committee
- 6.09 CONSIDER Approval of Vanstory Elementary School Pipe Replacement Project as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee
- 6.10 CONSIDER Approval of the Brady Chiller Service Contract Proposal as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee
- 6.11 CONSIDER Approval of the South View Middle HVAC Replacement Project as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee
- 6.12 CONSIDER Approval of 2021 National Child Abuse Prevention Month Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee
- 6.13 CONSIDER Approval of 2021 CCS Month of the Military Child Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee
- 6.14 CONSIDER Approval of Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 6.15 CONSIDER Approval of Bid Awards as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 6.16 Consider Approval of Policy Revisions (7): 1320/3560, 1740/4010, 1742/5060, 1750/7220, 1760/7280, 3101, 3102 (First 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 CONSIDER Discussion / Approval of Superintendent's Budget Proposal for FY 2022

Mrs. Musgrave asked about the percent of increases and how this relates to what we are asking of the county. Additionally, Mrs. Musgrave asked about specific needs for low performing schools. Dr. Connelly and Mr. Locklear provided clarification and input. Mr. McKellar shared his thoughts that we are not where we need to be with this budget, again, specifically how we are addressing low performing schools. Mrs. Williams suggested that everyone study the business cases provided. The business cases explain expected impact, benefits and summary descriptions.

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board approved the Superintendent's Budget Proposal for FY 2022 by the following vote:

In favor: Chisolm, West, Sutton, Vann, Warfel and Williams

Against: Jones, McKellar and Musgrave

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

Before tonight’s meeting, Mrs. Chisolm, Mr. West, Mr. Warfel, Dr. Connelly and Mr. Sojka met virtually with members of our local delegation. Mr. Warfel stated that the group had a great discussion and asked our delegation for school calendar flexibility. Mr. Warfel made a motion for to allow the Legislative Committee to meet with our local delegation to discuss proposed legislation that may affect Cumberland County Schools. Donna Vann seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved.

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

15. CLOSING ITEMS

15.01 Board members update:

Mr. West shared that he respects the vote on the Superintendent’s Budget Proposal; however, we cannot complete our goals without money. Ms. Sutton added that Board members should respect one another.

15.02 Chairman's Update

On behalf of the Board, Mrs. Chisolm thanked all employees for their tireless effort to open our schools.

Additionally Mrs. Chisolm stated, we want everyone to be healthy and vigilant in their efforts to combat this virus. Let’s all remember to wear our masks and maintain social distancing. We're all in this together and want to do everything we can to help lead our community into a healthier tomorrow.

Our next regular Board Meeting will be held on May 11, 2021. We look forward to being with you again in May.

15.02 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent