

The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 6:00 PM with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Carrie Sutton, Nathan Warfel, Charles McKellar, Judy Musgrave and Donna Vann.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly and Board Attorney Nick Sojka. Associate Superintendents: 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 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Donna Vann and the Invocation by Alicia Chisolm.

**1.02** CONSIDER a Motion pursuant to Board Policy Code 2300, effective for today's meeting and for future board meetings, committee meetings, and hearings, to confirm that board members must participate in those meetings in-person at the Board's principal office, as required by Board policy.

Susan Williams made a motion to approve item 1.02. Donna Vann seconded the motion and the motion was approved by the following vote:

Voting in favor: Chisolm, West, Vann, Warfel and Williams

Voting against: Jones, McKellar, Musgrave and Sutton

**2. RECOGNITION**

**2.01** The Board Recognized Nicole Rivers as the 2021 Sandhills Region Teacher of the Year

**2.02** The Board Recognized Suzanne Owens as the 2021 Sandhills Region Principal of the Year and 2021 NCPAPA Elementary Principal of the Year

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

**3.01** Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly began his comments by sharing his excitement for the Great Comeback.

As we prepare for the Great Comeback, we have the opportunity of a lifetime to reignite our students' passion for learning, reimagine learning opportunities, refocus on raising student achievement, and restore a sense of normalcy in the lives of our students and staff. The preparation for a successful school year started over the summer. Our 6-week Traditional CCS RISE Summer Learning program concluded on July 29th, which included Academic Intervention and Acceleration for All. Over 1,000 K-12 registered to participate in Acceleration for All, the virtual learning enrichment component to receive additional resources to accelerate their learning. Our 8-week Year-Round RISE program begins this week August 10, 2021 and it will focus on Academic Intervention, providing after-school and intersession activities. CCS RISE 2021! will conclude on September 30, 2021.

Last week, district and school leaders attended the Back-to-School Leadership meeting at the Educational Resource Center and wrapped up the day with a cookout! It was a tremendous time of learning, fellowship and renewal for our leaders. We also have a full slate of in-person professional development sessions taking place across the district for teachers and staff.

166 new beginning teachers are in place and ready to serve our students. To help fill teacher and staff vacancies, we are taking our employment opportunities into the community. We successfully hosted four Rolling' Recruitment events across the county to make it easy and convenient for applicants to learn more about employment opportunities in our district. And it has paid off – 228 individuals attended the events over the four days.

We are eagerly awaiting the arrival of our traditional school students on August 23. I recently reflected over the tremendous work that has been done over the past three years, and it is truly amazing what we have accomplished as a team – Board members, educators and staff, students, families and community partners.

We've seen some dark, challenging times, but we are Cumberland Strong and continue to persevere. As a district, we recently compiled noteworthy recognitions and awards that schools and district departments have received over the past three years. Based on submissions from schools and departments, we have received a total of 782 Athletics, Grant, State and National Awards. As I reviewed the full list of accolades received by our district over the years at various levels, it was nothing short of amazing. From regional educators of the year to sizeable grant awards and other noteworthy recognitions, I am thankful to our educators and staff as well as the community at large for their work on behalf of our students. And the journey continues.

We are returning with a laser focus on unfinished learning and new learning opportunities. And we're not starting from scratch – we're building upon a solid foundation of excellence in education. We're also focusing on social-emotional learning and the well-being of our students and staff to ensure that everyone returns "whole" and is supported as we all recover from COVID-19. I believe in our students, educators and staff, and I know that our committed community will continue to rally behind us.

Dr. Connelly closed his comments with a video highlighting some of our premier professionals, successful students and engaged parents – they are ready for the Great Comeback.

#### **4. PUBLIC FORUM**

We received nine speakers for Public Comment this evening:

Susan Brown	Rebecca Pedigo	Neil Buie
Jessica VanHoozer	Jeremy Hester	Cindy Brent
Heather Kaiser	Heather Middlebrooks	Christin Porter

#### **5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Deanna Jones, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda.

**6. SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION**

**6.01 CONSIDER Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for COVID-19**

Masking Protocol in all Cumberland County Pre-K through Twelfth Grade Schools and Facilities

After much discussion, Donna Vann made a motion to approve the Superintendent's Recommendation for COVID-19 Masking Protocol. Carrie Sutton seconded the motion and the Board unanimously approved. Mr. West asked for better clarification of the masking requirements for athletes and outdoor activities. Additionally, Shirley Bolden clarified questions regarding the COVID testing in schools as an 'opt-in' for parents to have their children tested.

**7. APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Charles McKellar, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda. With the exception of item 7.03. Item 7.03 will be voted on separately.

7.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2021 Regular Board Meeting.

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

7.04 CONSIDER Approval of Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Personnel Committee

7.05 CONSIDER Administrative Recommendations as recommended by the Personnel Committee

7.06 CONSIDER Ratification of Administrative Recommendations Previously Submitted as recommended by the Personnel Committee

7.07 CONSIDER Approval of Purchase Agreements: Academic Services 2021-2022 as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

7.08 CONSIDER Approval of Policy Code: 3620 as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

7.09 CONSIDER Approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between FSU and CCS Board of Education for Operation of Cumberland International Early College HS and Cross Creek Early College HS on the campus of FSU as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee

7.10 CONSIDER Approval of the Interlocal Agreement and Contract with Fayetteville State University to provide meals for the Early College High Schools as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee

7.11 CONSIDER Approval of Bid Awards for Various Large Kitchen Equipment as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee

7.12 CONSIDER Approval to Purchase Modular Units to Support Academic Services for Middle Schools as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee

7.13 CONSIDER Approval of Cooperative Agreement between CCS Board of Education and the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services for 2021-2022 as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee

7.14 CONSIDER Approval of Invoice and Program Information for the Second Step Curriculum Program for School Mental Health Improvement Plan as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee

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

7.16 CONSIDER Approval of FY 21-22 Lottery Applications as recommended by the Finance Committee

7.17 CONSIDER Approval of FY 21-22 NCSBAC Contribution as recommended by the Finance Committee

- 7.18 CONSIDER Approval of FY 21-22 School Fees and Dues as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 7.19 CONSIDER Approval of Hanover Research Agreement as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 7.20 CONSIDER Approval of Sale of Surplus Technology Property as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 7.21 CONSIDER Approval of Technology Services as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 7.22 CONSIDER Approval of Bid for Custodial Supplies as recommended by the Finance Committee
- 7.23 Consider Approval of four (4) revised policies: 6140, 7730, 8305, 9120 as recommended by the Policy Committee (First Reading)
- 7.24 Consider Approval of Revised Policies (4040/7310, 4240/7312, 4316 and 7720) - Second Reading

**7.03 CONSIDER** Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee  
Upon a motion from Greg West, seconded by Charles McKellar, the board members voting unanimously approved. Susan Williams abstained from voting because she has a family member on the Personnel list for approval tonight.

- 8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report – Charles McKellar**
- 9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Student Support Services Committee Report – Susan Williams**
- 10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report – Greg West**
- 11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report – Deanna Jones**
- 12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report – Donna Vann**
- 13. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report - Carrie Sutton**
- 14. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report – Nathan Warfel**

**15. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:**

**15.01 CONSIDER** a Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 115C-319 and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3), solely for the purpose of discussing liability claims ongoing against the Cumberland County Schools. There will be NO discussion of COVID-related matters, including masking.

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Susan Williams, the board unanimously voted to go into Closed Session at 7:25 PM.

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Susan Williams, the board unanimously voted to come OUT of Closed Session at 7:38 PM

**16. CLOSING ITEMS**

**16.01** Deanna Jones congratulated 71<sup>st</sup> High and Stoney Point Elementary PTA's for their School of Excellence designation. Greg West asked that, in the future,

full details be provided on all items requiring Board vote, to avoid confusion and questions. Board members clarified publicly, the MAKO COVID testing is “opt-in” and parents may choose to have their children tested, additionally, the Board asked to make it clear that the testing program is Grant-Funded, PPE will still be provided and trained professionals will do all testing.

#### **16.02** Chairman's Update

Mrs. Chisolm closed with the following message: As we open this school year for traditional calendar students on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, our thoughts turn to our students, teachers and support staff. On behalf of this Board of Education, we sincerely thank our tremendous premier professionals, the supportive families and committed community. We value the hard work of every member of the CCS staff for providing a high-quality learning experience for every child.

We encourage everyone to be observant of school buses and children as our students travel to and from school.

Our next regular Board Meeting will be held on September 14, 2021. We look forward to being with you again in September.

#### **16.03** ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:48 PM.

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Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent