

The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 6:00 PM with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Nathan Warfel, Charles McKellar, Judy Musgrave, Carrie Sutton 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 Greg West called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Charles McKellar and the Invocation by Donna Vann.

2. RECOGNITIONS

2.01 RECOGNIZED Student Ex-Officio Officers
Catherine Oxendine – Jack Britt High School
Paige Canady – Terry Sanford High School

2.02 RECOGNIZED Extra Mile Award Winner – Andrew Kounas

2.03 RECOGNIZED Committed Community Support Award Winners:
Paige and Ty Ross

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

3.01 Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly began: As we quickly navigate through the month of March and approach the last nine weeks of this school year, I don't know about you, but I cannot believe how fast this school year has gone by.

Despite the challenges this year has presented, I am proud of how we have remained #CumberlandStrong. We are steadfast in the commitments detailed in our Strategic Plan 2024. Our **successful students** have been building their pride as they strengthen their minds with our rigorous academics and the support of caring and dedicated teachers. From the district-wide spelling bee to thought-provoking Black History Month performances, our students' aptitude for excellence cannot be overstated.

In just the last month, our **premier professionals** have been published in the School Business Affairs Magazine, won state awards for excellence and chosen for the NC Governor's Educator Discovery Award.

Our **exceptional environments** continue to lead the way in creating safe, inviting and equitable access to a high-quality education. For the second consecutive year, Cumberland County Schools has won the State Superintendent's Purple Star District Award AND the National School Boards Association's 2022 Magna Award.

And finally, our **committed community** partners continue to invest in supporting the success of our district's children. Local businesses, organizations and individuals continue to bring additional resources and opportunities to our schools, and we are incredibly grateful.

As we turn the curve in the global pandemic, we are thrilled to welcome visitors in our schools. Many parents and community partners are already active in our schools, and we appreciate them. For those who are interested in volunteering at one of our schools, there are many opportunities available to you.

- **Adopt a school** – Partner with schools across the county and provide extra support throughout the school year
- **Volunteer** in a teacher’s classroom to support the needs of students
- **Serve as a mentor** – Volunteer at a school and help mentor a students who needs additional support
- **School Angels** – Volunteer at schools and be an extra ‘set of eyes’ to help keep our schools safe

Dr. Connelly shared the March observances. This month is National Social Work Month and Disability Awareness Month. Our district is dedicated to providing equitable access to engaging learning and ensuring race, gender, family income, and disability are not predictors of a student’s opportunity to succeed.

Last week was National Read Across America Week. Our schools and community came together to get students excited about reading. The first-graders at Walker-Spivey and I had a wonderful time reading ‘The Eagles Who Thought They Were Chickens’ by African-American Author Mychal Wynn and learned about the importance of self-identity and self-discovery. The reading was recorded and shared with our schools to start this year’s Read Across America celebration.

School Social Worker Appreciation Week started on Saturday, March 6th. Social Workers give their all to care for and support our students in overcoming obstacles.

This week, CCS is also celebrating National School Breakfast Week. We all know the exceptional role that our Child Nutrition team plays in providing our students with delicious and nutritious meals. Today and every day, I am extremely grateful to them for their dedication to our school system.

Pre-Kindergarten Registration for the 2022-2023 school year is now open. With CCS Pre-K, young children can take advantage of the full-package CCS has to offer. Parents that have a child that will be four years old on or before August 31, 2022, should visit the CCS Pre-K website for more information.

Dr. Connelly ended his comments with a brief video about some of the resources, opportunities and supports that make CCS the best choice for every child.

Before closing his remarks, Dr. Connelly shared, on behalf of the entire Cabinet and Leadership Team, I want to take a moment to extend a warm congratulations to Mrs. Pete Horne, Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board of Education, as she prepares for retirement in April.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

We received two speakers for Public Comment this evening:

Savona Aekins

Joe McGee

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda.

6. APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Deanna Jones, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda with the agreement to pull item 6.14 for a separate vote. Mr. McKellar will need to abstain from voting on 6.14 as he is a member of the NCSBA Board, thus creating a conflict of interest.

6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the February 8, 2022 Regular Board Meeting.

6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Release of Certain Students

6.03 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit A)

6.04 CONSIDER Approval of Leaves of Absence and Special Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit B)

6.05 CONSIDER Approval of Administrative Recommendations as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit C)

6.06 CONSIDER Approval of Limited License Request as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit D)

6.07 CONSIDER Approval of Opportunity Culture Update as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit E)

6.08 CONSIDER Approval of Summer School 2022 as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (Exhibit F)

6.09 CONSIDER Approval of Technology Bid for Charging Stations for Classrooms as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit G)

6.10 CONSIDER Approval of Technology Bid for Clear Touch Interactive Displays for Classrooms as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit H)

6.11 CONSIDER Approval of Technology Bid for Dell Servers as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit I)

6.12 CONSIDER Approval of Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit J)

6.13 CONSIDER Approval of Amendment to Contract Audit Accounts as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit K)

~~6.14 CONSIDER Approval of Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Agreements as recommended by the Finance Committee~~

6.15 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policies 4050, 4400, 4120 and 5022 (Second Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (Exhibit L)

6.16 CONSIDER Approval of Proclamation for National School Social Work Week as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (Exhibit M)

6.17 CONSIDER Approval of Student Assignment Plan for Ireland Drive Middle School as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (Exhibit M)

6.18 CONSIDER Approval of Contents Packout Cleaning and Storage for Central Services as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (Exhibit O)

6.19 CONSIDER Approval of Electoral Redistricting Considerations as recommended by the Legislative Committee (Exhibit P)

6.14 CONSIDER Approval of Medicaid Administrative Claiming (MAC) Agreements as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit Q)

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Susan Williams, the board approved item 6.14 by the following vote:

In favor: West, Jones, Chisolm, Musgrave, Sutton, Vann, Warfel and Williams
Mr. McKellar abstained.

7. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report – Deanna Jones

7.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Student Assignment Plan for T.C. Berrien (Plan A) (Exhibit R)

Upon a motion by Alicia Chisolm, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board approved the Student Assignment Plan for T.C. Berrien (Plan A) by the following vote:

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

Against: Jones, Musgrave and Sutton

7.02 CONSIDER Approval of the Student Assignment Plan for Lillian Black (Plan B) (Exhibit S)

Upon a motion by Charles McKellar, seconded by Nathan Warfel, the Board approved the Student Assignment Plan for Lillian Black (Plan B) by the following vote:

In favor: West, Chisolm, McKellar, Musgrave, Vann, Warfel and Williams

Against: Jones, Musgrave and Sutton

7.03 CONSIDER Approval of Closure of T.C. Berrien Elementary School (Exhibit T)

Susan Williams made the motion to approve closure of T.C. Berrien Elementary School at the end of the 2021-2022 school year. Alicia Chisolm seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

7.04 CONSIDER Approval to apply for 2021-22 Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant for \$50M for E. E. Smith HS (Exhibit U)

Mr. Desormeaux explained the process of this grant submittal and shared that Board is voting tonight only for approval to submit the grant. This does not obligate us to any particular path for E.E. Smith High School, simply approves for us to submit the grant.

Carrie Sutton made a motion to approve the grant submission. Susan Williams seconded the motion and the Board approved unanimously.

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

8.01 CONSIDER Approval of Proclamation regarding March being Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month (Exhibit V)

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

9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report – Carrie Sutton

10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report – Charles McKellar

10.01 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 6141, COVID-19 Face Coverings (First Reading) (Exhibit W)

With the motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Nathan Warfel, the motion passed by the following vote:

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

Against: Jones, McKellar, Musgrave and Sutton

11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report – Donna Vann

12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report – Nathan Warfel

12.01 CONSIDER 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)

Upon a motion by Nathan Warfel, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board voted unanimously to go into Closed Session at 6:57 PM

Upon a motion by Nathan Warfel, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board voted unanimously to come OUT of Closed Session at 7:05 PM

Mr. West called on Dr. Connelly for Administrative Recommendations.

Dr. Connelly shared the following changes:

Mr. Cornelius Felder will become the principal of Pine Forest Middle School

Mr. Kamal Watkins will become the principal of District 7 Elementary School

Ms. Tanya Higgins will become the principal of Eastover Central Elementary School

Dr. Connelly recommended Mr. John Royvell Godbolt to become the principal of Terry Sanford High School. As this is a position change from Assistant Principal to Principal, this recommendation requires a Board vote.

Upon a motion by Donna Vann with a second from Greg West, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Godbolt.

13. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report – Judy Musgrave

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

Mrs. Jones congratulated 71st High School and wished them well in the State Basketball Playoffs. She also commented on the Chinese New Year celebration she attended in her district and thanked everyone for a job well done. She closed her comments with a quote commemorating National Women's Month

15. CLOSING ITEMS

15.01 Board Member update

15.02 Chairman's Update

After a presentation to Ms. Pete Horne, retiring Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Clerk to this Board, Mr. West acknowledged our student officers and thanked them for their participation and comments.

Mr. West thanked everyone for attending tonight's board meeting and thanked our Public Speakers for their input.

Our next regular Board Meeting will be held on April 12, 2022. We look forward to seeing everyone again in April.

15.03 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent

MC/ph