

Regular Meeting

Cumberland County Board of Education

September 14, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his update by thanking Cumberland County Schools' Premier Professionals for the successful opening of our traditional schools on Aug. 23. He mentioned that several fraternities, sororities and other community groups were on hand that first day back to school, greeting students as they arrived on campus.

Afterward, Dr. Connelly shared the following information:

COVID-19 Testing

In an effort to keep students and employees safe, the district is in the process of launching free COVID-19 Testing. While the test is not required, parents and guardians of students and employees who wish to take advantage of the testing are encouraged to complete the registration form found on the CCS website. Once they opt in, testing will occur before school and during lunch for most students and after school for athletes.

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month, which is observed from September 15 – October 15, is a time to honor the contributions of Latino and Hispanic communities while highlighting their diversity, culture and traditions.

Teachers & Beginning Teachers of the Year

On September 13, the district "honored some of the best educators in the nation" during CCS' 2022 Teacher and Beginning Teacher of the Year Virtual Celebration. Daniel Smith from Westover High School was announced the 2022 Teacher of the Year and Jacob Gordner at Cliffdale Elementary School was named the 2022 Beginning Teacher of the Year. "We're extremely proud of our district winners, finalists and school-level winners," said Dr. Connelly. "They continue to defy the odds to educate each child, despite challenging circumstances."

Dr. Connelly ended his comments by showing a video that highlighted the Sept. 13 celebration.

Administrative Recommendations

Principal Transfers

Cape Fear High
Massey Hill Classical High
Cumberland Virtual Academy (K-5)
C.Wayne Collier Elementary
Ashley Elementary

Dr. Jason Jordan
Anne-Marie Palmer
Tiffany Fogelquist
Larissa Perkins
Sherrill Haley

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Board of Education

Alicia Chisolm
Chair
District #1

Greg West
Vice Chair
At Large

Judy Musgrave
At Large

Charles McKellar
At Large

Deanna Jones
District #2

Carrie Sutton
District #3

Donna Vann
District #4

Susan Williams
District #5

Nathan Warfel
District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Assistant Principals

John Griffin Middle
South View Middle

Maria Kappell-Eaton
Hope Littlejohn

PASE Schools Talent Acquisition Pool Gets Approval

Members of the Board voted to approve offering signing bonuses to teaching candidates who are selected to join CCS' Talent Acquisition Pool. Currently, the district has immediate openings for licensed teachers in the areas of Elementary, Secondary Mathematics, Science, and Special Education. Bonus eligibility includes the following:

- Must hold an initial or continuing NC professional educator's license (residency, lateral entry, emergency, and/or permit to teach candidates are not eligible);
- Cannot be a current CCS school-based employee; and
- Must agree to teach at the assigned PASE school for two years from the effective date of hire.

The bonuses, e.g., \$5,000, \$7,000 or \$10,000, vary based on the teacher's EVAAS data and teacher licensing.

Board Gives 'Thumbs Up' to Substitute Teachers Temporary Incentive Plan

The Board has agreed to make incentive pay available for substitute teachers who work consistently beginning September 1, 2021, through the remainder of the 2021-2022 school year. The following parameters were adopted:

1. Substitutes who work at least five full days in a calendar month will receive \$100 of additional pay for the month;
2. Substitutes who work at least 10 full days in a calendar month will get \$250 of additional pay for the month; and
3. Substitutes who work at least 14 full days in a calendar month will receive \$400 of additional pay for the month.

Instructional Assistants who serve as substitutes when teachers are out will also be eligible for the incentive pay.

Contract Approved for Crown Coliseum Use for 2022 Graduation Ceremonies

Members of the Board approved the district renting the Crown Coliseum to use during Cumberland County Schools' 2022 Graduation Ceremonies which involves more than 3,500 student graduates and their guests. Dates for the use of the Coliseum, Crown Expo Center and Crown Ballroom for ceremonies and rehearsals are from Monday, May 23 – Tuesday, June 7.

Masking Policy Adopted

Members of the Board approved Policy Code: 6141 - COVID-19 Face Coverings consistent with North Carolina Session Law 2021-130 (Senate Bill 654). The policy states that "Cumberland County Schools (CCS) will require all students, staff, and visitors to wear face masks at the start of the 2021-2022 school year, and until further notice. This masking requirement applies to everyone, regardless of vaccination status, and applies to all schools and district facilities. Masks are also required on all public school transportation. Students will be able to take masks off while eating and drinking and outdoors as long as they are not in a crowded setting or participating in activities that involve close contact with others." As

required by Senate Bill 654, “the Board shall vote at least once per month either to maintain this policy in its current form or to modify it.” The policy also states that this information will appear in the Student Code of Conduct and the Board’s personnel policies.

Revised Policies Approved

The following revised policies were approved by the Board:

- 6140 – Student Wellness
- 7730 – Employee Conflict of Interest
- 8305 – Federal Grant Administration
- 9120 – Bidding for Construction Work

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