



Regular Meeting

Cumberland County Board of Education

October 12, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his update by congratulating educators and students for completing the first nine-week period of the traditional school year. He also shared information about a few local awards and national honors, e.g., Web Awards Outstanding Website, two CCS Baseball Coaches receiving "Special Person" awards from the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, and Cross Creek Early College High School winning Sustainable Sandhills' #FayettevilleBeautiful contest.

Afterward, Dr. Connelly shared the following information:

October Observances

Indigenous Peoples' Day (October 11) - Acknowledges the historic sacrifices of indigenous peoples and recognizes their contributions to the emergence and development of the state, nation, free world and the global economy.

National School Lunch Week (October 11 – 15) - Highlights the importance of school lunch and the critical role school nutrition professionals play in the success of students.

Breast Cancer Awareness Month (October 1- 31) - Raises awareness about the impact of the disease and reminds individuals to get screened.

Wellness Friday "A Day of Reflection"

Dr. Connelly announced that Friday, November 12 will be converted to a Wellness Friday. He noted that after reviewing the academic calendar and the remaining instructional hours for students, the day will become a non-instructional day for students and a day of reflection for all CCS employees. On Wednesday, November 10, the district will close all CCS facilities at the end of the school day, following the conclusion of any previously scheduled essential activities, and designate that all employees observe the Veterans Day holiday on Thursday, November 11 and work remotely on Friday, November 12. However, athletic events, practices and extracurricular activities will operate on a normal schedule. In alignment with the Veterans Day holiday, the calendar adjustment will accommodate military families throughout the district that have planned for an extended holiday. Dr. Connelly said the sole telework assignment for November 12 is for employees to engage in the process of reflective practice by thinking about the beginning of the school year – what worked well and what could have been done differently? How will we have a strong finish to the first semester?

"During this time of reflective practice, we're asking all employees to refrain from sending emails and truly focus on reflecting and on continuous improvement as we strive for a strong finish to this first semester of the Great Comeback," said Dr. Connelly. "In the words of Dr. Stephen Covey, we will be 'sharpening our saws' and using this opportunity to reflect and recharge."

Board of Education

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District #5

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Stay Healthy Through Autumn

Dr. Connelly noted that while schools across the district have begun their weekly free COVID-19 testing with MAKO Medical, he emphasized adhering to the 3Ws, getting your seasonal flu shot and taking the COVID-19 vaccine, if eligible.

National Principals Month

Another October observance the Superintendent announced was National Principals Month. He recognized the tremendous role that principals play in helping our students excel in the classroom and beyond and shared that on Monday, October 18 at 6:00 p.m., the district will be recognizing the 2022 Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year Finalists. The virtual celebration will be LIVE-streamed on the district's YouTube channel. The Pre-Show starts at 5:45 p.m. Dr. Connelly ended his comments by showing a short video that highlighted our Principal of the Year Finalists.

Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principals

Ashley Elementary	Vanessa Montalvo
New Century International Middle	LaTasha Hicks
W.H. Owen Elementary	Constance Thomas
Westover Middle	Elan Goodman-Robinson

Board Adopts Red Ribbon Week Proclamation

Members of the Board agreed to proclaim October 23 – 31 as 2021 Red Ribbon Week in Cumberland County Schools. The adopted proclamation “encourages all citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities as a visible statement that we are firmly committed to a drug-free community.”

NC PreK Contract Accepted

The Board agreed to amend the contract with the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County to increase the two-year total amount received to \$2,943,000 for the operation and maintenance of the North Carolina Pre-K (NC Pre-K) programs throughout the district. NC Pre-K is administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). The NC Pre-K model is embedded in 4-year-old Pre-K classes throughout Cumberland County Schools.

Board Members Vote to Continue Current Masking Policy

The Board voted 8-1 to retain the existing masking policy (COVID-19 Face Coverings Policy Code: 6141). As required by North Carolina Session Law 2021-130 (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.”

Appointments for FTCC Board of Trustees Get ‘Thumbs Up’

Approval by the Board was given to Elaina Ball and Sharlene Williams to be appointed to serve on the Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) Board of Trustees. Ball will fulfill the unexpired term of Dr. Dallas Freeman and Williams will fill the vacancy left by Delores Ingram.

Contracts of Superintendent and Cabinet Members Extended One Year

The Board gave Dr. Connelly a satisfactory evaluation and agreed to extend his and the Cabinet's contracts for one year.