

Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

November 9, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his update by congratulating the Successful Students and Premier Professionals who are exemplifying the district's core values every day by garnering several state and national honors during the last month. We hosted the U.S. Department of Education and NCDPI. Our 2022 Assistant Principal of the Year was selected as the 2022 North Carolina Outstanding Elementary Assistant Principal of the Year. Two CCS students won awards at the International Science and Engineering Fair, and one of our educators has been selected as a NASA/NC Space Grant Education Ambassador.

Afterward, Dr. Connelly shared the following information:

Keeping Our Community and Children Safe

Last week, the Cumberland County Department of Public Health announced that they are now authorized to administer COVID-19 vaccinations to children ages 5 – 11. Safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines have been authorized by the US Food and Drug Administration and recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Vaccines are available at Cumberland County Department of Public Health, Parks and Recreation Centers near our school campuses, Cumberland County libraries, and Cape Fear Valley Health locations. To prevent the spread of COVID-19, the Superintendent encouraged everyone to take their shot when they are eligible to do so.

November Observances

The following observances were mentioned:

School Psychology Week - Dr. Connelly noted that School Psychologists work non-stop to support our students. "From assessments, re-evaluations, to the mountains of accompanying paperwork, their efforts do not go unnoticed," said Dr. Connelly. "They are making a phenomenal impact on our successful students."

Career Development Month - This is a time of awareness for students and employees to focus on their future career choices.

Veterans Day (Thursday, November 11) – Dr. Connelly said that our veterans have sacrificed a great deal for our country and the defense of our freedoms. This day provides us with an opportunity to pay tribute to all American veterans and extend gratitude to those who have served or are currently serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

American Indian Heritage Month, or Native American & Alaskan Native Heritage Month – During November, we celebrate the heritage, rich diverse cultures, and traditions of Native tribes and individuals across the country. He shared that CCS' Office of Indian Education is

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

celebrating American Indian Heritage Month with all students, staff, and community members by broadcasting daily videos of Native Americans from across the country representing their respective tribes. A proclamation from Gov. Roy Cooper observing the month was read by CCS Associate Superintendent Lindsay Whitley.

Thank You, Veterans!

Dr. Connelly ended his comments with a short video that expressed the district's appreciation of the nation's veterans and the relationship CCS has built with the local military-connected community.

In a special Veterans Day tribute prior to Dr. Connelly's Update, local musician Jerrita Waters performed *The National Anthem* on trumpet directly before the Pledge of Allegiance.

Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principal

Lewis Chapel Middle

Kimberly Derrickson

Board Adopts CTE Proclamation

Members of the Board agreed to proclaim November 1 – 30 as Career Development Month, November 15 – 19 as Career Development Week, and November 17 as Career Development and Career & Technical Education Facilitator Day in Cumberland County Schools. The adopted proclamation supports programming “that contributes to increased student attendance and achievement; improves graduation rates; produces college- and career-ready citizens; and contributes to the local economy and community vitality.”

Board Members Voted to Continue Current Masking Policy

The Board voted 7-2 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.”

The First Reading of Revised Policy Approved

The first reading of revised Policy Code 3620-Extracurricular Activities, Cocurricular Activities and Student Organizations was approved by the Board.

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