



Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

January 11, 2022

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his monthly update by acknowledging that Cumberland County Schools has started the new year with state and national accolades: CCS' Social Work Coordinator & Homeless Liaison Pamela Story has been named the National Homeless Liaison of the Year and Glendale Acres Elementary School Principal Dr. Julie Dees received *The Old North State Award* from N.C. Governor Roy Cooper.

Afterward, he shared the following update information:

January Observances

School Board Appreciation Month – Many thanks were extended to the Board for their service to our students, staff, families and the community, especially during these challenging times. “You are leading the effort to prepare lifelong learners to reach their maximum potential,” said Dr. Connelly. Later during the Superintendent’s Update, Larry Parker, the principal at Reid Ross Classical School and the president of the Cumberland County Association of Principals and Assistant Principals (CCAPAP), shared remarks in recognition of School Board Appreciation Month. Afterward, CCAPAP Members presented small tokens of appreciation to each Board member.

National Mentoring Month – During this month, the district takes time to show gratitude to those who continue to offer support and guidance to our students. The goal of CCS is to engage schools, parents and the community in building student success. Those who are interested in mentoring were encouraged to visit the Community page on the district website to find out how they can help make a difference in the life of a CCS student.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day – In observance of Dr. King’s rich legacy, CCS will be closed on Monday, January 17 for all students and staff.

CCS Choice Application Period – The Choice Application period for the 2022-2023 school year ends on Monday, January 31. Families can visit the CCS Choice Programs website to explore the numerous educational options available across the district.

COVID-19 Testing and Vaccines - Dr. Connelly shared his concern about the district doing its part to keep everyone safe and limit the spread of COVID-19. He shared that currently, the district’s positivity rate is above 32 percent. Therefore, he urged everyone to use the many resources available through the district, the Cumberland County Health Department, Cape Fear Valley Health, and other healthcare partners for testing and vaccinations.

Board of Education

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly announced that CCS students and staff are able to receive free weekly testing at their schools. Based on the recent surge, the district has added another option: On Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., staff and students will be able to take advantage of drive-thru COVID-19 testing at the CCS Call Center, located at 800 North Street in Fayetteville. Registration through MAKO is required. For more information and to register, visit www.ccs.k12.nc.us/covidtesting. He also shared that the Cumberland County Health Department has extended COVID-19 testing hours at the Health Department which also has multiple options available for COVID-19 vaccinations. The vaccines are free to everyone. Insurance and ID cards are not required. Pre-register on the Cumberland County Health Department website.

Finally, to keep students safe, healthy and at school for in-person learning, Dr. Connelly encouraged everyone in CCS to practice the required 3W's: **W**ait 6 feet apart. **W**ash your hands. **W**ear an approved mask.

He concluded his update with a short video about optional COVID-19 testing offered in the district and messages of gratitude for members of the Cumberland County Board of Education.

Administrative Recommendation

Assistant Principal
Douglas Byrd High

Jennifer Davis

Board Approves Four School's HVAC Upgrades

The Board gave 'thumbs up' for four Cumberland County schools to receive upgrades to their heating and air conditioning systems. Douglas Byrd High, Douglas Byrd Middle, Pine Forest High and Lewis Chapel Middle were recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee to the Board to receive the upgrades in the coming months.

Board Members Vote to Continue Current Masking Policy

The Board voted 6-1 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."

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