



Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

February 8, 2022

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his monthly update by expressing appreciation for the “incredible work being done by our students and staff every day in our district.” Afterward, he shared the following update information:

February Observances:

February is Black History Month which provides an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of African Americans. In addition to the celebrations taking place at schools throughout the district, CCS Academic Services team has lined up a Black History Month Speaker Series that includes numerous African-American authors and illustrators. They will be featured at school and community events throughout the month.

As CCS prepares to celebrate Public Schools Week February 21-25, what makes the district unique is being highlighted. One of the unique educational opportunities offered through CCS is the Career and Technical Education (CTE) program which helps students gain access to specialized career pathways where they leave our classrooms ready for life.

CCS is also celebrating National School Counseling Week February 7–11. Appreciation is being shown for the work of school counselors who galvanize resources and supports to ensure the educational, personal and social development of every child.

During the week of February 14–18, CCS is celebrating Love the Bus/Bus Driver Appreciation Week. “We are grateful to our premier professionals who transport approximately 26,000 students to and from their school each day, covering 25,000 miles in more than 400 buses.”

Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Update:

In an effort to bring light to the darkness of cancer, CCS formed a district-wide fundraising walk team for The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society’s Light the Night Walk. Under the leadership of Gray’s Creek High School Principal Lisa Stewart, the district raised nearly \$55,000 for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and received the “2021 Rookie of the Year” designation and the “2021 Impact Award.” Dr. Connelly also announced that he has been selected as the 2022 National Superintendent Chair. He will represent school superintendents across the nation for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.

Dr. Connelly concluded his monthly update with a short video celebrating excellence in education throughout Cumberland County Schools.

Board of Education

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District #5

Nathan Warfel
District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Recognitions

Student government leaders Jenna Hales from Cape Fear High School and Kylie Aldridge from Gray's Creek High School served as the ex-officio members of the Cumberland County Board of Education during the Feb. 8 meeting. Ex-officio members are given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions, and give input on any topic brought before the Board.

Administrative Recommendation

Assistant Principal

Ed V. Baldwin Elementary

LaTeshia Bellamy

AIG Coordinator

Academic Services

Aritia Smalls

Current Fiscal & School Year Budget Approved

CCS' 2021-2022 fiscal and school year budget was given approval from the Board. The \$760M budget was developed based on a comprehensive review and evaluation, stakeholder input and framed by the district's strategic plan. The major priorities of this budget were raising local supplements for staff, improving low-performing schools, and combating learning loss.

Board Approves Several Observance Proclamations

The Board gave 'a thumbs up' to three CCS proclamations with observances during the month of February: Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month (Feb. 1 – 28), Kindness Awareness Month (Feb. 1 – 28) and National School Counseling Week (Feb. 7 – 11).

Current Masking Policy Voted Down

The Board voted to discontinue the existing masking policy (COVID-19 Face Coverings Policy Code: 6141). Afterward, the Board voted to make face masks optional for students and staff beginning Wednesday, February 16. Even so, students and staff must continue to wear masks on school buses as required by federal law. Students on the campuses of Fayetteville State University (FSU) and Fayetteville Technical Community College (FTCC) will continue to follow the guidelines of FSU and FTCC, respectively.

Board Approves 3 Policy Revisions

The following revised policies were approved by the Board:

4400 – Attendance

4120 – Domicile or Residence Requirements

5022 – Registered Sex Offenders

Board Recognition

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced the following honoree to the Board to be recognized:

2021 NC Homeless Liaison of the Year and 2022 NAEHCY Homeless Liaison of the Year

Pamela Story – After being announced as North Carolina's 202 Homeless Liaison of the Year in August, months later, Ms. Story, the long-time School Social Work Coordinator and Homeless Liaison, went on to receive national commendation when she was named the 2022 National Homeless Liaison of the Year at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth Conference in Atlanta.