

Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

March 8, 2022

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his monthly update by noting that despite the challenges this school year, our district has remained #CumberlandStrong and steadfast in our commitments (Strategic Plan 2024) to have Successful Students, Premier Professionals, Exceptional Environments and Committed Community partners. He shared several notable mentions that included employees recently being published in the School Business Affairs Magazine, winning state awards for excellence and being selected to receive the NC Governor’s Educator Discovery Award. Dr. Connelly also shared that CCS recently won the State Superintendent’s Purple Star District Award and the National School Boards Association’s 2022 Magna Award.

He encouraged individuals and businesses that are interested in volunteering in our schools to consider adopting a school, volunteering in a teacher’s classroom, mentoring a student or acting as ‘an extra set of eyes’ on school campuses by volunteering as a School Watch Angel.

March Observances

Dr. Connelly shared that CCS is celebrating the following observances throughout the month of March: National Social Work Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, National Read Across America Week, School Social Worker Appreciation Week and National School Breakfast Week. He also announced that Pre-Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year has opened. Parents that have a child that will be four years old on or before August 31, 2022, should visit the CCS Pre-K website for more information.

He presented a short video that celebrates March observances.

The Superintendent concluded his remarks by extending heartfelt congratulations to Pete Horne on behalf of the entire Cabinet and Leadership Team as she prepares for retirement in April. Horne has served for many years as the executive assistant to the Superintendent and the Board of Education. Later in the meeting, members of the Board expressed their appreciation by presenting Horne with a floral bouquet, desk clock, and a plaque.

Recognitions

Student government leaders Catherine Oxendine from Jack Britt High School and Paige Canady from Terry Sanford High School served as the ex-officio members of the Cumberland County Board of Education during the March 8 meeting. Ex-officio members are given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions, and give input on any topic brought before the Board.

Board of Education

Greg West
Chair
At Large

Deanna Jones
Vice Chair
District #2

Judy Musgrave
At Large

Charles McKellar
At Large

Alicia Chisolm
Chair
District #1

Carrie Sutton
District #3

Donna Vann
District #4

Susan Williams
District #5

Nathan Warfel
District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Electoral Redistricting Considerations Approved

Approval was given by the Board to the following electoral redistricting considerations:

1. Preserve the cores of the existing local Board of Education districts;
2. Redistricting consultants should avoid pairing incumbent board members, i.e., no “double-bunking” in the same district; and
3. Redistricting consultants should not attempt to predict and account for future population and development shifts, i.e., base redistricting on 2020 Census results exclusively.

The Board is required to decide how the electoral redistricting considerations will be addressed.

Student Assignment Plan for Local Middle School Passes

The Board voted to reassign all 284 students at Ireland Drive Middle School to Douglas Byrd Middle School next school year (2022-2023).

Local Elementary School Closes its Doors, Reassignment Plans for T.C. Berrien, Lillian Black Students Approved

The Board of Education voted to close the T.C. Berrien Elementary School building, effective the end of the school year. In October 2019, concerns were raised about the structural integrity of the floor slab in the second wing and poor indoor air quality throughout the T.C. Berrien main school building.

Also, members of the Board approved the following Student Reassignment Proposals for the 2022-2023 SY:

- Dividing students at T.C. Berrien Elementary School between the Lucile Souders and Ferguson-Easley Elementary School campuses;
- Reassigning all Lillian Black Elementary School students and 78 students from Manchester Elementary School to W.T. Brown Elementary School.

Approval Given to Apply for Needs-Based Public School Capital Grant

The CCBOE voted to apply for the 2021-2022 Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant for \$50 M toward the new construction of the E.E. Smith High School building.

Board Approves Revised COVID-19 Face Coverings Policy

The Board approved the revised Policy 6141 COVID-19 Face Coverings. The policy recognizes that face masks are optional (1) for Cumberland County Schools' students, staff and visitors and (2) on all public school transportation. The policy further states that (1) since COVID-19 vaccines are much more widely available, CCS will now provide for voluntary testing of staff and students in all schools; and (2) 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 for the 2021-2022 school year only.

Board Recognition

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced CCS' Extra Mile and Committed Community Support award recipients to the Board to be recognized:

Extra Mile Award Recipient

Andrew Kounas, a science teacher and the Science Olympiad Club facilitator at Luther 'Nick' Jeralds Middle School, was nominated for the Extra Mile Award by his school's bookkeeper, Tammy Duggins. She said that Kounas is “a beacon of selfless service and he

demonstrates excellence in and out of the classroom to make sure their students have the skills and materials they need to be successful.” From ensuring that all students are picked up from after school activities and donating to the athletic program to securing track shoe donations for the girls’ track team every year, Kounas has “a heart of gold.” Duggins further added that his commitment to the safety and success of the children at Luther ‘Nick’ Jeralds Middle School has no limitations.

Committed Community Support Award Recipients

Paige and Ty Ross and Olde Fayetteville Insurance and Financial Services received the Committed Community Support Award for their long-time partnership and generous support of Cumberland County Schools. For years, Olde Fayetteville has co-sponsored the district’s annual Teacher and Beginning Teacher of the Year celebrations to help honor exceptional CCS educators. In December, they partnered with the *Bikes for Kids* Foundation and American National Insurance to bring the first *Bikes for Kids* program to Cumberland County. Through this effort, they were able to provide books and 50 bikes and helmets to third graders at two of the district’s Title I schools through the character-building program.

The Extra Mile Award is designed to acknowledge employees who demonstrate sustained high levels of performance and inspire others to do their best. The Committed Community Support Award is given to mentors, businesses, community partners, parents and volunteers who dedicate their time and resources to assist schools and help students succeed. Both monthly awards recognize and applaud those who go ‘above and beyond’ to make certain students are successful and who champion what the CCS values.

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