



Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

April 12, 2022

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his monthly update by mentioning that he just had the opportunity to participate in an event that highlighted the district's "brilliant student scientists as they reach for the stars" during the STARward STEM Expo at Douglas Byrd High School. He shared that three student teams from Cumberland County Schools (CCS) will be selected to have their experiments launched to the International Space Station this fall.

Dr. Connelly shared the following tidbits of information:

Last Nine Weeks Update

Last week, he and several School Board members attended the National School Boards Association Conference where Board Vice Chair Deanna Jones accepted the district's 2022 Magna Award on behalf of our district.

As the end of the school year approaches, he shared that our graduating seniors are bright and ambitious students who are planning to attend some of the top colleges and universities in the country, serve in the military and some will begin their careers. Dr. Connelly encouraged everyone to stay tuned to CCS' social media channels and website for exciting stories about these successful students as Graduation 2022 nears. He also extended well wishes to our graduates along with words of encouragement to CCS students who will be taking end-of-year tests in the coming week.

Kindergarten Showcase

Dr. Connelly announced that Kindergarten registration for the 2022-2023 school year is open and new families can find resources and information on the CCS Website. Over the next several weeks, registration will include in-person orientation days, community events and more.

April Observances

Dr. Connelly noted that April has any observances that our district highly values to include National Autism Awareness Month, School Library Month, National Volunteer Week, and Child Abuse Prevention Month. He proudly shared that last week, which was National Assistant Principal Week, Dr. Queesha Tillman, the assistant principal at Loyd Auman Elementary School, was announced as a 2022 National Outstanding Assistant Principal!

Board of Education

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District #4

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District #5

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

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Also, Dr. Connelly shared that the Month of the Military Child is being observed in CCS, which has the third highest concentration of military-connected students in the country. South View Middle School hosted its Ninth Annual Military Ball for students and families, last week.

The Superintendent concluded his remarks with a video that highlighted the district's commitment to supporting every school and how the PASE support structure provides that assistance.

Recognitions

Student government representatives Adrianna Herring from Cumberland International Early College High School and Dawson Jarman from Pine Forest High School served as the ex-officio members of the Cumberland County Board of Education during the April 12 meeting. Ex-officio members are given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions, and give input on any topic brought before the Board.

Board Approves 2023-27 Capital Improvement Plan Resolution

Members of the Board approved a resolution that requests funding for the FY 2023 – 2027 Capital Improvement Plan. The resolution acknowledges that renovations to and replacements of existing school facilities are necessary to meet the needs of current and future student populations. CCS staff and Cumberland County staff have collaborated on the development and content of the proposed Capital Improvement Program that includes the purchase of land, if needed, the construction of new schools and the expansion, improvement and repairs to existing schools. Need identified through the Program totals \$470,400,000 over the five-year time period. It was resolved that the Board will request and petition Cumberland County Commissioners “to take all necessary steps, by the issuance of bonds or otherwise, to provide funds for the school system’s capital building needs.”

YMCA Aquatic Center Resolution Gets ‘Two Thumbs Up’

The Board agreed to a partnership between Cumberland County Schools and the YMCA’s proposed aquatic center, which is currently under construction and adjoins the Fit4Life wellness center on Hope Mills Road. The partnership would underwrite the services of the center for CCS’ students with a commitment of \$4,125/month for 120 months. CCS has the option to renew or discontinue the partnership after the 120-month period.

Board Approves Three April Observance Proclamations

Board members gave ‘a thumbs up’ to three CCS proclamations with observances during the month of April: The Month of the Military Child (April 1 – 30); Child Abuse Prevention Month (April 1 – 30); School Library Month (April 1 – 30); and School Library Appreciation Week (April 3 – 9).

Summer Reading Program OK’d

A summer reading program that was proposed by CCS Student Support Services to boost students’ total well-being while keeping them reading in preparation for a successful Fall 2022, received the Board’s approval. As a result, second and third graders across the county will be issued *Read for a Better World* Summer Reading take-home book packs in the coming weeks. The literature will allow, second graders to explore a variety of different cultures and experiences through paperback fiction and non-fiction books. Meanwhile, the third-grade book collection will support literacy skills that encourage students to reflect on themselves, the world they live in, and how they can advocate for a more just world.

Required Uniform Policy Gets Approval

The Board approved the required uniform policy for schools throughout the district for the 2022-2023 school year. Eight schools will discontinue requiring uniforms while they will be a requirement at 20 schools.

Both Cooperative Innovative High School Renewal Requests Get ‘The Green Light’

The Cooperative Innovative High School Renewals for Cross Creek Early College High School and Cumberland International Early College High School, which are both housed on the campus of Fayetteville State University, received approval by the Board. Operations at both schools will continue as specified in the original agreement. The renewal is valid for five academic years.

Board Approves Revised COVID-19 Face Coverings Policy

The Board approved 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), and consistent with the action taken at the February 8, 2022, monthly Board meeting, the face coverings policy is in effect until further notice.

Board Recognition

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced four National Board Certification Candidates and CCS’ Extra Mile and Committed Community Support award recipients for recognition by the Board:

National Board Certification Candidates

The following four Cumberland County teachers were recognized for their deep commitment to their students and to their professional growth by achieving National Board certification:

- Ms. Brienne Chambers from Montclair Elementary;
- Ms. Nikole McCoy from Lake Rim Elementary;
- Ms. Amber House from Gray’s Creek Middle; and
- Ms. Shawn Wint-Carter from Westarea Elementary.

Each of the newly National Board Certified teachers was awarded with a \$500 check from the Cumberland County Board of Education.

Extra Mile Award Recipients

Beth Heisel and Suzanne Davies, who are Instructional Coaches at Elizabeth Cashwell Elementary school, were nominated as a team for the Extra Mile Award by the district’s K-5 Math Curriculum Specialist, Lisa Suther Johnson. She said that while the educators support their teachers in many ways through coaching, training and guiding, they also support the entire staff by providing a “Staff Snack Station” within their room. The station includes a Keurig with supplies for the perfect cup of coffee, soda, water, candy and various other snacks. According to Johnson, Heisel and Davies use their own money to purchase the food items. “They do not seek reimbursement or recognition for this act of kindness,” said Johnson. “Their amazing staff snack station is visited many times each day by office staff, teachers, custodians and tutors.”

Committed Community Support Award Recipient

Sharon Glover from Alliance Health received the Committed Community Support Award for her long-time commitment to helping CCS students and the community. Through the years, she has partnered with numerous local agencies to provide this assistance. Glover has also given many resources as well as taken care of the mental and emotional needs of students throughout the district.

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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