



Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

May 10, 2022

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his monthly update by offering well wishes to CCS students regarding EOG and EOC testing. He shared the following tidbits of information:

May Observances

During the month of May, CCS is recognizing all of its premier professionals. Regardless of their roles, "it takes everyone working together to help our students succeed in the classroom and ultimately in life."

Student Voices Presentation

Dr. Connelly introduced high school seniors who are a part of the Superintendent's Student Voices (SSV) group and shared with the Board their input addressing the following questions: How are students doing? What does staff need to be aware of? What are some current teacher practices that have helped? and What would you like to see teachers do in the future? Afterward, Dr. Natasha Scott, the executive director of Student Services, and Kristen Newitt, the coordinator of School Counselors, addressed the Board and shared current practices and procedures that are being used to help support students and staff.

The Superintendent concluded his update with words of thanks to the students for their input.

Recognitions

Student government representatives Benjamin Jenkins from Massey Hill Classical High School, Morgan Wheeler from Cumberland Polytechnic High School and Roman Diego Ganados from South View High School, represented by his SGA Adviser, Roni Winston, served as the ex-officio members of the Cumberland County Board of Education during the May 10 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

Director of Safety and Security
Auxiliary Services

George Hall

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

ELA K-5 Core Product Adoption Approved

The Curriculum Committee's final recommendation of Wonders (2023) from McGraw Hill Education was adopted by the Board as the district's ELA K-5 Core curriculum. In March and April, CCS educators, families of students and the general public were given the opportunity to review four different ELA curriculum products and give their feedback. The adoption of Wonders (2023) in CCS will span from 2022-27.

Superintendent's Budget Gets 'Two Thumbs Up'

The School Board unanimously approved the proposed budget for the 2022-23 school year that according to Superintendent Dr. Connelly "focuses on lifting up every student, every school, and every premier professional throughout the district and rising above the negative impacts of COVID-19." As part of his presentation, he recommended how to allocate the \$699 million proposed budget, titled "Together, We Will Rise." To learn more about the proposed budget, visit www.budget.ccs.k12.nc.us.

School Board Approves to Endorse NCSBA's Legislative Agenda

Through the legislative agenda for the 2022 short session of the North Carolina General Assembly, the Board approved adopting and endorsing the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) 2022 Legislative Agenda items and added the following: Additional Funding for Classified Employee Compensation; the definition of Full-Time Equivalency, and Gray's Creek Water Extension.

The 2022-23 Student Code of Conduct 'Gets the Greenlight'

Members of the Board approved the Cumberland County Schools' Student Code of Conduct for the 2022-23 school year. The purpose of the Student Code of Conduct, which is distributed to all students at the beginning of each year, is to state clearly the standards for acceptable conduct among students. According to the Code of Conduct, "the goal of student discipline is not punitive, but rather to maintain safe and caring schools, to teach students to behave in ways that contribute to academic achievement and school success, and to support an exceptional school environment where students and staff are responsible and respectful."

Nursing Contracts for 2021-22 & 2022-23 School Years OK'd

Approval was given by the Board for the Cumberland County Health Department to provide nursing services to Cumberland County Schools. The contracts state that the Health Department will provide for the employment and supervision of 14 nurses in CCS for a minimum of 10 months.

Board Approves High School's Concession Stand Donation

The Board approved the plan for E.E. Smith High School (EESH) alum to fundraise and ultimately build a concession stand on campus. According to Construction Development Services, Inc., in Norfolk, VA, the 1,423 sq. ft. building will cost \$172,000. Efforts are being made by former EESH students, with the support of the high school's alumni association,

to sponsor the Legacy Brick Fundraiser, which will allow individuals or families to purchase a brick paver to be placed on campus leading to the proposed concession stand. Additional funds remaining from the effort will be used toward student scholarships.

Supplemental Janitorial Services Contract ‘Rubberstamped’

Approval was given for Auxiliary Services to contract for supplemental janitorial services for the purpose of augmenting custodial support at various locations throughout the district where shortages have become critical. The work will be performed on a job order basis and ESSER Funding will be used cover this contract. According to Auxiliary Services, as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic, “CCS has had difficulty maintaining an adequate number of custodians at some schools, placing additional stress and responsibilities on existing staff.”

Elementary School’s Media Center to be Named After Long-time CCS Educator

Members of the Board approved naming the media center at E. Melvin Honeycutt Elementary School “The Lori Mueller Media Center” after the school’s former principal. Mueller helped welcome the first class of students in 1995 as the assistant principal and became the principal in 2000, where she faithfully served until 2020. In a statement supporting the media center’s naming, it was written: “Mrs. Mueller truly believed that reading was the foundation of all learning so she constantly stressed the importance of learning to read... Her love for reading and her desire for all students to be afforded every opportunity to become lifelong readers will be forever present and remembered in the Lori Mueller Media Center.”

Board Supports Request for Electoral Redistricting Consultants to Provide More Options

The Board supported the request for electoral redistricting consultants to provide two additional options to be reviewed and considered at a future Board meeting.

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 continue to 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 Recognitions

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

-MORE-

High School State Championship Athletes

Cape Fear High School

- Brooke Bieniek- Won the 3A NC State Doubles Tennis Championship
- Girls' Tennis Team & Chris Lucas - Won 3A State Tennis Team Title; first time in school's history
- Samuel Aponte – Won the 106lb. 3A State Wrestling Individual Championship
- Calan Staub – Won the 152lb 3A State Wrestling Individual Championship

Gray's Creek High School

- Cheerleading Team & Stephanie French – Won the 4A State Cheerleading Championship Competition

Jack Britt High School

- Women's Bowling Team & April Norton – Won the 4A State Bowling Team Championship
- Nicholas Letourneau – Won the Men's 4A Bowling Individual Title

Seventy-First High School

- Men's Basketball Team & Tony Jones – 3A Regional Champions and 3A State Runner-up

Extra Mile Award Recipient

Derrell Handberry, Sr., who is the assistant foreman in CCS Shipping and Receiving at Operations, was nominated by Social Work Coordinator Pamela Story for May's Extra Mile Award. She describes him as dependable, consistent and reliable. "He does far more than his primary role," said Story. "He assists in whatever way he can, set the example of collaboration, always demonstrates politeness with a smile, and this year, served as a role model and mentor to second and third-graders at C. Wayne Collier." For more than 10 years, Handberry has supported the Cumberland County Registrar of Deeds' annual School Supply and the CCS Reading Rocks Walk-A-Thon Committee, even co-writing "The Reading Rocks" theme song for the district.

Committed Community Support Award Recipient

Johnny Wilson from Fayetteville Urban Ministry received the Committed Community Support Award for establishing programs that address numerous community needs, i.e., Find-a-Friend youth mentorship program, Adult Literacy Program, Career Readiness Program, and Emergency Assistance offerings to include the food pantry and free clothing closet. He was nominated by CCS English as A Second Language (ESL) Liaison Elisa Luna. She said that Wilson and his staff are always very generous, kind, supportive and helpful with families from CCS. "Their service has resulted in parents being able to find jobs, provide for their families and overall have a better quality of life, helping our students to be successful in school," said Luna.

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.

2022 National Outstanding Assistant Principal Dr. Quesha Tillman

The National Association of Elementary School Principals recently named Dr. Quesha Tillman, the assistant principal at Loyd Auman Elementary School, as a 2022 National Outstanding Assistant Principal. This award recognizes assistant principals across the United States for their dedication to ensuring the success of all children and important contributions to their schools and communities.

STARward STEM Expo Winners

The following STARward STEM Expo winning teams were recognized:

- *11th- and 12th-Grade Team from Douglas Byrd High School*
Coach: Denise Renfro
The team won the Secondary School Design Challenge category for their experiment titled "The Impact of Perchlorates on Aerospace Metal T-73 in Microgravity."
- *2nd-Grade Team from Cumberland Road Elementary School*
Coach: Andrea Hildel-Reyes
The team won the Elementary School Design Challenge category for their experiment titled "Sage."
- *4th-Grade Team from Mary McArthur Elementary School*
Coaches: April Braddy and Theresa Pinheiro
This team won the At-Large Design Challenge category for their experiment titled "Turmeric in Space."

As a STARward STEM Expo winners, each team's project will be launched to the International Space Station this fall.

Brian Edkins Scholarship Award Winners

Members of the CCAPAP (Cumberland County Association of Principals and Assistant Principals) presented 13 high school seniors as recipients of the 2021-2022 Brian Edkins Scholarship Award. The seniors were as follows:

Cape Fear High School - Calan Staub
Douglas Byrd High School - Carmello Wesley
E. E. Smith High School - Abraonna Williams
Gray's Creek High School - Madison Bagley
Jack Britt High School - Sarah Bunyan
Pine Forest High School - Deven Hull
Seventy-First High School - Destinee Harris
South View High School - Carlos Alberto Lagunes
Terry Sanford High School - Laura Bullard
Westover High School- Lavontae Lassiter
Cumberland International Early College High School - Mariah Manley
Cross Creek Early College High School - Isatou Kah
Cumberland Polytechnic High School - Katelyn Barr