

The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 6:00 PM with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Nathan Warfel, Jacquelyn Brown, Judy Musgrave, Carrie Sutton and Donna Vann.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly and Board Attorney Nick Sojka. Associate Superintendents: Jane Fields, Kevin Coleman, Lindsay Whitley, Melody Chalmers McClain, Ruben Reyes, Stacey Wilson-Norman, and Jay Toland.

Others Present:

Representatives from CCAE

Representatives from CCAPAP

Representative from Ft. Bragg: Dr. Shevelle Godwin

Media Representative: Michael Futch (CityView)

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Call to Order by Chairwoman Deanna Jones, Pledge of Allegiance by Jacquelyn Brown, Invocation by Susan Williams

2. RECOGNITIONS

2.01 RECOGNIZE Student Ex-Officio Representatives

Jackeline Rivas Echeverria - Westover High School

Jamari McKoy- Southview High School

2.02 RECOGNIZE 2022 North Carolina School Board Association's High School Video Contest

Alexia Glass – Jack Britt High School Student

Ta'Juan "TJ" Lucas - Jack Britt High School Student

Markela Slaughter - Jack Britt High School Student

2.03 RECOGNIZE Extra Mile Award Winner - **Barbara McQueen**

2.04 RECOGNIZE Committed Community Support Award Winner - **Ann Mathis**
The Bicycle Man Community Outreach

2.05 RECOGNIZE Committed Community Support Award Winner (October 2022)
Mark Knight

2.06 RECOGNIZE Board of Education Members

Gifts were shared with Board members from CCS, CCAPAP, Student Ex-Officio, Jackeline Rivas Echeverria & the Westover Wolverines.

3. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Connelly shared the following updates:

A New Year of Continuing Excellence

The Cumberland County Schools' (CCS) Student Services department was recently awarded just over \$5 million dollars through the Mental Health Service Professional Demonstration Grant Program. The award is administered through the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Safe and Supportive Schools. This year's competition was highly competitive; more than 185 applications were received and only 67 proposals were awarded.

Paul Young, Jr., an agricultural educator at Cape Fear High School, is one of 33 agricultural educators nationwide who received the 2022 National Association of Agricultural Educators Teachers Turn the Key Scholarship Award. The scholarship brings together agricultural educators and immerses them in five days of professional development.

Tonya McGill, the district's 2023 Beginning Teacher of the Year, has been selected as a finalist for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching's 2023 Empower NC Beginning Teacher of the Year Award.

January Highlights

Dr. Connelly highlighted several observances that take place during the month of January:

CCS is celebrating School Board Appreciation Month - Dr. Connelly shared, "On behalf of our 50,000 students and 6,500 employees, I want to thank each Board member for your service to our school system. Your leadership matters; you are leading the effort to help each student reach their maximum potential."

January is National Mentoring Month, a time when we recognize individuals who continue to support and provide guidance to our students; Jimmy Harvey is one of those mentors who's here with us tonight. Our Committed Community is making a difference in the lives of our young people, and for that, we are grateful.

In observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, CCS will be closed on Monday, January 16 for students and staff.

Dr. Connelly reminded everyone that the Choice Application period for the 2023-24 school year ends on January 31. Families may visit the CCS Choice Programs website to explore all of the options available.

LLS "Thank You"

Dr. Connelly shared that over a period of 60 days, leading up to his 60th birthday on Dec. 14, 2022, he and CCS student Layla Smith were able to raise over \$20,000 for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS). Dr. Connelly stated, "I really appreciate everyone who helped me celebrate a milestone birthday by "paying it forward" and helping an organization that has done so much to help others impacted by cancer. As a district, we've raised nearly \$64,000 of our \$70,000 LLS Team fundraising goal! We are well on our way to meeting our goal, and I know we will finish strong!"

Superintendent's Focus Monthly Video

Dr. Connelly concluded his comments with a short video that highlighted "the tremendous role of our Board of Education and how their efforts help students succeed."

4. PUBLIC FORUM

There were no speakers during the Public Forum this evening.

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Greg West seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved the adoption of the agenda.

Madam chairwoman stated that a board member requested to remove 6.05 from the Consent Agenda for further discussion.

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda excluding 6.05.

6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2022 Regular Board Meeting

6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Budget Amendments for Local, State, Federal, and Grant Funds (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: (1)Successful Students, (2)Premier Professionals, (3)Exceptional Environment, and (4)Committed Community) as recommended by the Finance Committee (*Exhibit A*)

6.03 CONSIDER Approval of 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 School Calendars (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: (1)Successful Students, (2)Premier Professionals, (3)Exceptional Environment, and (4)Committed Community) as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (*Exhibit B*)

6.04 CONSIDER Approval of 2022-2023 Purchase Agreements with Y & S Technologies and zSpace (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1) Successful Students) as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (*Exhibit C*)

~~6.05 CONSIDER Proposal to Discontinue Uniforms at Select Cumberland County Schools in the 2023-2024 School Year (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3) Exceptional Environment) as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (*Exhibit D*)~~

6.06 CONSIDER Bid Approval of Professional Services Agreement with ATC HealthCare Services, LLC to provide nurse services to high-priority high schools (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1) Successful Students) as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (*Exhibit E*)

6.07 CONSIDER Approval of Professional Services Agreement with Public Consulting Group, LLC to provide Professional Development to Special Education Personnel (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (*Exhibit F*)

6.08 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit G*)

6.09 CONSIDER Approval of Leave of Absence and Special Leave of Absence Requests (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit H*)

6.10 CONSIDER Approval of Limited License Applications (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit I*)

6.11 CONSIDER Approval of Administrative Recommendations (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit J*)

6.12 CONSIDER Approval of International Partnership Agreements (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2) Premier Professionals) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit K*)

6.13 Consider Approval of Additional Administrative Recommendation(s) as recommended by the Personnel Committee (*Exhibit L*)

7. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report - Nathan Warfel

8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Student Support Services Report - Donna Vann

6.05 CONSIDER Proposal to Discontinue Uniforms at Select Cumberland County Schools in the 2023-2024 School Year (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3) Exceptional Environment) as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (*Exhibit D*)

Principals from Sherwood Park Elementary, Howard Hall Elementary, and Pine Forest Middle were present and were called upon to give feedback on their process. Over time the SIT teams were involved through deliberations as well as the parents which were surveyed. The majority of the stakeholders were in favor of discontinuing the schools' uniforms. Upon a motion by Greg West seconded by Nathan Warfel, the Board passed the Proposal to Discontinue Uniforms at Select Cumberland County Schools in the 2023-2024 School Year by a 6:3 vote.

Favor: West, Warfel, Chisolm, Vann, Williams, and Brown

Opposed: Jones, Sutton, and Musgrave

9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report - Susan Williams

10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report - Judy Musgrave

11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report - Alicia Chisolm

12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report - Greg West

13. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report - Carrie Sutton

13.01 CONSIDER Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 115C-319 and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 115C-319 and G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

13.02 CONSIDER Motion to come out of CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Greg West seconded by Alicia Chisolm, the Board unanimously approved to come out of CLOSED SESSION.

13.03 Consider Approval of Superintendent's Recommendation for Business Modernization Contract Amendment (*Exhibit M*)

Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board unanimously approved the Superintendent's Recommendation for the Business Modernization Contract Amendment.

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS: None

15. CLOSING ITEMS

15.01 Board Members' Update (Limited to comments regarding school system business and school systems events only)

15.02 Chairwoman's Update

Madam Chair shared her expectations as chairwoman of the Board of Education highlighting Board's Policies and Procedures that should be implemented at all times. She shared a couple of quotes in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. "Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly." Encouraging words were also given to our students. "Be a bush if you can't be a tree. If you can't be a highway, just be a trail. If you can't be a sun be a star. For it isn't by size that you win or fail. Be the best at whatever you are."

January is School Board Appreciation Month in NC. As we have entered into a new year, and as the chairwoman for 2023 I know we will continue to overcome challenges of the past couple of years, and we may face new ones, but public education in Cumberland County will continue to strive to the top. As a school board, we will lead the way. Schools and communities succeed when everyone works together for a brighter future – parents, teachers, students, and school leadership. Together we will Rise!

She shared appreciation for those students, representatives and citizens that attended the board meeting and congratulated those individuals recognized during the board meeting.

Ms. Jones reminded everyone that schools and offices would be closed on January 16th in observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. And that our next regular Board Meeting will be held on Valentine's Day, February 14, 2023. We look forward to seeing you next month.

15.03 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:00 PM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent

MC/lc