

The Cumberland County Board of Education met on Tuesday, February 14, 2023 at 6:00 PM with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Nathan Warfel, Jacquelyn Brown, 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:

Representative from Ft. Bragg: Dr. Shevelle Godwin
Representatives from Cumberland County Principals Association
Representatives from Retired School Employees' Association
Representatives from Communities in Schools
Representatives from NAACP
Representatives from District PTA

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Chairwoman, Deanna Jones called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Carrie Sutton and the Invocation given by Greg West.

2. RECOGNITIONS

2.01 The following students served as Student Ex-Officio Representatives and delivered a speech to the Board.

Samaria Geniece Whitted - Alger B. Wilkins High

Naomi Lovitt-Seventy First High School

2.02 Dr. Whitley recognized the following Extra Mile Award Winners:

Andrea Burns - Teacher (Reid Ross)

Tyson Johnson - Principal (Reid Ross)

Gaundi Allen - Teacher (Anne Chesnutt)

Whitney Iglesias - Assistant Principal (Anne Chesnutt)

David Greene - Principal (Anne Chesnutt)

3. Superintendent's Update

Dr. Connelly shared the following updates:

February Observances

Several highlighted observances that will take place during the month of February include the following:

Black History Month is a celebration of achievements made and a time to reflect on the central roles of African Americans in U.S. history. He also added that The Fayetteville Observer's recent series titled *Future Black History Makers*, which highlights one of 28 trail-blazing elementary school students each day in February.

Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month highlights specialized career pathways that prepare students to leave the classrooms ready for life.

National School Counseling Week places the spotlight on School Counselors who work to help every child reach their full potential.

Love the Bus/Bus Driver Appreciation Week highlights the work bus drivers across the district do each day in transporting approximately 26,000 students to and from school on more than 400 buses.

Public Schools Week, which is celebrated at the end of the month, showcases the work of premier professionals in CCS who nurture the potential of every student.

National Trend: Book Titles in Media Centers

Dr. Connelly shared that similar to school districts across the nation, CCS occasionally receives questions about books that are in circulation in our school media centers. He took a few minutes to provide accurate information to the Board about how the district is responding to those questions. Dr. Connelly shared that CCS has assembled a Reconsideration Committee in accordance with Board Policy 3210 - Parent Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials. The Reconsideration Committee is made up of a diverse group of internal and external stakeholders. The committee reviews texts to ensure material appropriateness and placement in the school media centers in which these texts are available. Dr. Connelly shared that the committee's focus is not to ban any book but to ensure suitability at the particular grade level. The goal is to provide a variety of materials to students that are age-appropriate and suits their diverse interests.

Superintendent's Focus Monthly Video

Dr. Connelly concluded his update with a short video titled "Celebrating 'Everything' Public Schools." Following the video presentation, in observance of Black History Month, South View High School junior Lamark Merritt performed "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

4. PUBLIC FORUM

We received 7 speakers for Public Comment this evening:

Irene Grimes, Roberta Waddle, Charles McKellar, Michele Ornelas, Adam Beyah, Kristy Sartain, and Carmela McKeller-Smith

5. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

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

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the January 10, 2023 Regular Board Meeting

6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Release of Certain Students

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

6.04 CONSIDER Approval of 2022-2023 Purchase Agreements with NETCOM Business Solutions, NWN Carousel, and Y&S Technologies as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1)Successful Students)

6.05 CONSIDER Approval of 2023 Career and Technical Education Month Proclamation as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1) Successful Students)

6.06 CONSIDER Approval of 2023 Youth Art Month Proclamation and Music in Our Schools Proclamation as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1) Successful Students)

6.07 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2)Premier Professionals)

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

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

6.10 Consider Approval of Additional Administrative Recommendation(s) as recommended by the Personnel Committee

6.11 CONSIDER Approval of Bid Award to A Beep, LLC for Two-Way Radios on School Buses as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: (3)Exceptional Environment and (4)Committed Community)

6.12 CONSIDER Approval to Rename the ERC Building, Dr. William "Bill" Harrison Educational Resource Center as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (2023) (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3)Exceptional Environment)

6.13 CONSIDER Approval of National School Counseling Week Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3) Exceptional Environment)

- 6.14 CONSIDER Approval of Kindness Awareness Month Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3) Exceptional Environment)
- 6.15 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 4110, "Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission" (2023) (1st Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (1)Successful Students)
- 6.16 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 4260, "Student Sex Offenders" (2023) (1st Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: (1)Successful Students and (4)Committed Community)
- 6.17 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 6220, "Operation of School Nutrition Services" (2023) (1st Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3)Exceptional Environment)
- 6.18 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 7241, "Drug and Alcohol of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators" (2023) (1st Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (2)Premier Professionals)
- 6.19 CONSIDER Approval of Revised Policy 8350, "Fixed Assets Inventory" (2023) (1st Reading) as recommended by the Policy Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY: (3) Exceptional Environment)
- 6.20 CONSIDER Approval of Cumberland County Board of Education Legislative (Long Session) Agenda (2023) as recommended by the Legislative Committee (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: (1)Successful Students, (2)Premier Professionals, (3)Exceptional Environment, and (4)Committed Community)

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

8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report - Susan Williams

9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report - Judy Musgrave

10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report - Alicia Chisolm

11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report - Greg West

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

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

13.01 CONSIDER Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a) (1 and 5), and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3)

Upon a motion by Nathan Warfel, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved to go into CLOSED SESSION at 7:00 PM.

13.02 CONSIDER Motion to come out of CLOSED SESSION

Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Alicia Chisolm, the Board unanimously approved to come out of CLOSED SESSION at 7:47 PM.

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

14.01 CONSIDER Staff Recommendation for Land Acquisition (OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITY:(3) Exceptional Environment)

Dr. Connelly made an administrative recommendation to authorize staff to enter into negotiation and due diligence with the Department of Defense (DOD), Department of Army, and Cumberland County for a possible long-term ground lease for a new E.E. Smith site, and to request that the Board of Commissioners provide capital funding for the construction of the new E.E. Smith School.

Upon a motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board unanimously approved the Staff Recommendation for Land Acquisition as stated by Dr. Connelly.

15. CLOSING ITEMS

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

Several Board members shared recent school visits and exciting happenings around the district. Also, as a follow-up to public comments regarding book challenges and concerns the curriculum committee will provide a comprehensive update surrounding this topic at a later date.

15.02 Chairwoman's Update

Last week 71st High School Law, Justice and Public Safety students were given an unique opportunity to sit in on an in-person Supreme Court case; learning proper court procedure and broadening their educational perspective.

15.03 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 PM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent

MC/lc