

Virtual Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education January 12, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Superintendent Dr. Connelly shared the following updates:

- He introduced Principal Monica Carter, who is the president of the CCAPAP (Cumberland County Association of Principals and Assistant Principals). In recognition of National Board of Education Members Appreciation Month, on behalf of the Association, Carter extended words of appreciation to Board members for their dedication and commitment to student success in Cumberland County Schools (CCS).
- Dr. Connelly gave a brief update about how the district is managing the impact of COVID-19:
Dec. 18 – 24: 11 positives and 10 staff members quarantined
Dec. 25 – 31: 12 positives and 10 staff members quarantined
Jan. 1 – 7: 75 positives and 76 staff members quarantined
He noted that there is significant concern with the number of Child Nutrition staff members who have tested positive as well as the number of classroom teachers who have tested positive or have had to be quarantined.
- Dr. Connelly reported that the district is working with Cumberland County Health Department Director Dr. Jennifer Green and the agency to provide the opportunity for all CCS staff, who are considered essential workers, to get vaccinated. All educators, including Board members have been prioritized for the vaccine in Phase 1B Group 1 (aged 50 or above) and Group 2. Dr. Connelly said that Dr. Green feels confident that educators can begin vaccinations during the last week in January through the first of March.
- He announced an updated plan for students on the traditional and early college calendars to begin the transition to Plan B on March 15, which will include a combination of in-person and virtual learning. Students attending year-round schools will transition to Plan B on April 12, following the intercession. Fall EOC and Career and Technical Education (CTE) exams for high school students will take place in early March. High school staff will share more information with families at a later time. Due to the high and concerning COVID-19 metrics currently present in Cumberland County, district officials adjusted the timeline as allowed by the Board's previous decisions, both in response to those metrics and to align the anticipated return with the planned vaccination schedule. Dr. Connelly said the district will continue to monitor conditions.

Board of Education

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District #4

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District #5

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District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

- Finally, he thanked the students, families and staff for their tireless patience during this pandemic and thanked the essential staff who continue to provide onsite support with food, technology, delivery of goods, building maintenance, and security during the quarantine.

Board Supports Resolution Touting Post-Secondary Degree Attainment

The Board approved a resolution supporting myFutureNC Attainment Goal where the district will commit to doing its part by joining in to help 2 million North Carolinians obtain a high-quality credential or post-secondary degree by 2030. myFutureNC is a statewide non-profit organization that works across education, business, and government sectors in communities throughout the state to (1) Close gaps in post-secondary attainment; (2) Promote alignment between educational programming and business/industry needs; and (3) Improve the quality of educational opportunities for all North Carolinians.

Policies Accepted by Board

The following policies were approved by the Board: 5020 Visitors to Schools; 5030 Community Use of Facilities; and 7510 Leave.

Revised Policies Accepted by Board

The following revised policies were approved by the Board: 1510/4200/7270 School Safety; 2342 Voting Methods; 3300 School Calendar and Time for Learning; 4400 Attendance; and 6305 Safety and Student Transportation Services.

Board Recognitions

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced the following honorees to the Board to be recognized before they shared words of 'thanks:'

NC Finalist for Presidential Award for Excellence

Fourth-grade Stedman Elementary School teacher Rebecca Criste was recently announced a North Carolina Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. This is the second time Criste has been named a finalist in the last two years. She will be recognized at the state level for the instructional and reflective practices that set her apart from other teachers of mathematics across the state. The Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is the highest recognition that a kindergarten through 12th-grade science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and/or computer science teacher may receive for outstanding teaching in the United States. The winner will be announced this summer.

Heroic and Lifesaving Actions to Save the Life of a Student

Pinecrest High School's Athletic Trainer Frank Sanchez, Assistant Trainer Morgan Krout, Wrestling Coach Bob Curtin, Women's Cross Country Coach John Buchholz, Men's Cross Country Coach Mike Devine, and Assistant Cross Country Coach Tami Devine were recognized for helping to save the life of a Jack Britt High School student during a Nov. 18 cross country meet on the Moore County school campus. During the meet, Jack Britt junior Juliette Suh was about 10 feet from the finish line and collapsed. Krout ran to assist Juliette and noticed she had no pulse. Immediately, she began performing sternum rubs with hopes of restarting Juliette's heart. Sanchez and Curtin assisted by performing CPR and using an AED. For 15 minutes, the three performed CPR until the ambulance arrived. Meanwhile, Buchholz and The Devines helped execute the Emergency Action Plan, giving the student great care. During that time, Juliette's heart never restarted. She was rushed to Moore County Regional Hospital and transported by helicopter to the UNC Medical Center in

Page -3-
Next Step
January 12, 2021

Chapel Hill. Remarkably, 10 hours later Juliette was cracking jokes in the hospital. Eight days later, she was released from the hospital after receiving a defibrillator. CCS' Athletic Director Vernon Aldridge shared that doctors have not been able to determine the cause of the collapse, but they all agree that if Juliette had not been given CPR, she would not be alive. The quick actions of the six Pinecrest High coaches are why CCS is able to happily share the story of a miracle that happened to Juliette Suh on November 18.

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