



Virtual Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education March 9, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his comments by sharing the following information with Board members:

Observances

This week, CCS is celebrating National School Breakfast Week. He acknowledged all of the hard work of the Child Nutrition Services team in providing students with delicious and nutritious meals despite the global pandemic.

Dr. Connelly shared that we are also celebrating School Social Work Week in CCS. "Now more than ever before, we understand the immeasurable importance of our students' social and emotional wellbeing," said the Superintendent. "We appreciate our school social workers for their life-changing efforts to support our students and families."

He also acknowledged March as Youth Art Month and Music in our Schools Month and its importance and role in helping our school system produce well-rounded students who are prepared to succeed in the classroom and beyond.

Accomplishments

Dr. Connelly recognized CCS Premier Professional Jennifer Senter, who is an AIG Teacher/Consultant at John Griffin Middle School. The long-time educator was recently announced by the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented (NCAGT) as the 2021 NCAGT Outstanding Teacher of the Gifted for Grades 6-12.

COVID-19 Updates

The Superintendent shared with the Board that as we make plans to transition to Plan B, a combination of in-person and virtual learning, on March 15, 2021, it's 'all hands on deck' as we prepare for a smooth and safe return to in-person learning. Efforts are being made to communicate with families, and educators are working 'around the clock' to prepare for a hybrid teaching and learning model as they adhere to the State's StrongSchoolsNC guidelines. He also expressed words of thanks to all CCS Premier Professionals for rising to the occasion. In addition, he noted that currently more than 4,100 employees have received the first dose of one of the COVID-19 vaccines.

Reading Takes You Places Campaign

Dr. Connelly made the observation that each year, schools invite community members into their classrooms to read stories to the students. In light of COVID-19, the district launched

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

the *Reading Takes You Places* campaign to promote the importance of reading while inviting community partners into the classrooms to read virtually. In alignment with Strategic Plan Priority 4: Committed Community, this project engages community stakeholders and allows them to partner in educating our young people.

Dr. Connelly closed his comments by introducing a short video that showcases the *Reading Takes You Places* campaign by highlighting a recent event he along with Associate Superintendent Dr. Mary Black hosted in his neighborhood for area students and their families.

Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principal

Westover High

Mark Hutchens

EC Program Coordinator

Exceptional Children's Services

John A. McMillan

Board Approves Closing T.C. Berrien Elementary School, Redistricting Students

Based on the recommendation of T.C. Berrien Elementary School staff and families during a Feb. 8 Town Hall Meeting, the Board approved Option 3: Closing the school and redistricting its students. Through this option, the students will remain at W.T. Brown Elementary School for the next two years and their teachers will be given priority during the school transfer process in Spring 2022. It was determined that the building will retain its name and be repurposed, based on the Board's direction. Option 1: Repairs Only and Option 2: Renovations were considered as well as rebuilding the school; however, \$30 – 40 million, the cost of a new building, is currently unavailable.

National School Social Work Proclamation Gets 'Thumbs Up'

The nine-member Board approved observing March 7 -13, 2021, as National School Social Work Week in Cumberland County Schools. With the adoption of the proclamation, the district supports and understands that "school social workers identify and utilize community resources in all schools and engage in mutual exchange of information, in united efforts to make a better world."

Board Approves Mental Health Day Treatment Services

The Board voted for CCS to enter an operating agreement with Alexander Youth Network (AYN) based in Charlotte, NC, for on-site mental health services. The agreement states that AYN will deliver mental health Day Treatment Services, and virtual or limited in-person mental health services to CCS students attending Howard Learning Academy and Sherwood Park Elementary School. Academic and mental health services will be provided in an integrated approach intended to help students achieve optimal mental health status and maximize students' school performance in order to successfully facilitate their return to their home school.

Revised Policies Accepted by Board

The following revised policy was approved by the Board: 4700 – Student Records.