



Regular Meeting

Cumberland County Board of Education

May 11, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his comments by extending personal ‘words of thanks’ to several Committed Community Partners who assisted CCS employees, students and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. “We have experienced some challenging times over the past year; however, there is a ray of sunshine – the human spirit. Tonight, we ‘returned thanks’ to several community partners who ‘went the extra mile’ to support our school system during this global pandemic. During a time of uncertainty and need, our community partners ‘stepped up’ in a major way, doing everything possible to support our students and families. I could not be more proud to serve as the superintendent of Cumberland County Schools, in a community that sticks together during the tough times.”

Thereafter, he shared the following information with Board members:

May Observances

Dr. Connelly said that Premier Professionals continue to be celebrated throughout the month of May and encouraged everyone to join the district in recognizing and honoring CCS staff during the following observances: National School Principals Day, Child Nutrition Employee Appreciation Week, National School Nurses Day, Custodial Appreciation Week, and National Educational Leaders’ Week.

Standout Seniors

He expressed how proud he is of CCS’ graduating seniors for arriving at this milestone in their educational journeys. Dr. Connelly shared with the Board that over the next few weeks, the district will highlight outstanding seniors from across the county who are prepared to enter college, the military or the workforce. He introduced a video highlighting one such 2021 Standout Senior from E.E. Smith High School – Ja’Brell Calhoun.

In Dr. Connelly’s closing comments, he made the Board aware that May is also Stroke Awareness Month and that through CCS’ Rally for Wellness initiative, employees have been informed about the dangers of having a stroke, and how to lower one’s risks as well as embracing healthier lifestyle choices to prevent the illness. Also, he informed everyone that on Monday, May 17 from 8:45 a.m. until noon, State Superintendent Catherine Truitt, our local delegation and Board of Education members will participate in a CCS ‘Walk & Talk’ Visit to Sherwood Park Elementary, Douglas Byrd Middle and Massey Hill Classical High schools.

Board of Education

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Susan Williams
District #5

Nathan Warfel
District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

ELA Pilot Program Gets Board's Support 'To Move Forward'

Members of the Board agreed to extend the use of Wit and Wisdom, classroom instruction in English language arts, in elementary schools across the county. The pilot program, scheduled to end in June, will continue through SY 2021-2022. Plans are to survey all teachers implementing Wit and Wisdom this fall and next steps for the program will be determined in November. The curriculum was implemented in the fall of 2018 in 43 of the then, 52 elementary schools.

Mental Health Awareness Month Proclamation Gets Full Support

The Board approved observing the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in CCS and May 7 as National Child Mental Health Awareness Day. According to the proclamation, efforts will be made throughout the month to give unconditional support to the awareness, education and activities planned to enhance the mental health of all students, families, and staff.

Board Approves 7 Policy Revisions

The following revised policies were approved by the Board:

- 1320/3560 – Title I Parent & Family Engagement
- 1740/4010 – Student & Parent Grievance Procedure
- 1742/5060 – Responding to Complaints
- 1750/7220 – Grievance Procedure for Employees
- 1760/7280 – Prohibition Against Retaliation
- 3101 – Dual Enrollment
- 3102 – Online Instruction (First Reading)

Board Recognitions

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, recognized 15 businesses, agencies or faith-based organizations that have helped, in some way, support the district's employees and students and their families since schools closed last spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many partners contributed free meals, groceries, tutoring services, gift cards, internet connectivity and virtual learning support as well as raised funds to assist with the purchase of additional technology devices and hotspots.

Kudos were extended to the following Committed Community Partners:

- **Southern Coals Restaurant**
- **Sammio's Italian Restaurant (Raeford Road & Hope Mills locations)**
- **Manna Church**
- **Second Harvest Food Bank**
- **Action Pathways**
- **Cumberland County Health Department**
- **Cape Fear Valley Hoke Hospital**
- **Simon Temple A.M.E. Zion Church**
- **First Baptist Church (Moore Street)**
- **The Soul Harvest Apostolic Church**
- **Godwin Community Building**
- **New Testament Church of God**
- **Greater Life of Fayetteville**
- **Cumberland Community Foundation**

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As a show of appreciation for their numerous acts of kindness and caring, Dr. Connelly presented the guests with a plaque-certificate acknowledging their unwavering support as well as a coveted CCS Challenge Coin of goodwill.

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