



Regular Meeting Cumberland County Board of Education

June 8, 2021

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly began his comments by expressing words of gratitude and appreciation to Cumberland County Schools (CCS) students, families, employees, Board members, and community partners for “staying the course and pulling together during a very challenging time.” He reminded us that we are #Cumberland Strong!

Afterward, Dr. Connelly shared information about the following highlights:

CCS RISE 2021 Update – He reported that nearly 8,500 students have been accepted into the district’s Rise 2021 summer learning program. On June 7, Session 1 kicked off with 23 summer learning sites, 80 buses on the road, and 500 competent and dedicated staff members.

Summer Meals Update – Meal distribution began this week with service through July 30 at numerous locations around the county. He reiterated that there are no income or registration requirements, and anyone age 18 or younger may receive a FREE nutritious curbside meal.

‘Gathering of The Village’ Event – Dr. Connelly shared that the district is hosting its first-ever ‘Gathering of The Village’ event on Tuesday, June 15 at 8:30 a.m. Local businesses, community organizations and citizens are being invited to the virtual event to join forces in preparation for ‘The Great Comeback.’ This year’s theme is “Families, Educators, and Communities Collaborating for Student Success.” More information including registration links are available on the CCS Website.

Uniform School Update – The Superintendent shared that CCS has begun the process of surveying stakeholder groups at each of the schools that require a uniform code of dress about the continuation of uniform dress requirements. In preparation for the 2021-2022 school year, the administration plans to extend the waiver of Policy 4316, Student Dress Code, School Uniform Requirements, for the new school year, as allowed by the policy. Dr. Connelly said the waiver extension will provide sufficient time for the district to hear from each stakeholder group and determine the appropriate path forward at each school. Families will still have the option to allow students to wear uniforms when they return to school in the fall. There will be no consequences imposed upon a student for a uniform violation during the 2021-2022 school year; however, student dress code requirements will remain in place. According to Dr. Connelly, the administration will provide another update to the Board in the coming months.

Board of Education

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Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

CCS Vaccination Clinics – Now that North Carolina teens age 12 and older can get vaccinated with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, the district will be hosting vaccination clinics along with Cape Fear Valley Health for eligible CCS students and their families. According to Dr. Connelly, these walk-in, school-based COVID-19 vaccination clinics will take place on July 14 -15 from 11:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Congratulations to the Class of 2021 – Dr. Connelly noted that last month thousands of successful students safely walked across the stage to receive their diplomas. On June 14 at 9:00 a.m., the district will host its final high school graduation ceremony. Seniors at Reid Ross Classical High School look to receive their diplomas in the Crown Coliseum. He noted that during the Memorial Day weekend, a very special drive-thru graduation ceremony was held for Cape Fear High School graduate Leianna Smith. Dr. Connelly said that what started as a simple Facebook post turned into a community-wide drive-thru celebration that included more than 750 vehicles filled with students, employees and committed community members coming together to congratulate the graduate. “It was a very special experience that I will cherish for a lifetime,” said Dr. Connelly.

To see a video recap of Leianna’s Drive-Thru Graduation Celebration, click on the following link: <https://youtu.be/fINUUA0Rj6M>

Academic Services 2021 Purchase Agreements Receive Approval

Members of the Board approved the following seven purchase agreements from Academic Services for next school year: Edgenuity, Instructure, PowerSchool Unified Insights, Great Minds Wit and Wisdom, Savvas Math Kits, Savvas myPerspectives, and Savvas myMathLab. According to Academic Services, the select resources and areas of support align with strategic plan objectives and strategies. Federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds and state textbook dollars will be expended to cover the cost of the resources. Click [here](#) for more information about the approved purchase agreements.

School Mental Health Improvement Plan Gets ‘Thumbs Up’ from Board

CCS Improvement Plan for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and School Mental Health (SMH) that includes a training plan was approved by the Board. The overarching Plan recognizes that unmet Social and Emotional Learning and mental health challenges can lead to negative academic outcomes and ineffective work environments. Therefore, the Plan outlines actions the district is taking to invest in the mental health of its students and their families and employees. Ultimately, the Plan will help promote safe environments, healthy relationships, and successful academic outcomes. Click [here](#) to peruse CCS Improvement Plan for SEL and SMH.

2021-2022 Alternative Accountability Models Approved

The Board approved the 2021-2022 Alternative Accountability Models chosen by Howard Learning Academy, A.B. Wilkins High School, and Ramsey Street High School. Each school chose Option C where they will design their own alternative accountability models that address such components as student attendance and discipline, parent involvement, EVAAS Growth as well as community, business and faith-based partnerships.

Board Supports Recruitment and Retention Bonus Proposal

Members of the Board gave their approval to a proposal that would offer a retention bonus of \$1,000 to any staff member (certified & classified) employed as of June 1 who continues to be employed by the district on September 30. Any new staff employed after June 1 who continues to be employed by CCS on September 30 will receive a sign-on bonus of \$500. The maximum funds needed for the district’s 6,893 employees is \$8,893,000, which will be

paid out of federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Funds. This bonus is being implemented to help recruit and retain premier professionals in order to ensure that the district has a sufficient workforce in spite of COVID 19 workplace challenges. Employees can expect to be paid their bonuses on October 15.

Administrative Recommendations

Central Services Administrators

Executive Director of School Support (High Schools) Dr. Tonjai Robertson
Director of Student Activities David Culbreth
Supervisor of Arts Education Carla Crenshaw
Title I Coordinator in Federal Programs Maria Pierce Ford
Title IX Officer in Human Resources Kailey Hill

Principals

Anne Chesnutt Middle - David Greene
Cumberland International Early College High - Caroline Sanchez
J.W. Coon Elementary - Tianna O'Brien
Manchester Elementary - Hannah Gray
Pine Forest High - Juelle McDonald
R. Max Abbott Middle - Naomi Pyle
Sherwood Park Elementary - Jennifer Jasinski
South View Middle - Terry Burks
Walker Spivey Elementary - Rachael Robinson

Principal Transfers

Cross Creek Early College High - Chris Qually
Hope Mills Middle - Regina Blanding
Lewis Chapel Middle - John E. McMillan
South View High - Phyllis Jackson

Assistant Principals

Cumberland Virtual Academy K-5 – Teresa Rubio
Jack Britt High – Kerry Humphrey
Pine Forest Middle – Kamina Fitzgerald
Terry Sanford High – Rangel McLaurin

Board Approves 7 Policy Revisions

The following first reading of revised policies were approved by the Board:
4040/7310 –Staff-Student Relations
4240/7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
4316 – Student Dress Code
7720 – Employee Political Activities

Board Recognitions

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, recognized individuals from a local church and community organization that helped support the district's employees and students and their families when schools closed last spring because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Layman League at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church and the Greater Fayetteville Area Chapter National Pan-Hellenic Council were applauded for donating 30 headsets for online student learning and 600 spaghetti meals to students and their families, respectively. The two community partners join 15 other businesses, agencies or faith-based organizations that were recognized during May's School Board meeting

for contributing free meals, groceries, tutoring services, gift cards, internet connectivity or virtual learning support during the pandemic. 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.

The following Cumberland County Association of Principals and Assistant Principals (CCAPAP) 2021 Scholarship recipients were also recognized by the Board: Kaleb Horne (Gray's Creek High), Britney Watson (Pine Forest High), Krista Edwards (South View High), Jakob Fick (Cape Fear High), Gabriel Guevarra (Seventy-First High), Yulianny Marte Moran (Westover High), Jason Nobles (E.E. Smith High), Justin Moore (Jack Britt High), D'Maurion Shelley (Cumberland International Early College High), Anna Bryant (Cumberland Polytechnic High), and Katherine Atherton (Massey Hill Classical High).

Chairman's Update

Board Chair Alicia Chisolm shared the following information in this month's update:

- The Board voted to change the time of the regular monthly Board meetings from 6:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., effective immediately.
- Congratulations were formally extended to Cumberland County Schools 2021 Graduates and their families on behalf of the Board of Education.
- Words of gratitude were expressed to CCS teachers, administrators and staff for their perseverance, hard work and dedication this school year.
- The Board will not meet during July, but will reconvene on Tuesday, August 10 at 6:00 p.m. for its regular monthly Board meeting.

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