

Virtual Regular Meeting      Cumberland County Board of Education    November 10, 2020

## Superintendent Updates the Board

Superintendent Dr. Connelly shared the following updates:

- Cumberland County Schools recently kicked off a **campaign in partnership** with public health agencies, hospitals, school systems and higher education institutions to encourage the 3Ws – Wear, Wait, and Wash - to slow the spread of COVID-19.
- He was proud to share that the district held an **“Educators Do Vote!” CCS Voting Challenge**. The effort was a fun way to encourage everyone to vote. He was pleased to announce that 99 percent of CCS participated in the Challenge with their administrative teams and 97 percent of them reported 100 percent voter participation. Also, 83 percent participated in the Challenge with their faculty and staffs. Sixty-five percent of the schools reported at least 75 percent voter participation.
- Dr. Connelly reported that the **Superintendent’s Student Voices group** met last week. During this time, he received feedback from students about their learning experiences. He plans to use their input to fine tune learning opportunities for all students across the district.
- He recognized several November observances: The **Month of the Military Family**, which the district recognizes and honors military families for their numerous contributions and daily sacrifices; **Native American Heritage Month**, when CCS honors the numerous contributions of Native American communities while highlighting their culture and traditions. On a personal note, Dr. Connelly added that his maternal great grandmother was a Cherokee Indian from the mountains of North Carolina.

Dr. Connelly ended his update by saluting our Armed Forces as we observe **November 11 as Veterans Day** and introducing a video clip of a message from U.S. Army General Michael Garrett, who is the father of New Century International Elementary School teacher Samantha Walton.

## Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principals  
Armstrong Elementary

Angelina Owens

## Board of Education

**Alicia Chisolm**  
Chair  
District #1

**Greg West**  
Vice Chair  
At Large

**Judy Musgrave**  
At Large

**Charles McKellar**  
At Large

**Deanna Jones**  
District #2

**Carrie Sutton**  
District #3

**Donna Vann**  
District #4

**Susan Williams**  
District #5

**Joseph Sorce**  
District #6

**Superintendent**  
Dr. Marvin Connelly

## Board Approves Career Development Observances in CCS

The nine-member Board approved observing November 1 – 30 as Career Development Month, November 16 – 20 as Career Development Week; and November 18 as Career and Technical Education Facilitator Day in Cumberland County Schools.

### **Board Supports Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan**

The [2020-2021 CCS' Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan](#) received the support of the Board. The plan, which is a comprehensive program for the induction of new teachers and supports the management of beginning teachers, aligns with and highlights the following Beginning Teacher Support Program Standards: Systematic Support for High Quality Induction Programs; Mentor Selection, Development, and Support; Mentoring for Instructional Excellence; Beginning Teacher Professional Development; and Formative Assessment of Candidates and Programs.

### **ACT Prep for Class of 2022 Approved**

The Board gave 'thumbs up' to the district to proceed with the [2020-2021 ACT Support Plan](#), which will help guide the preparatory efforts of students in taking the college test as it relates to multiple access for students, parental awareness, school-based test prep, and personalized supports.

### **2021-2025 Capital Needs Report Ok'd**

CCS' Facility Needs Survey 2021-2025 got the 'go ahead' from the Board. The report highlights the five-year Capital Needs Report to the N.C. Department of Public Instruction including 6 -10 year projections. The report, which breaks down the projected costs for new schools, additions to schools, renovations, furniture/equipment and land purchase, totals \$589,714,160 in capital needs.

### **NC Pre-K Contract Approved**

The contract between the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County, Inc., and the Cumberland County Board of Education was approved in order to implement the North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten (NC Pre-K) Program, administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - Division of Child Development and Early Education. The contract is effective through June 30, 2022.

### **Recommendations Lead to Special Board Meeting**

After listening to the Fall Testing and the Re-Entry Transition plans, the Board agreed to hold a special called meeting on Friday, November 13, 2020, at 8:30 a.m. to consider the following recommendations:

#### **[Fall 2020 Testing Recommendation](#)**

Information was shared with Board members about End-of-Course (EOC) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) Post-Assessments. Currently, there is no waiver from statewide testing or accountability for the 2020-2021 school year. The current waiver expired on July 7, 2020. As it stands, State Board Policy TEST-003 requires students who are enrolled for credit in courses where EOC tests are required, to take the appropriate EOC test with or without accommodations at the completion of the course. Following strict safety precautions on school buses, in the buildings and in classrooms, CCS administration is recommending that the Board approve having only high school students enrolled in EOC and CTE Post-Assessments report to school on assigned testing dates from December 14 -18.

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Recommendation for the Return to Some In-Person Instruction

A presentation titled [Pathway to a Safe and Healthy Return](#) was shared with Board members to support the recommendation from CCS administrators for the return to some in-person instruction. The 96-page plan outlined CCS' safe transition to Plan B (Blended Learning) calling for staff to report to work on December 7, 2020, and students to return to school on a staggered schedule beginning January 7, 2021. Five guiding principles served as the framework for the transition plan: (1) Ensure a healthy and safe learning environment for students and staff; (2) Maintain choice in student learning options; (3) Provide instruction that meets state and federal standards and provide supports for student success; (4) Design training, time, and support for staff to prepare for a successful reopening; and (5) Share proactive, transparent communications with families and staff.

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