

Next Step

A report on Board action
Cumberland County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
April 9, 2019

Recognition of Ex-Officio Members

Student Government leaders Ulysses Crawford from Cumberland International Early College High School and Mikayla Gutierrez from Seventy-First High School served as ex-officio members of the Cumberland County Board of Education. Ex-officio members are given the opportunity to make comments, ask questions, and give input on any topic brought before the Board.

Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principal

Gray's Creek Middle Amy Dombrowski

Grants and Project Management Coordinator

Academic Services Sabrina Steigelman

High School Baseball Field Gets Named

Members of the Board gave 'thumbs up' to naming the baseball field at Seventy-First High School (SFHS) after long-time coach and educator Ted Chappell. The 40-year teaching veteran coached the SFHS baseball team for seven years. In 1965, the Falcons were ranked as the #2 high school baseball team in North Carolina under Chappell's leadership. He also established the junior varsity baseball program at the school.

Board Approves Revised 2019-2020 Bell Schedule

The Board approved revisions to the 2019-2020 Bell Schedule, which primarily affects schools in the Pine Forest and Terry Sanford attendance areas. The revised schedule will be posted on the CCS' Website later this spring.

2019-2020 Budget Proposal Embraced by Board

The Board showed its support of the district budget which recommends the Board ask Cumberland County Board of Commissioners for an increase of \$8.9 million in local funding. The total request of \$89,041,982 will help (1) address the needs of the whole child by increasing the number of social workers, school counselors, and school nurses; (2) fund state salary increases and class-size phase-in requirements; and (3) increase funds to support the growth of English as a Second Language (ESL) and Exceptional Children populations, inflation, continuity of the school safety watch program and other

Board of Education

Donna Vann

Chair
District #4

Alicia Chisolm

Vice-Chair
District #1

Judy Musgrave

At-Large

Charles McKellar

At-Large

Greg West

At-Large

Porcha McMillan

District #2

Carrie Sutton

District #3

Susan Williams

District #5

Peggy Hall

District #6

Superintendent

Dr. Marvin Connelly

district initiatives, the recruitment and retention of principals at the most challenging schools, and the implementation of effective and family and community engagement efforts that ultimately increase student success. School administrators say this budget proposal is geared to address the educational and social-emotional needs of ‘the whole child.’

Mathematics Instructional Materials Adopted

The Board approved the district’s instructional materials adoption for mathematics. Students in elementary and high school math courses across the CCS will have new materials for the 2019-2020 school year. Middle school materials were selected in 2018. The adoption spans from 2019-2024. CCS’ teachers and principals served on the Instructional Materials Advisory. They also participated in February’s Math Materials Adoption Road Show along with the community-at-large. According to CCS administrators, the materials are expected in the district by late June.

Board Receives Strategic Plan Development Update

Melody Chalmers, the assistant superintendent of Transformation & Strategic Initiatives, presented the Board with an update of ideas generated during the March 21 Development Team meeting that focus on the school district’s vision and mission statements and core values. Chalmers said that throughout April, input will be gathered from the public in an effort to refine these ideas so that they are reflective of the community and the needs of students.

Board Recognitions

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced the following honorees to the Board to be recognized:

March 2019 Amazing Acts of Character Award Recipients –

Student Honorees Justice Cochrane from Westover High School and Christine Melendez and Alex Richardson from Cross Creek Early College High School were recognized for displaying ‘acts of good character’ above and beyond expected behavior. Members of the Board extended personal congratulations to the students.

Military Art Contest Winners –

In observance of April as the Month of the Military Child, the CCS sponsored a Military Art Contest to recognize the talents of military-connected students. Lyla Mankowski from Eastover-Central Elementary School, Sarah Shepherd from Vanstory Hills Elementary School, Hennessy Linneman from New Century International Middle School and Kaylee Youngblood from Gray’s Creek High School were recognized by the Board as the 2019 winners. This year’s theme was “A Life Lesson I Have Learned as a Military-Connected Student.”

Marvin R. Pittman Champions for Education Award Recipient –

Acting Superintendent Dr. Black was recognized by the Board for recently being announced as one of five Marvin R. Pittman 2019 North Carolina Champions for Education Award recipients. She was honored in the category of Support Staff Administrator. This coveted award highlights individuals who

demonstrate an extraordinary commitment to student success, exemplify leadership in education, and make a significant impact on students throughout the state.

Dr. Sam Houston Leadership Award Recipient –

As a 2019 Dr. Samuel Houston Leadership Award recipient, Dr. Jane Fields, assistant superintendent – CCS’ Secondary Services, was acknowledged by the Board. This annual award is presented to a recent graduate of the N.C. School Superintendents’ Association Aspiring Superintendent Program because of his/her commitment to continuous improvement, high standards of ethical conduct, strategic planning, improving student performance and meeting the needs of the 21 st Century workforce.

Superintendent’s Update

On Superintendent Dr. Connelly’s behalf, Acting Superintendent Dr. Black shared the following information:

- At this time, May 1 remains scheduled as a regular school day for Cumberland County School students. Considering the number of days missed this school year because of hurricanes, the district leadership team has proposed that one or two CCAE representatives from each school attend the May 1 state-wide teacher rally in Raleigh, which would keep schools open and preserve instruction. While district leadership fully supports local teachers and staff in their advocacy, they hope to receive feedback on this proposal by the end of the week, but will continue to monitor the number of May 1 substitute requests.
- Three CCS students (Chloe Arnett from Cape Fear High School, Earl Horan from Gray’s Creek High School and Austin Hunt from Cape Fear High School) were recently recognized by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association for their outstanding sportsmanship as winners of the “Heart of a Champion” Award.
- Kaitlyn Zuravel, a student at Terry Sanford High School, recently participated in the 2019 North Carolina Science and Engineering Fair held at North Carolina State University. Kaitlyn was one of 12 winners to receive an all-expenses-paid trip to the prestigious Intel International Science & Engineering Fair in Phoenix, Arizona in May.
- This month’s noteworthy observances include National Autism Awareness Month, National Occupational Therapy Month, Child Abuse Prevention Month and the Month of the Military Child where everyone is encouraged to wear purple on April 12 in support of military-connected students.
- Dr. Black concluded her comments with the Superintendent’s Focus Video for April which highlighted National Volunteer Week. The video showcased school volunteers who actively support students across the school district.

-END-