

Next Step

A report on Board action
Cumberland County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
March 12, 2019

Recognition of Ex-Officio Members

Student Government leaders Ashilyn Burgos from Gray’s Creek High School and Walker Shearin from Pine Forest 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

Curriculum and Instruction (Reorganization)
Elementary ELA Specialist Natalie Godwin
Elementary Mathematics Specialist Diane Newell
Operations Executive Director Donna Fields

Board Gives Proclamation ‘Thumbs Up’

Members of the Board pledged their support in proclaiming April 1 – 30, 2019, as Child Abuse Prevention Month in the Cumberland County Schools. The proclamation urges “all staff of the Cumberland County Schools,’ to join in and to increase their participation in efforts to support children and families, thereby preventing child abuse and strengthening the community in which we live.”

Board Receives Strategic Plan Development Update

The Board received an update from Melody Chalmers, the assistant superintendent of Transformation & Strategic Initiatives, about the district’s Strategic Plan Development efforts. Chalmers shared a report about the success of the Feb. 21 Strategic Plan Town Hall Meeting that took place in the J.D. Fuller Recreation Center. More than 475 citizens participated in roundtable conversations and shared feedback about the 10 initial themes that were developed from the Listening Tour, surveys and focus groups.

The following themes were identified by participants as priority areas:

- ~ Graduating every student confident, competitive, and ready for a career or college;
- ~ Ensuring students experience an inviting learning environment that supports their academic, social and emotional growth;
- ~ Recruiting, retaining, and supporting effective teachers and school leaders;
- ~ Providing services and staff to support the “whole child,” e.g.,

Board of Education

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District #4

Alicia Chisolm

Vice-Chair
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At-Large

Charles McKellar

At-Large

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At-Large

Porcha McMillan

District #2

Carrie Sutton

District #3

Susan Williams

District #5

Peggy Hall

District #6

Superintendent

Dr. Marvin Connelly

counselors, social workers, psychologists, and nurses; and
~ Engaging parents and the community to build trusting relationships to support our students.”

Board Recognitions

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

January, February 2019 Amazing Acts of Character Award Recipients –

Student Honorees Elizabeth Harris-Willett from Stoney Point Elementary School, Danielle Carlson from Raleigh Road Elementary School and Nasir Mixon from South View Middle School were recognized for displaying ‘acts of good character’ above and beyond expected behavior. Members of the Board extended personal congratulations to the three students.

State Wrestling Champions –

Cape Fear High School Wrestlers Dallas Wilson and Jared Barbour and their coach, Heath Wilson, were acknowledged by the Board for competing for and winning Individual North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Wrestling Championships. Madajah Trapier, who is a student at Cumberland International Early College but wrestles for Jack Britt High School, was recognized as the 2018-2019 NCHSAA Women’s State Wrestling Champion at 152 lbs., which makes her the first-ever North Carolina Women’s State Championship winner in this weight class. Her coach, Byron Sigmon, was recognized as well.

South View High School Men’s Bowling Team – State Champions –

Members of the Men’s Bowling Team at South View High School (Hunter Hicks, Jordan Hicks; Joshua Hicks; Joshua Packer; Isaac Palakawognese; Nicholas Roberson; Connor Schneider; Jaycee Wynne; Shaakir Williams; Nichylas Riley, who attends Cumberland Polytechnic High School; and Coach Michael Maddox) were recognized for recently winning the state championship title.

Superintendent’s Update

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

- Board members were given an overview of agenda topics for upcoming Board of Education and committee meetings. Additionally, department heads listed initiatives that will be occurring during the next few months.
- To encourage more families to take advantage of the healthy choices available for school breakfast, the Cumberland County Schools celebrated National School Breakfast Week from March 4 - 8. The district- and school-level Child Nutrition Services’ staff works diligently to serve more than 17,200 breakfast meals daily.
- Last week, the CCS also celebrated School Social Work Week. We were reminded that our district-level team and 59 school-based social workers help to improve the school climate by developing trusting relationships and removing barriers for children. Their efforts to help meet

the social and emotional needs of our students are appreciated.

- March is “Arts in our Schools Month”. The CCS recognizes the tremendous importance of our Arts program and the district appreciates the educators who provide our students with access to dance, music, theatre arts, and visual arts on a daily basis.
- Everyone was encouraged to check out the art on display at Cross Creek Mall through March 25 and the Juried Art Exhibition at the Arts Council in Downtown Fayetteville through March 15.
- Dr. Black’s concluded her comments with the Superintendent’s Focus Video for March. The video highlighted the innovative teaching and learning that is taking place at Westover Academy of Health Sciences and the Kids Heart Challenge, which encourages students to embrace a healthy lifestyle.

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