

Next Step

A report on Board action
Cumberland County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
January 15, 2019

Recognition of Ex-Officio Members

Student Government leaders Emma Wright from Cape Fear High School and Elena Cousin from Douglas Byrd 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

ELA Curriculum Specialist – (K – 5)

Elementary Education

Jennifer Lloyd

Board Supports 2019 School Counseling Proclamation

The Board approved proclaiming February 1 – 8, 2019, as National School Counseling Week in the Cumberland County Schools. The proclamation supports the work of school counselors as they (1) help students reach their full potential; (2) help parents focus on ways to further the educational, personal and social growth of their children; (3) assist teachers and other educators to help students explore their potential and set goals for themselves; and (4) identify and utilize community resources that enhance and complement comprehensive school counseling programs that help students become productive members of society.

Strategic Plan Development Update Shared

The Board received an update from Melody Chalmers, the assistant superintendent of Transformation & Strategic Initiatives, regarding the district's Strategic Plan Development efforts. She said a group of 40 internal and external stakeholders, e.g., teachers, students, principals, parents, school administrators and reps from higher education, faith-based institutions, and the military, are planning their first meeting next month. At this time, they will study feedback from the CLC3 Listening Tours along with preliminary data and surveys in order to organize information and develop overarching themes that will ultimately establish the school district's strategic priorities and plans for the next five years.

Board Approves Supporting Local Control of School Calendars Resolution

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

The nine-member Board unanimously voted to approve a resolution supporting local control of school calendars which reads: "...BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cumberland County Board of Education does hereby request that the North Carolina General Assembly amend G.S. 115C-84.2, 'School Calendar,' to allow more flexibility to local boards of education by providing them with the option of setting the start date to begin up to ten (10) days prior to the Monday closest to August 26 and the end date no later than ten (10) days prior to the Friday closest to June 11."

Board Recognitions

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

December's 2018 Amazing Acts of Character Award Recipients – Student Honorees Keyana Henry from Spring Lake Middle School and Austin Hunt from Cape Fear High School were recognized for displaying 'acts of good character' above and beyond expected behavior. Members of the Board extended personal congratulations to both students.

North Carolina Finalist for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics & Science Teaching – Rebecca Criste, a fourth-grade teacher at T.C. Berrien Elementary School was honored for being one of three national finalists for the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The announcement of the Presidential Award winner is slated for the summer of 2020.

Title I School of Distinction – Beaver Dam Elementary School – The staff at Beaver Dam Elementary School was acknowledged by the Board for being nominated the third year in a row for the National Title I Distinguished Schools Award in the category of sustained high performance. Beaver Dam Elementary was one of only nine nominated for sustained high performance from the 1,469 Title I schools in North Carolina. In October, the school was also recognized at the state Title I Directors' Conference in Greensboro.

Re-Designated NC School to Watch – John Griffin Middle School's Staff was recognized for being re-designated as a "School to Watch" by the North Carolina Association for Middle-Level Education. This distinction recognizes John Griffin Middle's academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and organizational structures.

Grantees for the Stephen Shane Fincher Memorial Foundation Grant – Jennifer and Sean Fincher from the Stephen Shane Fincher Memorial Foundation and CCS' Grants Management Coordinator Jennifer Lloyd presented grant awards to the following schools/individuals: E.E. Smith High School/Patricia Strahan (Safety Equipment); Douglas Byrd High School/Denise Renfro (STEM at the Edge of Space); Glendale Acres Elementary School/Deborah Dowd (Primary Students Learn About Coding); Brentwood Elementary School/Wendy Soltero (Gearing Up Makers); Rockfish Elementary School/Tracy Call (Exploring Our World One Expedition at a Time); Westarea Elementary School/Sylvia Caldwell (Hands 2 Mind: Hands-on Learning for Growing Minds); and Walker-Spivey Elementary School/Jennifer Jordan (Being Innovators and Problem Solvers).

Superintendent's Update

In Superintendent Dr. Connelly's update to the Board the following information was shared:

- He announced additional assistance from the Carolina Panthers in partnership with Bank of America and Participate (formerly VIF) as they support the school system's hurricane relief efforts.
- Dr. Connelly formally invited Board members to the upcoming 2019-2020 CCS' Choice Fair scheduled on Saturday, February 2 from 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at E.E. Smith High School. From Language Immersion to International Baccalaureate programs, the Fair will highlight an array of options in the CCS that fit the needs of the district's diverse student population.
- He shared with Board members that he will begin closing his monthly Board meeting updates with a video that "shines a light on some of the wonderful work that is being accomplished throughout our school system."
- Dr. Connelly introduced the video which highlights January as National Mentoring Month. He commented on how grateful the CCS is to have mentors across the county who invest their time and effort daily in improving the well-being of our students. The video was produced by the Communications & PR Department.

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