

Cumberland County Board of Education  
Fayetteville, North Carolina  
January 14, 2020

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2020, at 6:30 p.m., in the Central Services Board Room, with the following board members present: Donna Vann, Alicia Chisolm, Susan Williams, Carrie Sutton, Charles McKellar, Joe Sorce, Judy Musgrave, and Greg West.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly, Associate Superintendents, Mary Black, Ron Phipps, Ruben Reyes, Clyde Locklear, Betty Musselwhite, Lindsay Whitley, Joe Desormeaux, and Stacey Wilson-Norman; Board Attorney Nick Sojka. Representatives of the principals association, Ft. Bragg Liaison, district PTA representative, representatives of the NCAEOP, NAACP, CCAE, Child Nutrition Services, Retired School Personnel, representatives of various fraternities and sororities and representatives of the teacher assistants association were also in attendance.

### **1. OPENING ITEMS**

Chairman Alicia Chisolm called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Mrs. Chisolm led our Pledge of Allegiance, followed with the invocation by Rev. Brian Thompson.

As recently elected Chairperson, Mrs. Chisolm shared items of importance to the efficient working of the Board: to include, Standard Operating Procedures, expectations, requests and expression of concerns. Her hope is that the Board can work together in harmony and do what is always best for our students and employees.

### **2. RECOGNITIONS**

The Board RECOGNIZED Student Representatives Malachi Middleton, Student Government representative from Westover High School and Ashanti Revia Smith, Student Government Representative from Douglas Byrd High School. Malachi and Ashanti were given the opportunity to address the Board on a topic of their choice.

The Board RECOGNIZED DeNaira Williams as the Amazing Acts of Character Recipient for the Month of November.

The Board RECOGNIZED Cheryl Mitchell as the Extra Mile Award Winner for this month.

The Board RECOGNIZED Sheila Sochovka as EC Educator of Excellence

\*\*\*\*\*

### **3. PUBLIC FORUM**

Four citizens spoke tonight: Carmella McKellar-Smith, Fred Clark, Monica Carter, and Amanda Williams

#### **4. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Joseph Sorce, the Board members present adopted the agenda unanimously.

#### **5. Chairperson Alicia Chisolm called for a motion to APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA.**

Upon motion by Donna Vann, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board members present unanimously approved the **CONSENT AGENDA**.

5.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the December 10, 2019 Board Meeting

5.02 CONSIDER Approval of Release of Certain Students

5.03 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee

5.04 CONSIDER Approval of Leaves of Absence and Special Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Personnel Committee

5.05 CONSIDER Approval of Administrative Recommendations as recommended by the Personnel Committee

5.06 CONSIDER Approval of Mathematics Professional Services Contract: Open-Up as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

5.07 CONSIDER Approval of Mathematics Professional Services Contract: National Training Network, Inc. as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

5.08 CONSIDER Approval of The Cumberland Commitment: Baseline & Target Data as recommended by the Curriculum Committee

5.09 CONSIDER Approval of Division of Services for the Blind, NC Dept of Health and Human Services and CCS Board of Education Agreement as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee

5.10 CONSIDER Approval of the Partnership for Children of Cumberland County and CCS PreK Agreement as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee

5.11 CONSIDER Approval of New / Revised Policy 4240-7312 as recommended by the Policy Committee (First Reading)

5.12 CONSIDER Approval of New / Revised Policy 7241 (to be adopted as temporary policy as of Jan 1, 2020) (Second Reading)

5.13 CONSIDER Approval of New / Revised Policy (3620) (Second Reading)

#### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**6. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report - Porcha McMillan (not present)**

**7. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Student Services Committee Report – Susan Williams**

**8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report - Greg West**

**9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report – Joseph Sorce**

**10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report – Donna Vann**

**11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report – Carrie Sutton**

**11.01 CONSIDER** Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters

protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 115C-319, and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-18.11(a)(3).

Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Greg West, the Board members present unanimously approved to go INTO Closed Session at 7:15 pm.

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Joseph Sorce, the Board members present voted unanimously to come OUT of Closed Session at 7:27 pm.

Mrs. Chisolm called on Dr. Connelly for his **Administrative Recommendation**. Dr. Connelly recommends Ms. Ayanna Richard for the position of Director of Exceptional Children. Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board members present unanimously approved Dr. Connelly's recommendation.

## **12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report – Charles McKellar**

## **13. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS**

## **14. CLOSING ITEMS**

### **14.01 Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly**

Dr. Connelly began his comments by thanking the Board for the opportunity to serve as the leader of our great school system stating so much work is being done to help our students be successful in the classroom and beyond.

*Everyone was asked to pause for a moment of silence in honor of former School Board members Peggy and Macky Hall*

- First, Dr. Connelly announced that CCS is partnering with NC State University to build a leadership pipeline for our low incoming/high poverty schools. We are participating in their Principal Preparation Program, which will help us prepare school leaders to move student achievement in a positive direction. The program is free to participants as long as they work as school leaders in public schools after graduation. NCSU's Master of School Administration program is an innovative model of preparation, early career support, and continuous professional development for leaders who have the desire and commitment to lead high-need schools.
- January is School Board Appreciation Month. To each of you sitting here this evening, thank you, for all that you do to support our students and schools. We are blessed to have such a dedicated, hard-working and caring Board of Education.
- January is also National Mentoring Month. Committed community members dedicate their time to serve as mentors to our children, reinforcing our commitment to every student and helping us create an exceptional learning environment. We certainly appreciate their efforts.
- On Monday, January 20, district offices and schools will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Over the holiday weekend, there are several events taking place throughout the community to honor Dr. King. Please stay tuned to our website and social media pages for updates on how our schools are recognizing MLK Day.
- Dr. Connelly announced that we are to host the first-ever State of Education in Cumberland County on Tuesday, February 4 at Fayetteville State University. This event will feature leaders from Cumberland County's educational institutions and highlight major successes, challenges, and strategic priorities taking place throughout the county. We are excited to collaborate with Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Technical Community College and Methodist University for this event.
- In closing, Dr. Connelly shared a video featuring some of the work we are doing districtwide to support schools and increase the success of our students.

**14.02 Board Members' Update** (Limited to comments regarding school system business and school systems events only)

Joseph Sorce shared his displeasure and feels that it is unacceptable for the Legislature to have left session without addressing and approving a Budget.

Judy Musgrave shared this is her 50th wedding anniversary month.

**14.03 Chairman's Update**

Mrs. Chisolm again thanked our students and citizens for attending the meeting this evening. She congratulated all that were recognized for their achievements.

Mrs. Chisolm reminded everyone that schools and offices will be closed on January 20, 2020.

In closing, she invited all to join our next meeting to be held on February 11, 2020.

**14.04 ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm.

---

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent  
MC/ph