

# Next Step

A report on Board action  
Cumberland County Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
**April 21, 2020**

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## **Superintendent Updates the Board**

Superintendent Dr. Connelly shared with the Board ways the district is navigating through the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in order to provide learning opportunities and services. He told the Board of how local educators quickly jumped into action, launching Cumberland@Home and providing virtual learning opportunities for students. According to Dr. Connelly, the district has distributed more than 6,000 laptops to support student learning. Since closing school buildings, Child Nutrition Services staff, along with other employees and volunteers, have provided more than 500,000 meals to students. On average, CCS distributes 30,000 meals each day. Dr. Connelly also recognized committed community partners who have donated thousands of meals to support CCS families and who have volunteered their time and resources at food distribution sites. He acknowledged the teachers who are producing masks and clasps for first responders using the district's 3-D printers and thanked the Board for its support even as the district moves ahead in making major decisions, e.g., graduation ceremonies, etc.

## **Superintendent Shares Recommended Budget for 2020-2021**

Dr. Connelly's recommended budget for the 2020-2021 school year was shared with the Board. After examining current expenditures, repurposing more than \$1.5 million and deferring more than \$4.9 million worth of identified needs, he is recommending that the Board ask for an increase of \$4.2 million in local funding from the Cumberland County Board of Commissioners. Of this request, \$1,360,796 is due to legislative impact, \$912,000 is targeted to support low-performing schools and \$1,093,875 is earmarked to support the district's premier professionals. Dr. Connelly said the budget request further supports actions outlined in The Cumberland Commitment: Strategic Plan 2024.

## **Administrative Recommendations**

Principal  
T.C. Berrien Elementary School - Kim Robertson

## **Board Approves Graduation Credits for Class of 2020**

Because of the impact of COVID-19, members of the Board approved waiving its 28-credit graduation requirement contained in Policy 3460 for the Class of 2020 only. In alignment with guidance from state

## **Board of Education**

### **Alicia Chisolm**

Chair  
District #1

### **Greg West**

Vice-Chair  
At-Large

### **Judy Musgrave**

At-Large

### **Charles McKellar**

At-Large

### **Vacant**

District #2

### **Carrie Sutton**

District #3

### **Donna Vann**

District #4

### **Susan Williams**

District #5

### **Joseph Sorce**

District #6

### **Superintendent**

Dr. Marvin Connelly

leaders, the Senior Class of 2020 will be eligible to graduate from high school on their originally scheduled graduation date by meeting or exceeding the State Board of Education requirements of 22 credits.

### **Compensation for Employees Working During Declared Disasters or States of Emergency Approved**

The Board approved a change to Policy 7500, "Workday and Overtime," to provide additional compensation for essential, "Mandatory" employees who are required to work onsite during declared disasters or states of emergency like the COVID-19 pandemic. Revised Policy 7500 and the accompanying Regulation 7500-R3 now provide that all non-exempt employees who are designated as Mandatory and are required to work at a shelter or with disaster or state of emergency relief efforts or to perform essential district duties be compensated at a rate of 1.5 times their hourly rate for every hour worked.

Exempt employees designated as Mandatory and assigned by the Superintendent or designee to work a minimum of 4 hours per day in a shelter or Emergency Operations Center shall receive a daily stipend of \$200. Additionally, these exempt employees will receive a trade-day for shelter or EOC duty for hours worked beyond a regular day.

This policy change is effective with respect to work performed on or after April 1, 2020.

### **Procedures for Filling Vacant Board Seat Accepted**

Procedures for filling the District 2 seat of former Board member Porcha McMillan were approved by members of the Board. Seat vacancy notices will be run in The Fayetteville Observer, The Fayetteville Press, on CCS' Website homepage and through the district's social media outlets until mid-May outlining the deadline for the receipt of letters of interest and resumes. Thereafter, the Board will hold a special meeting where the Board Chair will solicit nominations and entertain Board members' votes. All deliberations regarding applicants will be held in open session. The winner will be elected by majority vote.

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