

# Next Step

A report on Board action  
Cumberland County Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
**March 10, 2020**

## Recognition of Ex-Officio Members

Student Government leaders Cole Bright from Terry Sanford High School and Emma Nobles from Massey Hill Classical 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.

## System-Wide Proclamations Get Approval

The Board approved the following proclamations:

- 2020 Arbor Day in CCS on March 20, 2020, urging all members of the school community to celebrate the observance and to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands by planting trees “to promote the well-being of this and future generations.”
- Youth Art Month from March 1 – 31, 2020, asking all residents to give their full support to quality school arts programs for young people recognizing that visual arts education develops students’ creative potential and improves problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.
- Music in Our Schools Month from March 1 – 31, 2020, endorsing the observance as an opportunity to support the purposes and practices of Music Education encouraging teachers, parents, students and all citizens to participate.

## Board Approves Addendum to Auditor’s Contract

The Board approved amending its auditing accounts contract with Cherry Bekaert LLP. Additional time was needed by the firm for the closeout of the financial records and the preparation of financial statements. The audit report due date was originally October 31, 2019. The modified due date is March 31, 2020. In years to come, the Board said it will work with the auditor to address closeout issues and audit scheduling.

## Board Recognitions

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, shared the following recognitions with the Board:

### 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

### **South View High School Varsity Cheerleaders –**

Recently, North Carolina's Cheerleading Coaches Association announced South View High School's Varsity Cheerleading team as State Champions in the D-1 Varsity Non-Tumble Medium Division.

### **Terry Sanford High School Bowling State Champs –**

Terry Sanford High School's Girls' Bowling Team recently won the state championship title in the Ladies' Team category and Rolf Wallin won the Men's Individual State Bowling Championship title.

### **Gray's Creek High School State Champion Bowling Team –**

Recently, the Men's Bowling Team State Championship title was awarded to Gray's Creek High School's Boy's Bowling Team.

### **55-Meter Wheelchair NCHSAA Indoor Track State Champ -**

Isaiah Fultz from South View High School set a new state record by becoming the North Carolina High School Athletic Association's 55-meter wheelchair indoor track state champion.

### **Cape Fear High School State Champion Wrestlers -**

Nick Minacapelli from Cape Fear High School won the 220-pound North Carolina High School Athletic Association's State Individual Wrestling Championship. Dallas Wilson, also a student-athlete at Cape Fear High, won the 145-pound State Individual Wrestling Championship as well as the Most Valuable Wrestler distinction. Thus far, he is only the second Cumberland County wrestler to win three wrestling state championships.

### **March's Extra Mile Award Winner –**

Ewrik McKoy, a bus driver and custodian at Elizabeth Cashwell Elementary School, was recognized as March's Extra Mile Award recipient. LaTonya Adams, the assistant principal at the school, nominated McKoy because of his quick thinking and compassion after recently saving two of his bus riders from being attacked by a wild dog. He maneuvered his bus to block the dog so that the children could get on the bus. After finishing his route, McKoy brought the children back home where they were able to safely enter their home. The Extra Mile Award recognizes the contributions of the district's premier professionals to the overall mission and core values of Strategic Plan 2024.

### **Committed Community Support Award Recipient –**

Dr. Vivian Rhone from the Balm in Gilead Family Counseling Ministries was recognized as March's Committed Community Support Award recipient. Through the years, Dr. Rhone, the president, founder and CEO of Balm in Gilead, and numerous volunteers have provided Cumberland County School students and their families with community outreach, disaster relief, character education programming, clothing and household goods and items. Kim Nash, instructional programs coordinator for CCS, said she nominated Dr. Rhone for this award because of the tremendous leadership and selfless acts of kindness she has shown through the outreach program. Based on the district's core values, which are part of CCS' Strategic Plan 2024, the Committed Community Support Award is designed to acknowledge any individual or organization that goes 'above and beyond' to support Cumberland County Schools.

### **Superintendent's Update**

Superintendent Dr. Connelly shared the following update with the Board:

#### ***Read Across America Observances***

Acknowledgement was made of several *Read Across America* observances and how committed

community members visited schools throughout the district to read Dr. Seuss books to students and expose them to real-world occupations. The Superintendent concluded his comments with a video that featured Westarea Elementary School's Read Across America celebration.

### **COVID-19 Briefing to the Board**

Associate Superintendents Dr. Mary Black, Joe Desormeaux and Lindsay Whitley along with CCS' Director of Health Services Shirley Bolden joined Dr. Connelly to provide a brief update on the precautionary measures CCS is taking in response to COVID-19, also known as the Coronavirus.

### **Committee Updates**

The following information was approved by Board of Education Committees:

#### **Leading Beyond the Classroom Pathways –**

In an effort to build strong leadership in schools across the district, Leading Beyond the Classrooms Pathways will offer aspiring teacher leaders an opportunity to acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to serve in leadership capacities throughout the district. These pathways are the first launched as part of the "CCS Talent Pathways for Premier Professionals" initiative. Training for these initial pathways began in January. Based on their professional interest, teachers can now become a part of The Aspiring Instructional Coach Academy, The Aspiring Assistant Principal Academy, National Board Certification Academy or Leaders for English Learners Academy.

#### **Differentiated Diploma Pathway –**

The Cumberland County Board of Education has implemented the Differentiated Diploma Pathway (DDP) as a provision to allow certain students to graduate and earn a full diploma with minimum state standards as required by North Carolina and exempts students from any additional local requirements. This is the first step in examining alternative options to empower students to use individualized graduation plans best suited to their life circumstances, interests, goals and post-secondary preferences. The DDP may only become an option provided that students meet certain eligibility requirements as outlined in the DDP.

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