

# Next Step

A report on Board action  
Cumberland County Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
**January 14, 2020**

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## **Recognition of Ex-Officio Members**

Student Government leaders Malachi Middleton from Westover High School and Ashanti Revia Smith 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**

Assistant Principal  
Lewis Chapel Middle School - Tina Mitchell

Director  
Exceptional Children Ayanna - Richard

## **Baseline, Target Data for Strategic Plan 2024 Approved**

The Board approved baseline data and targets for Strategic Plan 2024. These key metrics will help the district measure its progress toward achieving the goals outlined in The Cumberland Commitment: Strategic Plan 2024. Internal and external stakeholders shared feedback on the targets while Hanover Research firm provided best practices for the development and refinement of the targets. The criteria for developing target metrics included focusing on a limited number of goals and results with yearly milestones over the five years of the Strategic Plan.

## **Board of Education**

### **Alicia Chisolm**

Chair  
District #1

### **Greg West**

Vice-Chair  
At-Large

### **Judy Musgrave**

At-Large

### **Charles McKellar**

At-Large

### **Porcha McMillan**

District #2

### **Carrie Sutton**

District #3

### **Donna Vann**

District #4

### **Susan Williams**

District #5

### **Joseph Sorce**

District #6

### **Superintendent**

Dr. Marvin Connelly

## **Board Recognitions**

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

### **November 2019's Amazing Acts of Character Award Recipient –**

November's Student honoree DeNaira Williams from Gray's Creek Middle School was recognized for displaying 'acts of good character' above and beyond expected behavior. Members of the Board extended personal congratulations to her.

### **January's Extra Mile Award Recipient –**

Cheryl Mitchell, a school social worker at Vanstory Hills Elementary School, was recognized as January's Extra Mile Award recipient. Lizzie Shepherd, a teacher at the school, nominated Mitchell because of her work with spearheading the Re-Gifting Store that allowed students in transition the chance to 'shop' and wrap gifts for their loved ones for the holidays. Shepherd saw that Mitchell's effort allowed their students in need the opportunity to share in the joy of giving. The Extra Mile Award recognizes the contributions of the district's premier professionals to the overall mission and core values of Strategic Plan 2024.

### **EC Educator of Excellence –**

Long-time Exceptional Children's educator Sheila Sochovka was recognized for recently being named a North Carolina Educator of Excellence by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Exceptional Children's Division.

### **School Board Appreciation –**

Westarea Elementary School students were recognized for sending handmade gifts to Board members in observance of January as School Board Appreciation Month.

### **Superintendent's Update**

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

#### **Partnership with NCSU**

CCS will be partnering with N.C. State University to build a leadership pipeline for the district's low-performing/high-poverty schools and support its premier professionals. The Principal Preparation Program, which will help prepare school leaders to move student achievement in a positive direction, is free to participants as long as they work as school leaders in public schools after graduation.

It was also shared that 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.

#### **Observances**

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

In observance of January as School Board Appreciation Month, gratitude was extended to members of the Board for their hard work, caring and dedication to supporting CCS students and schools.

January is also National Mentoring Month. Words of appreciation were extended to those committed community members who dedicate their time to serve as mentors in the schools.

On Monday, January 20, district offices and schools will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day. Over the holiday weekend, there are several events taking place throughout the community to honor Dr. King. Visit the district's website and social media pages for updates on how local schools are recognizing MLK Day.

### **State of Education**

CCS will be hosting the first-ever State of Education in Cumberland County event on Tuesday, February 4 from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. in Seabrook Auditorium on the campus of Fayetteville State University. The event will feature leaders from Cumberland County's educational institutions and highlight major successes, challenges, and strategic priorities taking place throughout the county. CCS is excited to collaborate with Fayetteville State University, Fayetteville Technical Community College and Methodist University for this event.

The Superintendent concluded his comments with a video that features the work that is being done district-wide to support schools and increase the success of CCS students.

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