

# Next Step

A report on Board action  
Cumberland County Board of Education  
Regular Meeting  
**October 8, 2019**

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

Student Government leaders Faith Pittman from Reid Ross Classical High School and Jefferson Skinner from Cross Creek Early College 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  
Cape Fear High School - Angela Bowen  
Principal  
Massey Hill Classical High School - Jason Jordan  
Director of School Support  
School Support - La'Shanda Carver-Moore

## **Board Adopts School Lunch Proclamation**

The Board gave approval to proclaiming the week of October 14 – 18, 2019, as National School Lunch Week. The proclamation recognizes the National School Lunch Program as the largest of the federal child nutrition programs that is dedicated to the health and well-being of U.S. children. The document further shares the benefits of a healthy school lunch in a child's life and encourages "all staff and citizens to join in celebrating the benefits of school nutrition programs for our students."

## **Board Extends Superintendent's Contract**

Superintendent Dr. Marvin Connelly, Jr., received the nod from members of the Board to continue leading the school system at least through June 30, 2023. The Board voted to extend Dr. Connelly's original contract by one year, which is the maximum extension allowed by law.

## **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

**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:

### **Beginning Teacher of the Year Award Finalists & Winner**

Musselwhite introduced Kari Grates, the Beginning Teacher Support Coordinator, who presented CCS' Beginning Teacher of the Year Award Finalists **Jaclyn Hamilton, a K-2 Austistic teacher at College Lakes Elementary School; Shakira Hodges, a CTE teacher at Ireland Drive Middle School; and Kendra LoSapio, a second-grade teacher at Elizabeth Cashwell Elementary School.** Grates also presented the district's 2019-2020 Beginning Teacher of the Year winner, **Damaris Prieto, a ninth-grade English teacher at South View High School.** Prieto will go on to compete on the regional level in pursuit of the first North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT) Beginning Teacher of the Year Award. The NCCAT Beginning Teacher of the Year process was developed to honor beginning teachers and to retain those who show promise as excellent teachers and educational leaders in North Carolina public schools and public charter schools.

### **October's Extra Mile Award Recipient**

**Ellen Swinson, a bus driver at Ashley Elementary School,** was recognized as October's Extra Mile Award recipient. Swinson was nominated by Carolyn Ortiz, a teacher assistant at Ashley Elementary, who praised her co-worker for her level of compassion in putting children first. On the nomination form, Ortiz wrote that after Swinson finished her route recently, she noticed a bus from Vanstory Hills Elementary School had pulled over because of mechanical issues. She stopped to help the driver and offered the students an air-conditioned place to wait. After talking with school administrators at Vanstory Hills Elementary, Swinson happily finished the bus route so that the students would arrive home in a timely manner. The Extra Mile Award recognizes the contributions of the district's premier professionals to the overall mission and core values of Strategic Plan 2024.

### **CFHS Student & North Carolina's Backpack Buddies Week Proclamation**

**Cape Fear High School senior Avery Pickett** was recognized for receiving a proclamation from Governor Roy Cooper observing September 22 – 28, 2019, as "BACKPACK BUDDIES WEEK" in North Carolina. The Proclamation commends the work of Backpack Buddies programs, like the one Avery Pickett founded and has expanded at her school and church and at schools in the Cape Fear Attendance Area.

### **Superintendent's Update**

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

- During October, the following noteworthy celebrations are being recognized throughout Cumberland County Schools:
  - ~ National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15)
  - ~ Breast Cancer Awareness Month
  - ~ National Disability Employment Awareness Month – A Vocational Leadership Career Day for Students with Disabilities will be held at Pine Forest High School on October 24. This free event will provide information about job applications, colleges and internships.
  - ~ National Principals Month – On Monday, October 14, CCS' 2020 Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year will be announced at the Administrators Dinner.
- **Implementation Team Meetings**
  - Implementation Team Meetings are being held throughout October for each of the Strategic Plan priority areas.

- **Congratulations to the Board**

- Words of congratulations were extended to members of the Board for receiving the Gold Bell Award for training excellence and commitment during the 2018-2019 “academy year” of the North Carolina School Boards Association Academy of School Boardmanship.

The Superintendent’s update concluded with comments about the school system’s upcoming Choice Fair on Saturday, November 2 at E.E. Smith High School and the showing of a brief video that highlights a variety of educational choices available in CCS.

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