

Next Step

A report on Board action
Cumberland County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
September 10, 2019

Recognition of Ex-Officio Members

Student Government leaders Morgan Jordan from Cumberland International Early College High School and Jamiya Burke from Cumberland Polytechnic 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.

Board Embraces Internship Program for Veterans

The Board gave ‘a thumbs up’ to make the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Warrior Care Program – Care Coalition a part of the CCS. The program assists wounded, ill, and injured Special Operations Forces service members who are exiting the military, prepare for post-service careers while developing their technical skills and business knowledge to learn about different career paths that may be available as a civilian. The mutually beneficial partnership can also serve as a tool for the CCS in recruiting premier professionals to work in a variety of capacities within the district.

Board Approves the Creation of Task Force

It was approved by the Board for Superintendent Dr. Connelly along with County Manager Amy Cannon and various community members to create a task force that would study the feasibility of a new E.E. Smith High School.

Health Department to Provide Schools with 14 Nurses

Members of the Board approved an agreement between them and the Cumberland County Health Department for 14 permanent nurses to work in the district. The nurses, who will be employees of the Health Department, will provide services to CCS’ students and staff for a minimum of 10 months a year. Under the agreement, the school-nursing program will receive a total of 35 hours per school week (a total of 70 hours per two weeks from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.) of nursing services from each nurse.

Board Recognitions

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

Betty Musselwhite, the associate superintendent of School Support Services, introduced the following honorees to the Board to be recognized:

September's Extra Mile Award Recipient –

Selima Sims, the head custodian at Terry Sanford High School, was recognized as the first-ever recipient of CCS' Extra Mile Award. Sims was nominated by her principal, Tom Hatch, because of her willingness to collaborate and work as a team with other staff members to maintain a clean school building. He also noted that Sims and her staff worked tirelessly to prepare their building for the Aug. 5 Beginning Teacher Orientation, hosted by Terry Sanford High. Hatch added that several people attending the Orientation shared positive comments with him about the cleanliness of the building. The Extra Mile Award recognizes the contributions of the district's premier professionals to the overall mission and core values of Strategic Plan 2024.

Superintendent's Update

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

- **Graduation Rate & EOG Update**
 - The district is excited about CCS' graduation rate increasing to 83.7 percent for the 2018-2019 school year, which is the highest graduation rate in CCS' history. Cross Creek Early College, Cumberland International Early College, Cumberland Polytechnic High and Reid Ross Classical high schools each had 100 percent graduation rates. He attributed this success to the hard work of the students, staff and committed community partners, as the district continues to focus on creating equitable outcomes for all students. To this end, the CCS is investing in high-quality curriculum resources, professional development for educators and a tiered-support structure to help allocate resources where they are needed most.
- **SAVE THE DATE: CCS' Choice Fair**
 - This year, CCS' Choice Fair will take place on Saturday, November 2 from 10:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. at E.E. Smith High School. A committee is working to plan the event and help make parents and families aware of the various programs that the CCS has to offer.
- **Premier Professionals Gala**
 - Last night, the district honored 86 of the best educators in the nation – CCS' 2020 Teachers of the Year - at the Premier Professionals Gala. On behalf of the Board and Leadership Team, each school's Teacher of the Year received a \$100 stipend, and the winner and runners-up received additional stipends. He noted that the Teachers of the Year seemed very grateful to the Board for the tokens of appreciation. Dr. Connelly also extended words of congratulations to CCS' 2020 Teacher of the Year Maureen Stover from Cumberland International Early College High School.
- **Back-to-School Update**
 - He thanked CCS' dedicated staff members for a successful opening of the Traditional schools on Aug. 26 and noted that across the district, numerous sororities, fraternities, college groups, police officers and community leaders were at schools on the first day greeting students and welcoming them back. Dr. Connelly said the hope is that these types of partnerships will expand throughout the school year.

The Superintendent's update concluded with comments about "the incredible community support we have in Cumberland County" and the showing of a brief video that highlighted the first day of school.

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