



Regular Meeting

Cumberland County Board of Education

October 11, 2022

Recognition of Ex-Officio Member

Student Government leader Janae Johnson from Terry Sanford High School served as the ex-officio member 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.

Superintendent Updates the Board

Dr. Connelly shared the following updates:

He reminded the Board of the following national and local observances: Grandparent's Day (Sept. 11); National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15 – Oct. 15); and National Walk-to-School Day (Oct. 5). Dr. Connelly also noted that Beaver Dam Elementary School is currently celebrating 100 years in education. "I believe that there are a few essential elements that have brought this school success for 100 years and will continue to propel it toward successful outcomes in the future: People, Purpose and Passion," said Dr. Connelly. "One hundred years from today, I imagine none of us will be here, but I am confident that the legacy of this great school will continue to live on and be passed along to future generations."

In observance of National Principals Month, he recognized the hard work and dedication of principals in Cumberland County Schools. "The principalship is a hugely rewarding yet demanding role," said Dr. Connelly. "Their workload goes well beyond an eight-hour shift and while their load is heavy, they carry it well. As instructional leaders in their schools, their influence is undoubtedly changing the trajectory of students' lives."

The Superintendent shared with the Board Fayetteville State University's (FSU) recent donation of \$1,000 to CCS' JROTC Programs. The check was presented during FSU's Sept. 24 Military Appreciation Football Game in support of the local military community. More than 200 CCS students to include JROTC cadets, SGA leaders, Student 2 Student representatives and student athletes attended the game and were on hand during the presentation.

Finally, Dr. Connelly acknowledged the passing of Dr. Wilson Lacy, a former executive director of CCS' Operations. He shared with the Board notable contributions Lacy made to the district as well as the community and offered heartfelt condolences to the former educator's loved ones.

Dr. Connelly concluded his comments with a short video highlighting the Future Educators Program.

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Board of Education

Greg West
Chair
At Large

Deanna Jones
Vice Chair
District #2

Judy Musgrave
At Large

Charles McKellar
At Large

Alicia Chisolm
District #1

Carrie Sutton
District #3

Donna Vann
District #4

Susan Williams
District #5

Nathan Warfel
District #6

Superintendent
Dr. Marvin Connelly

Administrative Recommendations

Assistant Principals

Cumberland Mills Elementary
Sherwood Park Elementary

Kety Clark
Tonya Williams

Central Services Recommendations

Academic Services

Curriculum Specialist K-5 Literacy
District Instructional Coach

Julia Pabst
Rhonda Faircloth

Finance

RALC Director (NCDPI)

Karen Chavis

Contracts of Superintendent and Cabinet Members Extended One Year

The Board gave Dr. Connelly an 'overall commendable' evaluation rating and agreed to extend his and the Cabinet's contracts for one year.

Board Approves Budget for FY 2022-2023

Members of the Board approved the budget for FY 2022-2023 that totals \$687,493,705 and makes up the following funding sources: State Public School Fund (\$349,519,835), Current Expense Fund (\$94,976,048), Federal Programs (\$182,590,576), Capital Outlay (\$13,644,782), Enterprise Fund (\$32,140,338) and Grants (\$14,622,126).

Finance Committee Recommendations 'Get Thumbs Up'

The Board agreed with the following recommendations from the Board of Education Finance Committee:

- Approval of the contract amendment to audit accounts FYE June 30, 2021;
- Approval of HIL Consultants, LLC, addendum to extend the professional services agreement through October 31, 2022;
- Approval of the contract to audit accounts FYE June 30, 2022;
- Approval of Epic Communications Amendment for E-rate Funding for 2023-2024; and
- Approval of Cisco SMARTnet Renewal for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.

License Agreement for 2023 Graduation Ceremonies Approved

Members of the Board approved the license agreement for CCS' 2023 Graduation Ceremonies that will be held between May 24 – June 7 and include usage of the Crown Coliseum, Expo and Ballroom. The agreement covers the use of the facilities for graduation rehearsals as well.

2022-2023 Academic Services' Purchase Agreement 'Gets a Nod'

The program services agreement between the Board and District C via CCS' Career and Technical Education (CTE) received approval. The program service agreement outlines the terms for District C to provide a flexible work-based learning program to be a part of the summer 2023 Career Accelerator program. This program will offer a Coaching Institute to train and certify CCS educators, plan and administer the CCS Summer Teamship program, and program membership for 2023-2024.

Board Approves Red Ribbon Week Proclamation

October 24 – 28, 2022, was approved by the Board as *Red Ribbon Week*. Through the proclamation, the Board is encouraging all citizens to participate in drug prevention education activities as a visible statement that CCS is firmly committed to a drug-free community. The proclamation states that alcohol and other drug abuse have been identified as one of the greatest threats to the future of the nation, causing 15- to 24-year olds to die at an alarming rate.

Student Support Services Committee Recommended Agreements Moved Forward

The Board agreed with the following recommendations from the Board of Education's Student Support Services Committee:

- Approval of the 2022-2023 Professional Services Agreement for Sign Language Interpretation between Birch Agency and the Board of Education; and
- Approval of the 2022-2023 Cooperative Agreement between the NC Division of Services for the Blind and the Board of Education.

Board Recognitions

Dr. Lindsay Whitley, the associate superintendent of Communications and Community Engagement, introduced the following honorees to the Board to be recognized:

Committed Community Support Award Winners for August & September

Dr. Roxie Wells, the president of Cape Fear Valley Hoke Healthcare; Dr. Chris Tart, the president of Highsmith-Rainey Specialty Hospital; and Dr. Jennifer Green, the health director of the Cumberland County Department of Public Health, were recognized as August's Committed Community Support Award recipients. In February 2021, Cumberland County faced daunting challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic. As the community's rates were declining, parents were eager for a return to in-person learning. In collaboration with our district, Dr. Wells, Dr. Tart and Dr. Green worked to meet the needs of the public during this health crisis. The three doctors worked closely with the Cumberland County Schools' Health Services Department by providing guidance and offering community-based immunization events. As committed community partners, they continue to develop and modify public health strategies and processes that impact CCS and the community.

September's Committed Community Support Award recipient, Mary McCoy, was recognized for her unwavering support and collaboration with CCS staff. She was nominated for this award by CCS' Executive Director of Student Services Dr. Natasha Scott. She noted that in McCoy's role as Section Chief at Cumberland County's Child Protective Services, she made herself available to CCS students and staff at all times during the business day or after hours. Whenever the district encountered crisis situations, McCoy ensured that CCS received a timely response to concerns, consulted on cases, attended monthly meetings to answer questions for school social workers, and gave helpful input about how CCS could improve its services for children. Further, McCoy always included CCS staff in the planning of events for students living in foster care. Since retiring, she has continued to give back to the school system and is currently serving as a volunteer at College Lakes Elementary School.

The Committed Community Support Award is presented monthly to an individual or group for selflessly supporting the school system and helping students succeed.

Extra Mile Award Winner

Erica Caine, the assistant principal at New Century International Elementary School (NCIES), nominated Porcia Brown, the school's Instructional Coach, for the Extra Mile Award. Caine said she nominated Brown because of her compassion and commitment to the excellence and safety of all students at NCIES. She noted that the Saturday before school started, Brown spent her day delivering handwritten, personalized notes to every staff member's classroom. During the first week of school, she volunteered in the front office to ensure that all students got home safely and to assist with any parent concerns. Caine said Brown has helped create staff challenges to boost morale. "There is no challenge too big for Ms. Brown!" said Caine. "She is definitely an asset to New Century International Elementary!"

The Extra Mile Award is designed to acknowledge employees who demonstrate sustained high levels of performance and inspire others to do their best.

2022 National Indian Education Association Community Service Award

CCS Indian Education Coordinator Rodney Jackson was recognized for recently being announced as the recipient of the 2022 National Indian Education Association Community Service Award. The Association's website shared that "Mr. Jackson has established a reputation as an extremely capable, effective leader for the Office of Indian Education. He has consistently displayed qualities of initiative, care, and professionalism. His genuine concern for the welfare of Native students is a true testament to his strong commitment and advocacy for public education." Last school year, Jackson and his staff found seven CCS students who had dropped out of school the previous year. After meeting with them and their parents, Jackson and his staff were able to convince all seven young Native men to return to school and graduate! Also, in May, Jackson and his team coordinated an Eagle Feather Ceremony for graduating seniors. Seventy-eight seniors were presented with an Eagle feather to symbolize their achievement of graduating from high school. This Eagle Feather Ceremony, which garnered a great deal of positive state-wide attention, was the first of its kind by any public school district in North Carolina.

Purple Star Award

On behalf of State Superintendent Catherine Truitt, Howard Lattimore, the State Level Military Consultant from NCDPI, presented Dr. Connelly with the State Superintendent's Purple Star District Award. School districts that receive this special award have demonstrated military-friendly practices and a commitment to serve and advocate for military students and families.