

The Cumberland County Board of Education met in virtual session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021 at 8:30 am with the following board members present: Alicia Chisolm, Greg West, Deanna Jones, Susan Williams, Carrie Sutton, Nathan Warfel, Judy Musgrave, Charles McKellar and Donna Vann.

Others present were Superintendent Marvin Connelly, Associate Superintendents, Ron Phipps, Betty Musselwhite, Lindsay Whitley, Mary Black, Ruben Reyes, Stacey Wilson-Norman, and Clyde Locklear; Board Attorney Nick Sojka.

1. OPENING ITEMS

1.01 Mrs. Chisolm called the meeting to order at 8:30 am.

1.02 CONSIDER a Motion pursuant to Board Policy Codes 2300 and 2450, effective for this meeting only, to waive any requirements that board members participate in the meeting in-person, and to ratify and formally adopt the virtual meeting format described in the Meeting Notice. Upon a motion by Susan Williams, seconded by Donna Vann, the board members unanimously approved item 1.02.

2. RECOGNITIONS

The Board recognized Kellie Pfaff Perkins as a National Grange Teacher of the Year

3. Superintendent's Update / District Highlights - Dr. Marvin Connelly

3.01 Superintendent's Update - Dr. Marvin Connelly

Dr. Connelly started by sharing exciting things taking place in CCS:

Maureen Stover was named a National Teacher of the Year Finalist. Emily Stewart, a Max Abbott Middle School student, recently learned that her poem was selected to be featured nationally and published in the hardbound anthology A Celebration of Poets this summer. Our Communications team won 12 Blue Ribbon Awards for excellence in school communications from the North Carolina School Public Relations Association, which represents the top 6 highest number of award winners of all the districts in the State. And this list goes on. Our students and staff are working harder than ever before, and we commend their efforts.

Observances: February, "Love the Bus" campaign. Gov. Cooper has also proclaimed this week as School Bus Driver Appreciation Week. We are grateful for the work they do every day for our students.

During February, we also celebrate Career and Technical Education Month. We are incredibly proud of our CTE offerings across CCS. The innovative course options available through CTE provide students with practical hands-on experience while incorporating meaningful applications of reading, writing and mathematics.

As you know, February is also National Black History Month. This month is a time for everyone to celebrate the heritage and significant accomplishments of African-Americans that have helped make our country what it is today. Our district has been fortunate to educate many notable African-American individuals who have graduated and contributed so much to our society. From J. Cole – who graduated from Terry Sanford High School and achieved a tremendous amount of success in the music industry and has given back to our community – to other individuals, such as Eric Hooks, who graduated from Pine Forest High School and currently serves as secretary of the North Carolina Department of Public Safety – we are grateful to the numerous African-American CCS graduates who continue to use their knowledge, skills and abilities to help others.

We recently received a Mental Health Personnel Report from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. In Cumberland County Schools, based on a comparison of payroll data on December 31, 2019 and December 31, 2020:

The number of psychologists increased by 4.05 positions (30.10 total). The number of counselors increased by 3.38 positions (144.55 total). The number of social workers increased by 4.55 positions (71.46 total). The number of nurses on CCS' payroll decreased by 0.61 of a position (14.43 total, not including those on Cumberland County's payroll). As we continue to navigate through this global pandemic and work to resume in-person instruction, investing in the whole child will remain a priority.

Staff members are working hard to prepare for a smooth and safe return to some in-person instruction beginning March 15, 2021, with high school End-of-Course and CTE testing taking place the first two weeks of March. We are staying abreast of updates from the State regarding school re-entry. As you are aware, the General Assembly is debating SB 37. In this Bill, LEAs would be required to provide either Plan A or Virtual (parental choice) for all students with IEP's

or 504's, and for all other students, K - 12, LEAs must provide the option of either Plan A or Plan B or some combination of A and B, or Virtual (parental choice). We understand that the vaccine is one of several tools that can be used to help limit the spread of COVID-19 and give staff, students, and families a higher level of comfort about returning to in-person learning. To that end, our school system partnered with Cape Fear Valley Health to host a two-day COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic last week at E.E. Smith High School in an effort to increase access to the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals age 65 and older in minority and underserved populations. With more than 1,300 individuals receiving the first dose of the vaccine, the event was a huge success. The district is working with local health officials to organize additional vaccination events specifically for educators and staff once the State moves to Group 3, which includes educators and other front-line workers. In addition to the vaccine, we must remember to keep practicing the 3 Ws—wear a mask, wait six feet apart, and wash hands often. It is making a difference and helping us combat COVID-19.

Dr. Connelly closed his comments with a video highlighting the recent vaccination clinic at E.E. Smith High School.

4. PUBLIC FORUM

We received 49 submissions for Public Comment this morning. Pete Horne and Betty Musselwhite read aloud submissions until the 30 minute period expired. All submissions were shared with the Board in writing. Submissions were submitted from:

Michael Diago	Paige Canady	Jessica Wright	Debbie Reynolds
Melissa Elias	Stephanie Dilligard	Adriana Crowe	Brittany Davis
Judy Skinner	Michelle Hallas	Kim Thomas	Tammy Jones
Erin Chandler	Kelli Canady	Eric Waters	Mary Harms
Tiffany Tew	Meagan Kramer	Allison Hobough	Mark Crowe
Lindsay Wellons	Tracey Natale	Morgan Smith	Karon Grady
Bonnie Bernardino	Shannon Loper	Mike Loper	Jennifer McInroy
Heather Spillman	Ebony Matkins	Britt Leger	Terry Hulen
Allison Guenther	Nicole Yero	Kelli Canady	Jodi Pascarella
Pamela Faircloth	Jessica Doeth	Todd Harris	Michelle Wilson
Alisha Stutts	Beau Stuart	Heather Ward	Sonda Shank
Pam Carter	Shelly Love	Jacob Huber	Starr McClintick
Bob Baker			

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Donna Vann, the Board unanimously adopted the agenda.

6. APPROVE the CONSENT AGENDA.

Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Charles McKellar, the Board unanimously approved the Consent Agenda.

- 6.01 CONSIDER Approval of the Minutes of the January 12, 2021 Regular Board Meeting
- 6.02 CONSIDER Approval of Personnel as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit A)
- 6.03 CONSIDER Approval of Leaves of Absence and Special Leaves of Absence as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit B)
- 6.04 CONSIDER Limited License Application as recommended by the Personnel Committee (Exhibit C)
- 6.05 CONSIDER Approval of Proclamation: 2021 CTE Month as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (Exhibit D)
- 6.06 CONSIDER Approval of Agreement: Cumberland County Schools District and Regional Support Improvement as recommended by the Curriculum Committee (Exhibit E) first reading, amended document to be considered next month.
- 6.07 CONSIDER Approval of Contract Renewals for Child Nutrition Services as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (Exhibit F)
- 6.08 CONSIDER Approval of Bid Award and Capital Improvements for Pine Forest High and Westover High Bleacher Erosion as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (Exhibit G)
- 6.09 CONSIDER Granting Approval to Carolina Power Company for Site Improvements at Cape Fear High as recommended by the Auxiliary Services Committee (Exhibit H)
- 6.10 CONSIDER Approval of 2020-2021 National School Counseling Week Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (Exhibit I)
- 6.11 CONSIDER Approval of 2020-2021 Kindness Awareness Proclamation as recommended by the Student Support Services Committee (Exhibit J)
- 6.12 CONSIDER Approval of Fairbanks, LLC Contract Extension as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit K)
- 6.13 CONSIDER Approval of Budget Amendments as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit L)
- 6.14 CONSIDER Approval of Employee Bonus Proposal as recommended by the Finance Committee (Exhibit M)
- 6.15 Consider Approval of Revised Policy 4700 - Student Records, as recommended by the Policy Committee (FIRST READING) (Exhibit N)
- 6.16 Consider Approval of Policy 5020 - Visitors to Schools, Policy 5030 - Community Use of Facilities, Policy 7510 - Leave, as recommended by the Policy Committee (SECOND Reading) (Exhibit O)

7. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Auxiliary Services Committee Report – Charles McKellar

8. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Student Support Services Committee Report – Susan Williams

9. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Budget/Finance Committee Report – Greg West

- 10. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Policy Committee Report – Deanna Jones**
- 11. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Curriculum Committee Report – Donna Vann**
- 12. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Personnel Committee Report - Carrie Sutton**
- 13. DISCUSSION AGENDA: Legislative Committee Report – Nathan Warfel**

14. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS:

- 14.01** CONSIDER Motion to go into CLOSED SESSION to preserve the confidentiality of matters protected from disclosure pursuant to G.S. 115C-319, and to preserve the attorney-client privilege pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).
Upon a motion by Carrie Sutton, seconded by Charles McKellar, the Board voted unanimously to go into CLOSED SESSION at 9:50 AM.

Upon a motion by Greg West, seconded by Susan Williams, the Board voted unanimously to come OUT of Closed Session at 10:35 AM.

15. CLOSING ITEMS

- 15.01** Several Board members asked for clarification/information regarding vaccinations and essential personnel. Dr. Connelly responded to their questions.

15.02 Chairman's Update

On behalf of this Board of Education, Mrs. Chisolm thanked our tremendous premier professionals and the supportive families and committed community for their support in these uncertain times. Mrs. Chisolm asked that we all remember to wear our masks, maintain social distancing, wash your hands frequently and avoid large gatherings. Together, we can lead our community into a healthier tomorrow.
Mrs. Chisolm shared her appreciation for your attendance at today's virtual meeting. Our next regularly scheduled Board Meeting will be held on March 9, 2021 and we look forward to being with you again in March.

15.03 ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:58 AM.

Dr. Marvin Connelly, Superintendent