

MINUTES OF  
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2019

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, February 18, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Administrative Offices, 113 N. Tarboro Street. Chairman Christine L. Fitch called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman  
Henry E. Mercer, Vice Chairman  
Velma Barnes  
Beverly Boyette  
Rhyan Breen  
Gary Farmer  
Debora Powell  
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Others present were Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Wanda Dawson and Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, as well as Board Attorney Richard Schwartz. Also present were Wilson Times Reporter Drew Wilson, Director of Public Relations Amber Lynch and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent and Board Clerk Linda Horrison. There were more than 39 citizens in attendance.

1. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch called for approval of the agenda. There is a slight variation in terms of the action item for the Spanish Immersion Program. There will be some action on Spanish Immersion tonight but the conversation will be continued at the next meeting. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the agenda of the Wilson County Board of Education for February 18, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
2. At Dr. Fitch's request, Ms. Barnes led the Pledge of Allegiance that was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the January 14, 2019, Regular Board Meeting, and the February 13, 2019, Special Board Meeting. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the minutes of January 14, 2019, Regular Board Meeting and the February 13, 2019, Special Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Under Good News Presentations, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Ms. Barnes, recognized the following groups and individuals:
  - National Board Certification – The Board recognized Vinson-Bynum Elementary Counselor Nichelle Strickland for becoming National Board Certified in School Counseling. This is a huge accomplishment. To earn National Board Certification, educators must demonstrate their knowledge and skills through an intensive series of performance-based assessments, which includes portfolios of student work and rigorous analyses of classroom teaching. With the addition of Ms. Strickland, Wilson County Schools (WCS) now has 80 educators who are

National Board Certified.

Superintendent Dr. Lane Mills shared that he knew how challenging this process was for Ms. Strickland on top of all her other duties as a school counselor. He also thanked Sherri Jernigan in the WCS Human Resources Department for her guidance. Ms. Jernigan helps our educators through the National Board Certification process and is a great resource. If anyone is interested in pursuing certification, they can contact Ms. Jernigan or go to our website. Ms. Strickland received a certificate and a door plate to hang outside her office stating that she has been certified by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

- Character Education – The Board recognized Jamazz Holley and Giselle Resendiz, both fourth-graders at Hearne Elementary, for helping out in their classrooms and for also being excellent students. Jamazz assists his teacher with cleaning their room and pod every day. He takes out the trash and sweeps without anyone asking. He is an incredible young man. Giselle is such a great helper that all of her teachers have always felt like they had a teacher assistant. She works with students who need extra support, and she is a wonderful role model.

\* Schwartz and Shaw provides \$25 gift cards to students and staff who are recognized for good character. We are grateful for this kind gesture!

5. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch thanked the Board members who attended the recent Smart Cookies events and shared that Board Member Rhyann Breen would attend the February 21 Smart Cookies at New Hope Elementary with the class of New Hope Teacher of the Year Janie Hall. She also thanked Wilson County Emergency Management, Hunt High Bus Driver Theodore Richardson and Hunt High Principal Eddie Doll for assisting the Hampton University Track and Field Team on February 2. The team was heading home to Virginia from a competition in South Carolina when the engine of their charter bus caught fire on I-95 late that night. Hunt was contacted because of its proximity, and Mr. Richardson wasted no time securing a bus and picking up the team members. They were taken to Hunt where Mr. Doll welcomed them and made sure they were comfortable. Hampton University sent a bus to pick up the team, which arrived around 2 a.m. Dr. Fitch shared how thankful she was that no one was injured.
6. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills asked everyone to remember the families of two staff members who had passed away since the last Board meeting - Fike High Teacher Pamela Eatmon and E.D. Hall, who was a retired administrator. He also asked that everyone continue to keep the Fike staff and students in their thoughts and prayers as they continue to mourn Ms. Eatmon. Dr. Mills also shared information about several events that had occurred since the last Board meeting on January 14:
  - For the second year, WCS is partnering with the Wilson YMCA and the Wilson Recreation Department to provide swimming lessons to second-graders. WCS appreciates this partnership and also all of the volunteers who have made it possible. Swimming is such an important life skill, and Dr. Mills said that he is thrilled these students have a week's worth of free lessons.

- February 11 was the 100th Day of School, and Dr. Mills remarked how quickly the school year was passing.
- WCS kicked off registration for its iSchool initiative on February 5. This is a new partnership between WCS and homeschool families where WCS is offering them free, online middle and high school courses through the Edgenuity online platform. Dr. Mills thanked *The Wilson Times* for their recent article highlighting iSchool.
- The Wilson Education Partnership (WEP) held a supply drive for classroom supplies from January 28-February 12. Dr. Mills thanked WEP and all of the individuals and businesses who donated supplies.
- The Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting was held January 24. Dr. Mills congratulated Purdue Pharmaceuticals for receiving the *Jim and Carolyn Hunt Friend of Education Award*. Purdue has been a major supporter of WCS for many years.
- WCS finalized the purchase of a lot behind New Hope Elementary (Summit Place) for \$26,572.92. The Board approved the purchase of the land at the October 1 Board meeting and now the sale is official.

Dr. Mills also shared information about upcoming events:

- A Ribbon Cutting Ceremony is scheduled at the Wilson Area School-Based Health Clinic (WASH) at Beddingfield High on March 5 at 11 a.m.
- The WCS Teacher Job Fair is scheduled for Saturday, March 16 from 9 a.m. to noon at Darden Middle. Anyone interested in teaching for WCS should attend and bring a resume and the most recent transcript. Staff from all 26 schools will be represented and interviews with the principal will be held onsite. Contingency contracts may be offered as well.
- Nominations for WCS Principal of the Year are now being accepted. Anyone in the community can make a nomination. Current principals with four years of experience as an administrator and two years with our district are eligible. For information on how to make a nomination, visit the Principal of the Year page on the website or contact a school for a paper copy. Nominations are due March 13.
- Kindergarten Registration for the 2019-2020 School Year is Monday, March 11 from 2-6 p.m. Parents should register their child at the elementary school serving the attendance zone in which they reside and bring their child and all necessary documents to the school. The documents are on the Registration Forms page of the website or parents can call an elementary school to find out how to pick them up. Parents interested in the Spanish Immersion Program at Frederick Douglass Elementary should also enroll at the elementary school serving the attendance zone in which they reside and then we will work with them on the steps to transfer into the Spanish Immersion Program.

- The Fike High School Blood Drive is March 14 from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the gym at Fike. Appointments can be scheduled by visiting [recrossblood.org](http://recrossblood.org) or by calling 1-800-RED CROSS.

7. Under Public Input, Melissa Whitley and Claudia Jenkins, parents of children in the Spanish Immersion Program at Frederick Douglass Elementary thanked the Board for its support and also asked that the program, which is currently offered to students in kindergarten through fourth grade, be offered in fifth grade as well. Ms. Jenkins also asked that the Spanish Immersion parents be informed about decisions regarding bus transportation.

Dr. Carol White, a member of the local NAACP Education Committee, shared with the Board that her committee had adopted Barnes Elementary. They are working closely with Barnes Elementary Principal Daniel Barnes and Executive Director of Federal Programs Melissa Eddy on beautifying the school grounds, providing tutoring and planning parent events. Dr. White said they look forward to expanding their services over time.

Della Ruth Koster, a third-grader in the Spanish Immersion Program, spoke to the Board about how much she enjoys the program and how she would like for it to continue through fifth grade. She shared that she was scoring well above grade level because of her experience in a dual language program.

Dr. Fitch advised that Spanish Immersion would be discussed later in the meeting, and she thanked Dr. White and the rest of the local NAACP Education Committee members for their commitment to Barnes.

8. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss three action items.

Under Needs-Based Public School Capital Funding, the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund was provided by the General Assembly to assist lower-wealth counties with their critical public school building capital needs. Grant funds must be used for construction of a new school building and cannot be used for real property acquisition. The deadline to apply for the grant is August 31, 2019.

Dr. Mills shared that he's had informal discussions with Wilson Community College President Dr. Tim Wright and Wilson County Manager Denise Stinagle about applying for the grant to fund the construction of a school building for Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT), which is currently located within Beddingfield High. They need to think about a new building because there are concerns about how to expand WAAT as the student population grows by 50 students each year for the next several years. Beddingfield also needs space for its students. The newly constructed building would be located on the community college's Lee Campus, which is a good fit because WAAT students take college courses through Wilson Community College.

As a Tier 1 County, Wilson is eligible for \$1 local funds for \$3 in grant funds. For a \$5 million investment, a \$20 million facility could be built. Dr. Mills said he believes

there is a good chance the funding will be granted because WCS can demonstrate a critical need, and we have the support of the county. Dr. Mills added that the building might be modeled after the Vernon Malone College and Career Academy at Wake Technical Community College. The plan is to have 22 classrooms on the second floor and lab space on the first floor. WAAT Principal Krystal Cox would like to have the flexibility to offer more pathways at WAAT that are not just tailored to advanced manufacturing.

Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Administration be given the authorization to move forward with the application process for Needs-Based Public School Capital Funding that would be beneficial to the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology. The motion passed unanimously

Under 2019-2020 Calendar for Budget Development, General Statute 115C-429 requires that a budget be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners by May 15. The Administration is recommending the Board approve March 25, 2019, as a Budget Work Session. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board hold a work session for the purpose of budget calendar development on March 25 at 5:00 p.m. The motion passed unanimously. The Board will meet on March 25 for a Budget Work Session.

Under Financial Audit, the Administration solicited bids from qualified independent auditors to perform the Board's yearly audit. The Request for Proposals were mailed to four well known firms and two firms – Anderson Smith & Wike and Dixon Hughes Goodman – provided proposals. Both companies were relatively the same in experience. Dixon Hughes Goodman's bid was \$46,640. Anderson Smith & Wike's bid was \$43,500. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board accept the recommendation of the Administration to employ the firm of Anderson Smith & Wike as our financial auditor for the fiscal year beginning June 30, 2019, through June 30, 2023, subject to legal review. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Committee Meetings/Instructional Services Committee - Committee Chair Dr. Fitch shared that the committee met today to discuss several actions items.

Dr. Fitch turned the meeting over to Vice Chair Mr. Mercer for the purpose of receiving the report and carrying through the motion.

Under Revised 2018-2019 Early College Calendar, WCS was closed for Hurricane Florence on September 13-18, 2018 (these days were forgiven by the state). WCS was also closed for Hurricane Michael on October 11, 2018, and this day was a workday for the early colleges. To allow the faculty to make up this day, a workday has been added to the end of the school year on May 28, 2019.

WCS was closed because of snow on December 10, 2018. To allow the faculty to make up this day, a workday has been added to the end of the school year on May 29, 2019.

These moves would allow for Wilson County Schools to meet state requirements that teachers work 215 days. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the

Board approve the amended calendar for 2018-2019 Early College. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Proposed 2019-2020 Traditional and Early College Calendars, a survey was conducted to allow parents and educators the option to give input on the 2019-2020 Traditional and Early College calendars. A total of 1,097 surveys were completed. Option 2 was selected by more participants for the traditional calendar, which is similar to the 2018-2019 calendar where exams are taken before Winter Break. The early college calendar aligns with the Wilson Community College calendar. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the draft Option 2 of the 2019-2020 Traditional Instructional Calendar. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board approve the Early College 2019-2020 Calendar as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Student Fees, per WCS Board Policy 4600, the Board is provided a list of the proposed fees, which include parking fees for high school students (\$100 a year); senior fees for high school students (\$60 a year); technology fees for middle and high school students (\$30 a year); and yearbook fees for all students – which vary from school to school. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve WCS student fees for 2019-2020 as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Proficiency Summer School 2019, the Administration presented a plan for Proficiency Summer School 2019, which is an opportunity for students who have not demonstrated proficiency on the state End-of-Grade (EOG) tests or End-of-Course (EOC) tests to receive additional instruction and then retake the test. Proficiency Summer School will serve all students who have not scored proficient on the EOG in Reading, grades 4-8 and Science, grades 5 and 8; or who have not scored proficient on the EOC in English II (first and second semesters) and Biology (first and second semesters). Students will attend remediation on June 3-4 and take exams on June 5 (science) and June 6 (reading and English). There will not be remediation or retesting for math this year because the state is redesigning the test and the benchmark has not yet been established. Third-graders do not attend Proficiency Summer School because they attend Summer Reading Camp instead. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the full Board approve the Proficiency Summer School 2019 as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Draft Policies, the Board is in the process of reviewing all of its policies to align them with North Carolina General Statutes and the North Carolina School Boards Association policies. The policies were reviewed and discussed as first readings at the Board's policy meeting on February 13.

Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Board approve the following draft policies and in so doing remove the related policies currently:

- Draft Policy 3000, *Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program*
- Draft Policy 3101, *Dual Enrollment*
- Draft Policy 3110, *Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction*

- Draft Policy 3115, *Curriculum and Instructional Guides*
- Draft Policy 3135, *Homework*
- Draft Policy 3530, *Citizenship and Character Education*
- Draft Policy 3540, *Comprehensive Health Education Program*
- Draft Policy 3565/8307, *Title I Program Comparability of Services*
- Draft Policy 4050, *Children of Military Families*
- Draft Policy 5050, *Emergency Closings*

Mr. Schwartz recommended making minor technical corrections to several policies that included removing the underlining of legal references and cross references and a strike through in one policy.

The motion was amended. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the aforesaid policy drafts and revisions be inclusive of the technical corrections as presented by the Board attorney. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Spanish Immersion Program, the Board had three options to consider for the program next school year, one of which was dissolving the program altogether. At next month's meeting, the Board will continue discussion on the structure of the program and decide if it will continue to be a K-4 model or if it will be expanded to include fifth-grade as well. The program was originally a K-5 model when it began in 2013. The Board voted to make it a K-4 model in April 2018 because of the high cost of the program (about \$1 million a year for 122 students) and the low number of fifth-graders. Spanish Immersion parents have asked the Board to consider moving back to the K-5 model. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Administration be authorized to move forward with kindergarten registration for the Spanish Immersion Program. The motion passed unanimously. Kindergarten registration is scheduled for March 11 at all of the elementary schools.

Mr. Mercer turned the meeting back over to Dr. Fitch.

9. Under Discussion/Information/Action Items:

- Policy 1710/4021/7230, *Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying*, at the February 13 Policy Meeting, the Board approved this policy and to remove any old policies that are being replaced or combined with the new policy. This item was for information only.
- 2019-2020 November and June Board of Education and Committee Meetings, Policy 1310, *Regular Meetings*, states that the regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the third Monday of each month from February through October. The Board shall meet on the second Monday during the months of November through January. When the third Monday falls on a holiday recognized by the Board, the Chairman shall reschedule the meeting. During the 2019-2020 school year, the November and June Board of Education and committee meetings are scheduled on November 11, 2019, which is a designated state holiday (Veteran's Day); and June

15, 2020. Human Resources are required to meet deadlines by June 15, 2020. The Administration recommends the Board reschedule the November and June Board of Education and committee meetings to November 4, 2019 and June 8, 2020. Ms. Boyette made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the Board reschedule the November and June meetings, November 11, 2019 to November 4, 2019 and June 15, 2020 to June 8, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.

- 2019-2020 Wilson County Schools Board Policies Review Schedule, this school year, the Board began meeting once a month on the Wednesday prior to the regular scheduled Board meeting to review Wilson County Schools Board Policies for compliance with general statutes and alignment with the North Carolina School Boards Association policies. During the 2019-2020 school year, the Administration is suggesting the Board meet to review policies on the Monday of each month prior to the regular meetings of the Board from 1 – 5 p.m., beginning August 2019. The Administration is suggesting the change to allow adequate time for the Administration and legal counsel to edit policies to be included in the Board packets being delivered on Thursdays. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board change the Policy Review Schedule as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.
10. At 8:53 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Wilson County Board of Education go into closed session to consider confidential personnel matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and (6) and 115C-319 through 321; to establish or give instructions concerning the Board of Education negotiating position concerning a potential acquisition and or lease of real property, as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(5); and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:34 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, passed unanimously.

11. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve the closed session minutes of the January 14, 2019 Regular Board Meeting, and/but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Human Resource Services, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the personnel recommendations as presented by the administration. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

The Board approved the following certified and classified positions, as well as the attached list of Substitute Teachers and Coaches.

#### **Certified**

Boykin, Joan (I)-Part-time School Counselor



Brinkley, Zona (L)-4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Brown, Quatonia (L)-1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Dail, Kamilah-4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Douglas, Jamie-English  
Green, Tia-4<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Helmer, Cathy (I)-Part-time Wolfpack Works Interventionist  
Kelly, Shirley-English  
Matthews, Rebecca (I)-Part-time Wolfpack Works Interventionist  
Michalak, Paula (L)-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade  
Nowell, Keisha-1<sup>st</sup> Grade  
Overton, Lori (L)-Science  
Richards Green, Angella-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Math  
Thornton, Sherry (I)-Part-time School Counselor

**Classified**

Coples, Wanda-Bus Driver  
Coty-Long, Krystal-Bus Driver  
Hardy, Walter-Bus Driver  
Knight, Michelle-Teacher Assistant  
Meeks, Pamela-Child Nutrition Substitute  
Porter, Heidi-Teacher Assistant  
Richardson, Willenscia-Bus Driver  
Smith, James-Substitute Custodian  
Strickland, Vicky-Child Nutrition Substitute  
Williams, Michelle-Teacher Assistant  
Zayyad, Haifa-Bus Driver

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

**Administrative**

Bailey, Cindy-Retirement  
Joyner, John-Interim Assistant Principal (Rock Ridge)  
Walthall, Rick-Retirement

**Certified**

Joseph, Sherry-Resignation  
Lipscomb, Tanya-Resignation  
Wiggs, Beth-Resignation

**Classified**

Allen, Spencer-Retirement  
Reeves, Carol-Retirement  
Stevens, Peggie-Retirement

**Dismissals**

Knight, Mark-Substitute Teacher

At 9:35 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the Wilson County Board of Education go into closed session to consider confidential student matters as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) and N.C.G.S. 115C-402 and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g. The motion passed unanimously.

At 9:57 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, passed unanimously.

12. There being no further business at 9:57 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman



Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary