

**Board of Education  
Yadkin County Schools  
Yadkinville, NC**

A regular meeting of the Yadkin County Board of Education was held on Monday, February 4, 2019 at 6:00p.m. at the Board of Education located at 121 Washington Street, Yadkinville, NC.

Present: Howard McKnight, Sam Crews, Tim Weatherman, Jennifer Hemric, Sharon Yale, Rex Baity, Lynn Allred

Administrative: Dr. Martin, Wayne Duggins, Denise Bullin, Chris Lyon, Denny Key, Kristi Gaddis, Jill Logan

Student Reps: Abbey Johnson, Riley Warfel

Staff Members: Tammy Miller, Jennifer Helton

Visitors: Kelly Bates, Mandy Casstevens, Brenna Long, Jennifer Hobson

**Opening Items** Howard McKnight called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to enter closed session.

**Closed Session**

#19-010 On motion by Hemric, seconded by Crews, the Board entered closed session  
Closed Session: at 6:00p.m. for reasons 1-9.

Yes: All members voted yes.

#19-011 On motion by Yale, seconded by Baity, the Board recessed closed session  
Recess Closed to return to open session at 7:20p.m.  
Session:

Yes: All members voted yes.

**Public Comments:** N/A

**Presentations:** N/A

**Regular Business Session**

#19-012 On motion by Crews, seconded by Allred, the Board approved the February 4,  
Approval of 2019 Board of Education meeting agenda after striking from the agenda the  
Agenda: Resolution to Support Local Calendar and the Battle of the Books item. The  
Local Calendar Resolution was removed in order to make this more specific to  
Yadkin County Schools.

Yes: All members voted yes.

Pledge of Allegiance: Abbey Johnson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Invocation: Sam Crews gave the invocation.

#19-013 Approval of Minutes: On motion by Weatherman, seconded by Yale, the Board approved the January 7, 2019 meeting minutes of the Board of Education.

Yes: All members voted yes.

### **Action Consent Agenda**

#19-014 Consent Agenda: On a motion by Hemric, seconded by Crews, the Board approved the consent agenda items listed below.

- Personnel – New Employees

#### **Central Office**

Candidate's Name – Tiiu Garrett

Degree – N/A

Certification – N/A

Assignment – Temporary Transcriptionist for EC Department as needed

Experience – 12 Years

Salary – \$18.04/hour

Salary Source – State - EC Funds

New Position – Y

#### **Courtney Elementary School**

Candidate's Name – Mikaella Weaver

Degree – N/A

Certification – N/A

Assignment – OOST Director

Experience – 0 Years

Salary – \$12.35/hour

Salary Source – OOST Funds

New Position – N - replacing Heather Tate

#### **Forbush Middle School**

Candidate's Name – Melissa Macmenamin

Degree – N/A

Certification – N/A

Assignment – Child Nutrition Assistant

Experience – 0 Years

Salary – \$11.88/hour

Salary Source – Child Nutrition

New Position – N - replacing Tammy Long

**Forbush High School**

Candidate's Name – Michael Dorman

Degree – Bachelors

Certification – Physical Education

Assignment – Technology Education Teacher - Interim

Experience – 3 Years

Salary – \$3,800/month

Salary Source – State

New Position – N - replacing William Miner

- Budget Amendments #16-24
- Fundraisers

Yes: All members voted yes.

**Action Agenda**

#19-015 On motion by Yale, seconded by Weatherman, the Board approved the field  
Field Trips: trips as listed below:

Boonville Elementary School - April 24-26, 2019

Destination: Betsy-Jeff Penn - Reidsville

Description of Trip: 5th Grade for science and social studies

Number of Students: 40

Number of Adults: 20

Transportation: Activity Bus

Cost per Student: \$115.00 (fundraiser will help offset cost)

Forbush High School - February 8-10, 2019

Destination: Harrisonburg, VA

Description of Trip: JROTC Senior Trip

Number of Students: 10

Number of Adults: 3

Transportation: Activity Bus

Cost per Student: JROTC Funds will pay

Forbush High School - February 7-8, 2019

Destination: Greensboro, NC

Description of Trip: Beta Club Convention

Number of Students: 3-4

Number of Adults: 1

Transportation: Activity Bus

Cost per Student: \$100.00 (Beta funds will help offset cost)

Starmount High School - February 7-8, 2019

Destination: Greensboro, NC

Description of Trip: Beta Club Convention  
Number of Students: 13  
Number of Adults: 2  
Transportation: Activity Bus  
Cost per Student: \$20.00

Forbush High School - March 12-13, 2019  
Destination: Raleigh, NC  
Description of Trip: State Poultry Judging  
Number of Students: 4  
Number of Adults: 1  
Transportation: County Car  
Cost per Student: \$0.00

Starmount High School - March 2-3, 2019  
Destination: Raleigh, NC  
Description of Trip: SkillsUSA  
Number of Students: 2  
Number of Adults: 1  
Transportation: County Car  
Cost per Student: \$0.00

Yes: All members voted yes.

#19-016  
2019-2020  
Calendar for  
TAs & YEC: On motion by Allred, seconded by Hemric, the Board approved the 2019-2020 calendar for teacher assistants and Yadkin Early College as presented.

Yes: All members voted yes.

### **Information Agenda**

1. The Board reviewed Contracts/Purchases.
2. Administration has received the following resignations:

**William Miner** – Teacher at Forbush High School resigning effective January 31, 2019.

**Tammy Long** - Child Nutrition Assistant resigning effective January 7, 2019.

**Heather Tate** - OOST Director at Courtney Elementary School resigning effective January 18, 2019.

**Janice Moose** - Child Nutrition Assistant at West Yadkin Elementary School retiring effective April 1, 2019.

**Yvette Staes** - OOST Director at Jonesville Elementary resigning effective February 8, 2019.

3. The following employees have been transferred:

**Alison Mason** - OOST Assistant Director at Forbush Elementary to OOST Director at Forbush Elementary.

**Raina Lawson** - EC Teacher Assistant at Starmount Middle School to EC Teacher at Starmount Middle School.

4. The following employees have been granted a leave of absence:

**Rachel Joyce** – Teacher at Forbush Elementary School - FMLA beginning January 7, 2019.

**Amanda Lee** - Speech Pathologist at Yadkinville Elementary School - Medical Leave effective January 14, 2019.

**Carolyn Pearson** - Child Nutrition Assistant at Forbush Middle School - Medical Leave effective March 8, 2019.

**Barry Shaffner** - OOST Assistant Director at Jonesville Elementary School - Medical Leave effective February 25, 2019.

5. The Board reviewed the student releases.

### **Discussion Agenda**

1. The Board discussed the upcoming joint board meeting with Surry Community College and the Board of Commissioners. The meeting will be held on March 11, 2019 at the Agriculture and Educational Building with dinner being served at 5:30pm.
2. Dr. Martin discussed with the Board the Tier Reorganization. Dr. Martin stated the Board members were given a FAQ from the public forums. Lynn Allred stated he has had comments from parents about not having a separate hall for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Dr. Martin stated when the middle schools first opened there was enough space for the 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup>; however, our ADM has decreased each year and we are seeing this across rural areas. He stated in looking at the two middle schools that if and when the 6<sup>th</sup> grade does go, there are 16 vacant classrooms at Forbush Middle, and at least that many at Starmount Middle. He stated it doesn't make much sense to build an additional wing when those classrooms are vacant. He stated there are different options that can be done for separation without building a wing, and that fiscally, he would not recommend building an additional wing. Sharon Yale stated another concern is the recurring theme around the safety of children and busing in comparison to what surrounding counties are doing and is it possible for a 3 tier bus schedule with our shortage of bus drivers. Dr. Martin stated we are short bus drivers for many reasons and it is very hard to find drivers. He stated other areas are having difficulty in obtaining drivers also and that some counties have made it mandatory for child nutrition and teacher assistants to obtain bus license. He also stated that DPI looks at how efficiently our routes operate and funding is on large part due to efficiency and a 3 tier schedule could impact funding. Sharon Yale asked could we take a look at how the Early College does their busing and perhaps do the same? Jennifer Hemric stated she had spoken with Kevin Austin and he and the commissioners realize the bus situation is a big concern and he was having meeting with Senator Tim Moore concerning maybe a school bond that could help us out. Dr. Martin stated when you talk about adding buses, they run around \$85,000 each. Lynn Allred asked whether a 6<sup>th</sup> grader more socially aligns with 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students versus elementary and are there studies. Dr. Martin stated depending on what studies you read you can find viewpoints on both sides. He stated he was in middle schools close to 15 years with a 6-8 configuration and it worked very well; you just have to be cognizant of the needs of 6<sup>th</sup> graders. He stated each grade has different needs and those working with them have to be cognizant of their developmental needs. He also stated that 6<sup>th</sup> grade students are more like students in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade than a 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grader.

He stated he has seen this not only in his career but also with his personal kids who attended middle schools and thrived and that he knows this can work. Lynn stated that realizing you can find a study to support your position, that he talked to two people that he values their opinion, and trust them to give him a straight answer, He stated they are both 30 year veteran teachers; one middle and elementary and one elementary, and he asked them and they thought as a rule 6<sup>th</sup> graders are more socially like a 7<sup>th</sup> grader than a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> grader. He also stated that he values those people who are on the ground with the students. Dr. Martin stated based on his experience he would say that is true.

Rex stated he doesn't get out as much as he used to but he has heard opposition, some stating to wait a while and others saying we should have done this 10 years ago. Tim asked when the forum questions would be posted on the webpage for the community and Dr. Martin stated this can be put out tomorrow. Sharon thanked Dr. Martin for answering the Board's questions and in what she considers a quick turnaround and that she thinks the Board could benefit from the student surveys. Dr. Martin stated the students mostly had questions about the schools like lockers, classes and changing classes, etc. He stated that if and when the Board decides to go through with this, he intends to go out and meet with the students and answer their questions. Jennifer stated that her thoughts are maybe slowing down and doing more due diligence and work on more of a strategic and long term plan. Tim stated he agreed with Jennifer. Dr. Martin stated the speed that we were moving was the third major question and perhaps we should slow down and work together to understand the strategic plan. He stated that if the Board had further questions to let him know. He stated he understood communities were discussing this back in the fall and this has never been a done deal. He stated that as superintendent he supports this move and at the same time the Board has decision making authority in terms of school construction and school organization and that is why we have had the conversations and the public forum.

Sam asked if there were any comparisons regarding discipline between the middle and elementary students. Dr. Martin stated what you see is that middle schoolers get into more serious stuff and people say middle schools are full of drugs and people hear horror stories. He stated do we have drugs; yes, because there are drugs in our society. When you have drugs in society you will have some students who use drugs or alcohol in your school but that doesn't mean it is a rampant issue. There are differences in questionable behaviors but I have seen some 6<sup>th</sup> graders get into knock down drag out fights and you just have to work to make your school as safe as it can be by following board policies. He stated that as long as you are consistent and fair things will be okay. He stated to the Board that they had some good questions and thanked them for sharing their thoughts. He stated he believes that we can work together and define the things that go into this plan and everything we are doing will be for the benefit of the children, which is what the Board is working for. He stated that while everyone will not be overjoyed, but we work for the benefit of the children. There was discussion that possible future forums we could perhaps have questions submitted in advance so that questions can be answered at the meeting. Dr. Martin stated people who know me know I try to be transparent and while you may not agree with me, I will tell you what I think the truth is. Lynn stated he feels there are more pros than cons of moving but the cons are big enough that they should be addressed and corrected and with time we can do that.

3. The Board reviewed the February Schedule of Activities.

## **Comments**

**Dr. Martin** stated he would like to congratulate Howard McKnight for being inducted into Hall of Fame at Forbush High School. He stated this ceremony was very well done and classy. He stated those who attended were appreciative and that he also saw the visiting team clapping and cheering which meant a lot. He also thanked the Board for their consideration of the tier reorganization. He stated he feels the pros outweigh the cons and he appreciates the Board studying this and listening to the public, which is what you were elected to do. Lastly, he stated if he can ever provide information to them regarding the tier reorganization to not hesitate to let him know.

**Riley Warfel** spoke to the parents in attendance and advised she and Abbey were the student representatives from Forbush High and Starmount High and that there was also a Yadkin Early College representative. She stated things were going well at Forbush and that they have an 8<sup>th</sup> grade open house coming up so that the students could tour. She also stated they are currently doing ACT prep to get ready for the test.

**Sam Crews** thanked everyone who came out to the public forums regarding the tier reorganization. He stated he felt everyone spoke with respect and that those sending him emails had been kind and respectful. He stated that Dr. Martin, Mr. Duggins and the directors have good intentions, but after hearing the concerns he feels we should delay the changes for at least one year. He congratulated Howard for being inducted into the Hall of Fame and stated he thought this ceremony was great and that he liked the fact the inductees were community leaders, teachers and athletes. He also thanked Mr. Kennedy, Mr. Pruitt and those behind the scenes that made this Hall of Fame successful. He stated his wife was not from this area and did not know the inductees; however, she thought it was very nice and that it felt good to be from Yadkin County.

**Howard McKnight** stated being inducted into the Hall of Fame was a very humbling experience and something he appreciated very deeply as well as all the years he spent at Forbush High School. He stated he would have never imagined this happening and he was very appreciative.

**Rex Baity** thanked everyone for coming to the meeting tonight and for being interested in what is going on in Yadkin County Schools.

**Jennifer Hemric** thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting and for reaching out with comments regarding the tier reorganization. She stated she appreciated them sharing their opinion and coming to the forums. She also stated that she would like to reiterate they always have the best interest of our children at heart.

**Howard McKnight** thanked everyone for being at the meeting and reminded the Board the next meeting was scheduled for March 4, 2019

**Lynn Allred** stated this is not a little island and we have a lot invested in the schools and want to do what is right and do it transparently. Lynn stated he sat on visitors side at the induction and you couldn't tell it from the game we were having, but there is a lot of good people that has come through Forbush High School, especially having a US Senator that was an alumni.

**Tim Weatherman** stated he appreciated the parents coming out to the meeting and it is nice to know children have the support of parents.

**Sharon Yale** stated she would like to thank those who have reached out and attended one or two forums. She stated she appreciates the people working in this district and that sometimes you hear about things needing improvement, but that she would not place her children in another district. She stated that both of her children went through the middle school system and that she appreciates the hard work that employees, teachers and administrators do. She stated that being in education is a calling and that they have a heart for what they do. She also stated she would like to applaud the work the employees do as they have set a strong foundation for her children in college. Lastly, she stated to Howard that he has definitely has and continues to have on our students.

**Closing Items**

#19-017                      On motion by Yale, seconded by Weatherman, the Board adjourned at 8:25p.m.  
Adjournment:

Yes:                              All members voted yes.

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Dr. Todd Martin, Secretary

**Motion to approve February 4, 2019 open session minutes:**

		<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Motion by: _____	<b>Allred</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Baity</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Crews</b>	_____	_____
Second by: _____	<b>Yale</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Hemric</b>	_____	_____
	<b>McKnight</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Weatherman</b>	_____	_____