

MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
AUGUST 20, 2018

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, August 20, 2018, 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
Beverly Boyette
Gary Farmer
Debora Powell
Robin Flinn
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Others present were Assistant Superintendent Eric Davis and Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, as well as Board Attorney Brandon McPherson. 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 twenty citizens in attendance.

1. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda by changing Policy 4400, *Attendance* and Policy 4316, *Student Dress Code*, under Instructional Services Committee, to action items. Chairman Fitch called for approval of the agenda. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the agenda with the stated changes. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Fitch informed the Board that Board Member Velma Barnes would not be attending the meeting tonight due to being under the weather.

2. At Dr. Fitch's request, Ms. Boyette led the Pledge of Allegiance that was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the July 16, 2018, Regular Board Meeting. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the Board approve the minutes of the July 16, 2018, Regular Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Under Good News Presentations, Superintendent Dr. Lane Mills, with the assistance of Ms. Boyette, recognized the following groups and individuals:
 - John F. and Emy Swindell Hinnant Honored Educator Scholarship Winner - The Board recognized Hunt High School Teacher Angie Nance as this year's recipient of the John F. and Emy Swindell Hinnant Honored Educator Scholarship through the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT). The scholarship enables Ms. Nance to attend a week-long professional development session at one of the NCCAT campuses. Several Wilson County Schools (WCS) educators have attended NCCAT in

the past, and say that it's some of the best professional development they've ever received.

The scholarship is made possible by Emy and John Hinnant, who are both retired Wilson County Schools teachers. Each year, one of our teachers receives the scholarship and all costs associated with the session are covered. Ms. Nance will also receive a \$250 stipend for classroom use. We are so proud that Ms. Nance was selected for this honor. She is an incredible veteran teacher, and we know this session will enhance her already stellar leadership skills.

- Character Education – Braydon Wells, rising Kindergartner at New Hope Elementary School
5. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch advised that staff returned to work on Monday, August 13, with teachers being engaged in the Teaching and Learning Conference on Thursday and Friday at Fike High School. The Wilson Education Partnership held its annual \$5 Masquerade Jewelry Sale fundraiser during the conference.

Dr. Fitch shared that Frederick Douglass Elementary School signage was unveiled in conjunction with the Frederick Douglass Alumni Reunion weekend, which featured a parade. The alumni presented a \$500 check to both Frederick Douglass Elementary and Elm City Middle Schools.

WCS Operation Backpack was held on Saturday, August 18, at Fike High School. Dr. Fitch thanked *The Wilson Times* for their coverage of the event. There were over 3,000 backpacks collected. Remaining backpacks will be distributed among the schools for students who were unable to attend. The first person arrived at 1:00 a.m. Parents and students waited in the auditorium before proceeding to the gym to receive their backpacks. Dr. Fitch also thanked the sponsors and the Board members for volunteering. Chick-fil-A Owner Christy Proctor celebrates her birthday each year by collecting school supplies. Chick-fil-A gave away sandwiches, water and gift cards for Chick-fil-A merchandise during Operation Backpack. Special thanks to Amber Lynch and Maritza Johnson in the WCS Public Relations Department for spearheading this event.

Dr. Fitch welcomed students that will start a new year on Monday, August 27. She thanked all WCS staff for their outstanding job done with EOG/EOC testing results, which increased our district's overall performance.

Dr. Fitch advised that the online period for the National School Board Association (NSBA) Magna Award begins September 1. In the past, WCS presented a nomination for The Gentlemen's Agreement without any required data to present. The Board can choose to nominate The Gentlemen's Agreement again or submit another nomination. NSBA looks for programs that remove barriers to achievement for vulnerable or underserved children based on race, ethnicity, gender, special needs, geography or socially economic status. They also look for support from the Board's equity, mission and vision for the district; and programs that exhibit success over time, has longevity and sustainability and can be replicated by other school districts with similar conditions and resources. Dr. Fitch commented that it was gratifying to see graduates that were in the

Gentlemen's Agreement Program volunteering during Operation Backpack.

Dr. Fitch asked for a volunteer to attend the first Smart Cookies event at Barnes Elementary on September 18 (Mr. Mercer) and Douglass Elementary on September 20 (Ms. Powell). We celebrate classes of our Teacher of the Year in elementary schools with Smart Cookies supported by Chick-fil-A.

6. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills offered his condolences to Board Member Velma Barnes on the loss of her brother, Clarence.

Dr. Mills shared with the Board that since the last meeting, the new signage at Frederick Douglass Elementary School was officially unveiled. Last Monday when staff returned to work, they all wore their school shirts, and they took a picture around the sign. Dr. Mills thanked Principal Annette Faison, who is the very first principal of Frederick Douglass Elementary, and School Secretary Debbie Bass for all of their hard work in making sure this process went smoothly.

Students returned to our two early colleges – Wilson Academy of Applied Technology (WAAT) and Wilson Early College Academy (WECA) – on August 6. The school year has gotten off to a great start at those schools, and we are fortunate to have the leadership of the principals – Krystal Cox and Nelson Johnston.

Last week WCS held our Teaching and Learning Conference, and it was a big success. WCS employees attended this conference and also led many of the sessions. This year there were 150 different sessions. Dr. Mills had the opportunity to be a part of the Growing Readers and Writers in Small Groups session on Early Literacy and as always, was impressed by our educators. He thanked the Instructional Services Department for organizing every detail of the conference and also the Technology and Maintenance Departments for their assistance.

Dr. Mills thanked the Wilson Education Partnership for holding its annual Jewelry Sale fundraiser last week. Executive Director Robin Williams added new elements this year – such as a silent auction of baskets created by our schools – and he wanted to thank her for always thinking out of the box for ways to financially support our staff and students.

Our seventh-annual Operation Backpack event was held on Saturday where we had about 3,200 free backpacks available for students in need. Dr. Mills thanked Fike staff for giving up their building and the County Commissioners for air conditioning in the gym. He thanked every business and individual in Wilson and beyond who donated and supported our students. He also thanked Fike for hosting and all of the volunteers – including many of our Board members – who made the event possible. Board members Beverly Boyette, Dr. Christine Fitch, Robin Flinn, Henry Mercer and Debora Powell volunteered on Saturday.

Dr. Mills shared the Open House and Orientation dates and times for all schools, which are as follows:

- Elementary Schools
Thursday, August 23 from 4:30-6:30 p.m.
- Middle Schools
7th & 8th grades: Thursday, August 23 from 5:30-7:30 p.m.
6th grade: Tuesday, August 21 from 5:30-7 p.m.
- High Schools
10th-12th grades: Thursday, August 23 from 6:30-8:30 p.m.
9th grade: Wednesday, August 22 from 5:30-7 p.m.

Last month, Dr. Mills shared the preliminary highlights of the performance data, and was happy to share that our growth data is going to be incredible. He said that he could not release anything at this time but to stay tuned. Dr. Mills is proud of the hard work of our students and staff as we move in the right direction. Complete results of our data will be shared next month.

Lastly, Dr. Mills shared that the first day of school for students is August 27, and he is really excited about the new year.

7. Under Public Input, Mary Virginia Olinger, addressed the Board during the Public Input section of the meeting on the direction of Wilson County Schools. Ms. Olinger shared her concerns about the cleanliness of Wells Elementary and the appearance of Frederick Douglass Elementary. Dr. Fitch asked the Administration to respond to Ms. Olinger's concerns.
8. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss one information item and three action items.

Under Policy 9300, *Naming Facilities* – First Reading, this is a revision of Wilson County Schools' current Policy 7530, *Naming Facilities*. This revised policy will align with the North Carolina General Statutes and the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) policies. The revised policy will provide more detailed criteria in identifying potential names for the facilities and individuals being honored or remembered with a plaque. Plans must be submitted to the Superintendent and be approved by the Board. This is the first reading of the policy for information only.

Under Policy 4151, *Residence and Address Verification* – First Reading, WCS recognizes that the address and residence of each student enrolled in a Wilson County School shall be verified. This policy is a revision of Wilson County Schools' current Policy 6203, *Residence and Address Verification*, that will align with the general statutes and the NCSBA policies. The Administration requested the Board waive the second reading of this policy to ensure the policy will be in place in the beginning of

the 2018-19 school year. The Administration also recommends removal of Wilson County Schools' Policy 6203, *Residence and Address Verification*. The Board asked the Administration to add the following information previously found in Policy 6203 to the revised policy under: f) Copy of voter registration form showing street or road residence address; g) Copy of automobile registration showing street or road address; or; h) Affidavit by designated school district official setting forth that the address and residence has been verified by such designated school district official based on a personal visit by such school district official to the residence address.

Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve Policy 4151, *Residence and Address Verification*, with the inclusion of items f, g, and h from the first policy as a first read. The motion was approved 5:1, with Ms. Boyette casting the dissenting vote. Ms. Boyette advised that she doesn't agree that a photo ID should be required. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to waive the second reading of Policy 4151, *Residence and Address Verification*, to have in place by the first day of school. The motion passed 5:1, with Ms. Boyette casting the dissenting vote. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve the removal of Wilson County Schools' Policy 6203, *Residence and Address Verification*, from our current policy regulations. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Ropes Course on the Campus of Vinson-Bynum Elementary School, Wilson County Schools was awarded an \$80,000 grant from the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson to construct a High Ropes Challenge Course. At the December Board of Education meeting, the Administration shared a proposal from The Adventure Group and Alpine Towers Consulting Services of Asheville to build the high ropes course behind Vinson-Bynum Elementary. In December, the Board voted unanimously to authorize the Administration to continue to move forward with the information and planning of the high ropes course. After reviewing all requirements to own and operate a high ropes, the Administration has found funding and liability issues. Moving forward, WCS would be operating the course with unknown cost and a large burden of liability. The Administration recommends the Board approve to discontinue the process for the High Ropes Challenge Course at Vinson-Bynum Elementary School and work with the Healthcare Foundation to refund the awarded grant money. The Healthcare Foundation was notified of the issues and is supportive of the decision not to move forward.

Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve the discontinuation of the process for the High Ropes Challenge Course at Vinson-Bynum Elementary School and to work with the Healthcare Foundation to refund the awarded grant money. After a comment from Board member Gary Farmer, Mr. Mercer amended the motion to approve the discontinuation of the process for the High Ropes Challenge Course at Vinson-Bynum Elementary School and work with the Healthcare Foundation to refund or repurpose the awarded grant money. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Contracts Requiring Board Approval, Board Policy 2500.1, *Contracts*, states that all contracts involving expenditures exceeding \$90,000 must receive prior

approval from the Board. The following exceeds \$90,000 and require Board approval:

Name of Business	Service Provided	Contract Amount
Utica	General Liability Insurance, Inland Marine, Crime, Commercial Automobile, Commercial Umbrella and Crisis Event	\$135,889.00
TE21	Branching Minds Subscription	\$141,988.50

Board Attorney, Brandon McPherson, advised the Board to explore a special rider to cover special education claims.

Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve the coverage for Utica insurance as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously. The Administration will explore coverage for special education claims as recommend by Counsel. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve the TE21 contract as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Under Enrollment in Advanced Mathematics Courses Session Law 2018-32, the Administration shared for information only that House Bill 986 was signed by Governor Roy Cooper and became Session Law 2018-32 on June 22, 2018. Part II of the new law provides that, when advanced courses in mathematics are offered, school districts shall place students in advanced math courses if the student scores a Level V on the Mathematics End-of-Grade test in the previous school year. During the 2017-2018 school year, a total of 609 students met this requirement in grades 3-7.

Under Acronyms, WCS Administrators created an acronym directory to facilitate clear communication and understanding between parents, teachers, and Board members when using these terms. Additional acronyms will be added. This list was shared with the Board for information only.

Under Reading Camp 2018, the Administration shared data from the 2018 Summer Reading Camp for the Board as information. The 2018 sites were located at New Hope and Vinson-Bynum Elementary Schools. Parents were encouraged to attend an informational night at the end of the 2017-2018 school year. Each site was provided one tutor each for 1st and 2nd grades; two Leveled Literacy Intervention Teachers for each grade level; an EC and

EL teacher; along with a testing team. A total of 519 students were eligible to attend summer reading camp. Based on overall attendance at both sites, 72% attended.

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

Under Policy 4400, *Attendance* – First Reading, the purpose of the revision is to house all elements referencing attendance under one policy. The Administration recommends removal of Wilson County Schools’ Policy 6101, *Absences: Principal’s Responsibility*; Policy 6102, *Absences: Teacher’s Responsibility*; Policy 6103, *Absences*; Policy 6110, *Excused Absences*; Policy 6111, *Unexcused Absences*; and Policy 6120, *Credit for Attendance*. Ms. Flinn advised the Board that Policy 4400, *Attendance*, line 47 should read, “Any absence not meeting the requirements of an excused absence shall be an unexcused absence.” Dr. Fitch responded that Policy 4400, *Attendance*, line 47, had been noted in the committee meeting and apologized for Ms. Flinn not having the corrected notations.

Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve Policy 4400, *Attendance*, as presented with the corrections as recommended. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to waive the second reading of Policy 4400, *Attendance*. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve removal of current standing Policy 6101, *Absences: Principal’s Responsibility*; Policy 6102, *Absences: Teacher’s Responsibility*; Policy 6103, *Absences*; Policy 6110, *Excused Absences*; Policy 6111, *Unexcused Absences*; and Policy 6120, *Credit for Attendance*. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Policy 4316, *Student Dress Code* – First Reading, WCS believes that the dress and personal appearance of students greatly affects their academic performance and interaction with other students. Policy 4316, *Student Dress Code*, is a revision of current Policy 6401, *Student Dress and Appearance*. This revised policy will align with the North Carolina General Statutes and the NCSBA policies. The Administration recommends removal of Wilson County Schools’ Policy 6401, *Student Dress and Appearance*.

Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Famer, to approve Policy 4316, *Student Dress Code* as presented. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to rescind Policy 6401, *Student Dress and Appearance*. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to waive the second reading of this policy. The motion passed unanimously.

Under North Carolina Alternative Schools’ Accountability Model, WCS must identify and be approved to participate in the Alternative Schools’ Accountability Model (ASAM). Schools using Option B are included in the North Carolina Accountability Reporting and Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The option must be reported to the North Carolina Department of

Public Instruction's Division of Accountability Services by September 20, 2018. The Administration is requesting approval to participate in Option B for Daniels Learning Center. Option B is the Alternative Schools' Progress Model (ASPM), which Daniels participated in for the 2017-18 school year.

Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, to approve Daniels Learning Center to participate in the Alternative Schools' Progress Model Option B. The motion passed unanimously.

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

9. At 8:47 p.m., Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, 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 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; and to consult with the Board of Education attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege and consider the pending case of Jordan v. Wilson County Board of Education as provided in N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously.

At 10:28 p.m., Mr. Farmer made a motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously.

10. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of the July 16, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, but not to release for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Flinn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the Inter-district Reassignment Requests as presented by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Committee Report/Human Resource Services, Mr. Farmer made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Mercer, 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, Substitutes to be Re-approved and Coaches.

Certified

Allen, Jessica-EC
Barnes, Lynn (I) –Math
Barnes, Tineeta (L)-4th Grade

Beaver, Sheila-5th Grade
Bowman, Cyndie-1st Grade
Boyette, Danielle-School Counselor
Bracey, Jason-PE
Breen, Mahalia-4th Grade
Bresnihan, Belinda-4th Grade
Brewington, Carol-4th Grade
Brinson, Lauren-4th Grade
Brown, Ann-Marie-Media Coordinator
Bunch, Richard (I)-PE
Cobb, Nora (I)-7th Grade Math
Collins, Emily-Music
Creech, Lorraine (I)-Math
Davis, Jamie-6th Grade Math/Science
Deans, Bryan (L)-CTE-Business
Dickens, Tameka-Kindergarten
Dimaggio, Lisa (L)-2nd Grade
Dollar, Elizabeth-Media Coordinator
Dunn, Jamie-8th Grade CS/SS
Dunson, Travis (L)-JROTC
Ellis, Krishawnda-3rd Grade
Farmer, Laquita-Interventionist
Field, Jessica-Instructional Coach
Galich, Scott-3rd Grade
Garland, Justin-Music
Gliniak, Rachel-School Psychologist
Glover, John (I)-PE
Greene, Pamela-EC
Hunter, Andrea (L)-Pre-K
Isom, Kristen-1st Grade
Joseph, Sherry-Kindergarten
Kimble, Cindy-Art
Kirby, Jeremy-5th Grade
Koehler, Claire-Preschool Itinerant
Leary, Lora (L)-2nd Grade
Leslie Evans, Lakita (L)-1st Grade
Lewis, Georgia (L)-Math
Lewis, Maurece (L)-7th Grade Science
Lipscomb, Tanya-7th Grade ELA
Logan, Elizabeth (I)-7th Grade Math
Lucas, Delphine (I)-2nd Grade
Mallol, Bobbi-Occupational Therapist
Marcell, Tia-Music
Parker, Jeana (L)-3rd Grade
Patterson, Kara-6th Grade ELA
Pisarski, Margaret-1st Grade
Place, Mikayla-1st Grade
Pridgen, Richard (I)-PE
Pridgen, William (I)-Social Studies

Ridgeway, Diamond (L)—Math
Scotti, Ann-7th ELA/SS
Shirk, Jennifer-Band/Chorus/General Music
Taylor, Andreal-1st Grade
Thompson, Laura-PE
Ward, Lisa-Kindergarten
Wells, Amy-EC

Classified

Atkinson, Shabohia-Teacher Assistant
Bennett, Kellie-Student Success Coordinator
Bonner, Cyera-Teacher Assistant
Brown, Quatonia-Teacher Assistant
Daniel-Baines, LaTeisha-Teacher Assistant
Ferguson, Matthew-Substitute Custodian
Jefferson, Storm-Teacher Assistant
Jones, Robert-Mechanic-HVAC-I
Lee, Carl-Teacher Assistant
Lumley, Taylor-School Secretary
Melvin, Muriel-Substitute Custodian
Pierce, Courtney-Teacher Assistant
Thompson, James-Substitute Custodian
Trevathan, Brandon-Substitute Custodian
Tune, Talisha-Teacher Assistant
Warwick, Cheyenne-Teacher Assistant
Williams, Benita-12-Month Custodian

Rescinded Teacher Contract

Bradley, Lisa-EC Teacher

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative

Lucas, Edwina-Resignation

Certified

Adjabeng, Regina-Resignation
Alexander, Sharon-Resignation
Anderson, Barbara-Resignation

Boothman, Leslie-Resignation
Boyce, Christian-Resignation
Cline, Summer-Resignation
Collins, Claudia-Resignation
Cooper, Trammonnio-Resignation
Creef-Alexander, Carly-Resignation
Fults, Lindsey-Resignation
Fychok, Meredith-Resignation
Gilliam, Arnitra-Resignation
Goldberg, Jenna-Resignation
Lamm, Alexandra-Resignation
Ledbetter, Reuben-Resignation
McMillian, Shonoda-Resignation
Maloney, Shelley-Resignation
Norris, Stephanie-Resignation
Pietryk, John-Resignation
Prickett, Deborah-Resignation
Rose, Pamela-Resignation
Stover, Richard-Retirement
Vick, Karen-Resignation
Ward, Jessica-Resignation
Wilson, Lakan-Resignation

Classified

Beer, Paula-Resignation
Cockings, Jhanoy-Resignation
Davis, Renae-Resignation
Horne, Gretchen-Resignation
Rivera, Barbara-Resignation
Roundtree Hall, Lashone-Retirement
Thompson, William-Resignation
Yallum, LaTeisha-Resignation

11. There being no further business at 10:30 p.m., Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman



Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary