

MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2018

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, November 19, 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
Velma Barnes
Beverly Boyette
Gary Farmer
Robin Flinn
Debora Powell
Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary

Others present were Assistant Superintendent Eric Davis and Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson, as well as Board Attorneys Brandon McPherson and Katie Cornetto. 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 34 citizens in attendance.

1. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda to add Closed Session Minutes for the November 7, 2018, meeting for the Board's approval. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board amend the agenda and add the minutes of November 7, 2018, for approval. The motion passed unanimously.
2. At Dr. Fitch's request, Mr. Mercer led the Pledge of Allegiance that was followed by a moment of silence.
3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the October 15, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, and November 7, 2018, Special Board Meeting. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the minutes of the October 15, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, and November 7, 2018, Special Board Meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Under Good News Presentations, Superintendent Dr. Lane Mills, with the assistance of Mr. Mercer, recognized the following groups and individuals:
 - 2018 Region 3 Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award Recipient - The Board recognized Wilson County Schools (WCS) Athletic Director Jimmy Tillman for being presented with the 2018 Region 3 Charlie Adams Distinguished Service Award on September 27 in Chapel Hill. Dr. Mills shared that he is incredibly thankful to have Mr. Tillman as a part of our team because his expertise in the area of athletics and administration is second to none.

During his career, Mr. Tillman has served as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, principal and currently as the district athletic director. He has numerous coaching accolades, has spent years as a game official and is a member of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame.

- 2018 Wilson County Schools Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher - The Board recognized Fike High Math Teacher Renee Pearson as the 2018 Wilson County Schools Outstanding Secondary Mathematics Teacher. Each year, the North Carolina Council of Teachers of Mathematics (NCCTM) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recognize a teacher from every school district who exemplifies excellence in teaching math. Elementary and secondary teachers are recognized in alternating years. WCS middle and high school principals were recently asked to nominate a math teacher for this honor. A committee then selected the winner from the nominations. Ms. Pearson received a one year's NCCTM membership and an award at the recent state conference in Greensboro. Dr. Mills congratulated Ms. Pearson on this prestigious honor and shared with the audience what an excellent math teacher she is.
 - NCSBA Elementary Poster Contest Participant - The Board congratulated Wells Elementary Fifth-grader Gaia Wright for representing WCS in the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) Poster Contest. Her poster was displayed during the state conference last week and was awarded honorable mention. The contest required students to depict what they think is super about public schools. In her poster, Gaia depicted that what is super to her is the diversity of public schools. In her poster, she drew students from all different ethnic backgrounds. Dr. Mills told Gaia how proud he was of her and what a great representative she is for Wells Elementary and WCS.
 - Character Education – Headbands of Hope Club, Hunt High School - Kindness
5. Under Chairman's Report, Dr. Fitch congratulated Rhyann Breen as the newly elected District 7 Board of Education Member and thanked current District 7 Representative Robin Flinn for her many years of service. Ms. Flinn's first tenure on the Board was from 2007-2014 and then she came back to the Board in 2016 to fill an unexpired term. Ms. Flinn's final meeting will be the Board's special meeting to revise policies on December 5. Mr. Breen will be sworn in at the December 10 Board meeting. Dr. Fitch also congratulated the Board members who were re-elected and thanked those who ran for office but were not elected for their willingness to serve.

Dr. Fitch thanked the Wilson Education Partnership for the success of its annual Adult Spelling Bee Fundraiser on October 23; thanked Board Member Debora Powell for attending Smart Cookies at Frederick Douglass Elementary on November 15; and thanked Chick-fil-A for its continued sponsorship of Smart Cookies. Dr. Fitch will attend the upcoming Smart Cookies on December 11 at Gardners Elementary. Dr. Fitch closed her remarks by wishing everyone a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

6. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills also recognized the Wilson Education Partnership for its Adult Spelling Bee Fundraiser and thanked Executive Director Robin Williams for her commitment to our schools and the incredible energy she brings to everything that she does. Dr. Mills congratulated Rhyan Breen for leading the winning team. Dr. Mills also shared that he and the Board attended the annual NCSBA Conference in Greensboro last week, which is always an informative workshop for superintendents and board members from across the state.

Dr. Mills also recognized the staff and students at Barnes Elementary, Vick Elementary and Darden Middle for their stellar performance. Two years ago, they were performing in the bottom 5 percent of schools in the state and were identified to receive federal School Improvement Grant (SIG) funds. The schools had five years to drastically improve their scores, but Vick and Darden reached their goals in just two years and Barnes is almost there. Last week, state officials from the Department of Public Instruction toured the schools to congratulate the staff, students and our WCS Federal Programs Department led by Melissa Eddy. The state officials were very complimentary of results and the culture in the schools. As SIG Schools, the three schools were in the Comprehensive School and Improvement (CSI) category. All three schools moved off that list and onto the Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI) School list. At this time, Vick is the only SIG School out of 19 in the state to be off both lists. Darden is currently tied with another school in the west as the Top SIG Middle School in the state. And again, Barnes is also making huge improvements.

Dr. Mills also closed his remarks by wishing everyone a safe and relaxing Thanksgiving holiday.

7. Under Public Input, Claudia Jenkins, a parent of several students, addressed the Board and asked the members to consider extending the Spanish Immersion Program to fifth grade. At the April 2018 Board meeting, the Board voted to offer the program at Frederick Douglass Elementary to K-4 students. After Ms. Jenkins' remarks, Board Member Beverly Boyette asked that the matter of offering the program in fifth grade be placed on an upcoming Instructional Services Committee Meeting agenda for discussion.
8. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss one action item.
 - Under 2018-2019 Budget Amendments, North Carolina General Statute 115C-434 authorizes the Board to make appropriations for the budget year. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve budget amendments 101, 201, 301, 401, 501, 601 and 801 as recommended 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 two information and two action items.

- Under School Improvement Plan Overview, at the October 15 Board meeting, the Board approved the 2018-2019 School Improvement Plans. The plans include certain goals that each school will work toward, such as improving classroom management, bolstering communication with parents/guardians and implementing more interventions for students with emotional needs. All schools will be required to post a link to their School Improvement Plan on their website along with a guest username and password for public viewing.
- Under *Bark for Schools* Monitoring System, WCS will be piloting the program *Bark for Schools*. This program monitors all student communications in Google Suite and receives alerts at the first sign of potential danger such as cyberbullying, suicidal ideation, sexual content and threats of violence. *Bark for Schools* is free and available for all public and private K-12 schools in the United States. *Bark for Schools* also offers parents the option of monitoring their child's account, but they are required to pay a subscription fee. *Bark for Schools* remains free to WCS whether or not parents subscribe.

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

- Under Revised 2018-2019 Traditional Calendar, the Board members shared that they received numerous emails, texts and phone calls from teachers, parents and students asking them not to change the calendar. The Board had considered changing the first semester of the calendar after WCS lost instructional time because of two hurricanes. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the Board authorize the Administration to look at the proper plans to accommodate the exams being taken before the holidays. Dr. Fitch amended the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to continue with the original calendar that was provided and have the Administration provide the necessary tweaking for the remainder of the year to recoup any instructional time. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 3410, *Testing and Assessment Program – Second Reading*, the Board received a draft policy which outlines the administration of tests, screenings and other assessments and also outlines guidelines for final exams and the amount of time spent testing. The new policy will replace WCS Policy 5600, *Testing Programs*; Policy 5601, *Test Administration*; and Policy 5524, *Exam Exemptions*. The policy also aligns with general statutes and NCSBA policies. Dr. Fitch made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that Policy 3410, *Testing and Assessment Program* be approved as a second read and to rescind Policy 5600, *Testing Programs*; Policy 5601, *Test Administration* and Policy 5524, *Exam Exemptions*.

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

9. Under Discussion/Information Item, Policy 1326, *Public Address to the Board*, the Board is currently in the process of reviewing every WCS policy in order to align them with NCSBA policies and North Carolina General Statutes. At the October 15

Board meeting, Board Member Beverly Boyette asked if the Board could review Policy 1326, *Public Address to the Board*. The Board made changes to the policy in May 2018.

The Board asked the Administration and Board Attorney to edit the policy to allow speakers to sign up 30 minutes prior to the Board meeting in person or by noon on the day of the Board meeting by email. Another suggested change involved making it optional to provide the nature of the topic to be discussed. The Board directed the Board Attorney to prepare a draft of a revised policy to present to the Board at its next policy meeting on December. 5.

Under Discussion/Action Items:

- Under Policy 1000, *Legal Status of the Board and School System* - Second Reading, the Board received revisions of Policy 1000, *Legal Status of the Board and School System* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 1000, *The School Board*. Ms. Flinn made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve Policy 1000, *Legal Status of the Board and School System*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 1010, *Board Authority and Duties* - Second Reading, the Board received revisions of Policy 1010, *Board Authority and Duties* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 1100, *School Board Powers and Duties*. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve Policy 1010, *Board Authority and Duties*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 1100, *Governing Principles* - Second Reading, the Board received this new policy that aligns with general statutes and NCSBA policies. It outlines the principles that guide the Board when setting policy, such as student success, safety and stewardship of resources. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve Policy 1100, *Governing Principles*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 1200, *Governing Principle - Student Success* - Second Reading, the Board received this new policy that aligns with general statutes and NCSBA policies. It lists the WCS policies focused on student success. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve Policy 1200, *Governing Principle - Student Success*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.

- Under Draft Policy 1300, *Governing Principle - Parental Involvement*- Second Reading, the Board received this new policy that aligns with general statutes and NCSBA policies. It lists the WCS policies focused on parental involvement. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve Policy 1300, *Governing Principle – Parental Involvement*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 1310/4002, *Parental Involvement - Second Reading*, the Board received this new policy that aligns with general statutes and NCSBA policies. It outlines the ways schools should connect with parents. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve Policy 1310/4002, *Parental Involvement*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 1510/4200/7270, *School Safety - Second Reading*, the Board received revisions of Policy 1510/4200/7270, *School Safety* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 7710, *Emergency Drills*. Ms. Barnes made a motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, to approve Policy 1510/4200/7270, *School Safety*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 1600, *Governing Principle - Professional Development - Second Reading*, the Board received revisions of Policy 1600, *Governing Principle - Professional Development* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 3600, *Staff Development*. Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve Policy 1600, *Governing Principle – Professional Development*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 1610/7800, *Professional and Staff Development - Second Reading*, the Board received revisions of Policy 1610/7800, *Professional and Staff Development* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 3600, *Staff Development*; Policy 3603, *Professional Meetings and Conferences*; and Policy 8040, *Professional Growth*. Mr. Mercer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve Policy 1670/7800, *Professional and Staff Development*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Policy 1730/4022/7231, *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of*

Disabilities - Second Reading, the Board received revisions of Policy 1730/4022/7231, *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 6223, *Handicapped Students*. Ms. Boyette made a motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve Policy 1730/4022/7231, *Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.

- Under Policy 1742/5060, *Responding to Complaints* - Second Reading, the Board received revisions of Policy 1742/5060, *Responding to Complaints* to align with general statutes and NCSBA policies. This was the second reading of the policy for the Board's review and final approval. The newly revised policy will replace current Policy 8450, *Complaints*. Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Flinn, to approve Policy 1742/5060, *Responding to Complaints*, as a second read. The motion passed unanimously.

10. At 8:58 p.m., Mr. Farmer made a 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's 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 10:08 p.m., Mr. Farmer made a motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, passed unanimously.

Ms. Powell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to rescind Policy 1000, *The School Board*; Policy 1100, *School Board Powers and Duties*; Policy 7710, *Emergency Drills*; Policy 3600, *Staff Development*; Policy 3603, *Professional Meetings and Conferences*; Policy 8040, *Professional Growth*; Policy 6223, *Handicapped Students*; and Policy 8450, *Complaints*, after the passing of the 11 policies. The motion passed unanimously.

11. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of the October 15, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, but not to release for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Farmer made a motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the closed session minutes of the November 7, 2018, Special Board Meeting, and release the minutes for public inspection. 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, and Coaches.

Certified

Burrell, Amy-6th/7th Grade Science
Dantzler, Teresa (L)-Math
Fuller, Marquietta (L)-2nd Grade
Jackson, Maria-8th Grade Math
Kapl, Amanda-Speech Language Pathologist
Stokely, Allison (L)-Art
Thornton, Sherry (I)-Part-time Counselor
Winstead, Bernice (I)-2nd Grade
Witchey, Steven (I)-Part-time Counselor
Zufolo, Ashley-EC

Classified

Barnes, Tyliyah-Pre-school Student Assistant
Bohne, Kristina-Teacher Assistant
Crutchfield, Derek-12-month Custodian
Fox, Joyce-Substitute Custodian
Ruffin, Marlene-Teacher Assistant
Sharpe, Mattie-Child Nutrition Substitute
Thompson, James-12-Month Custodian
Wike, Stephanie-Child Nutrition Substitute
Williams, Laniya-ASCEP Student Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administration

Davis, Eric-Resignation

Certified

Barnes, Lavonna-Resignation
Bowman, Cyndle-Resignation
Chandler, Deborah-Retirement
Daughtry, Patty-Resignation

Edwards, Tarnisha-Resignation
Grady, Shantay-Resignation
Groce, Danette-Resignation
Gurganus, Anna-Resignation
Joyner, Mary Ellen-Resignation
Lamm, Tammy-Retirement
Raper, Colleen-Retirement
Skinner, Wendy-Retirement
Wells, Mary Craige-Resignation
West, Jonathan-Resignation
Wooten, Lu Ann-Retirement
Ziencik-Garito, Bettina-Resignation

Classified

Gaskins, Arteala-Retirement
Hall, Donald-Retirement
Henderson, Brenda-Resignation
Jones, Alan-Resignation

Dismissal

Colbert, Andra-Substitute

12. There being no further business at 10:11 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