

MINUTES OF
THE WILSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
JANUARY 14, 2019

The Wilson County Board of Education held its regular meeting on Monday, January 14, 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
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 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 13 citizens in attendance.

1. After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Fitch amended the agenda under Instructional Services Committee by removing the action item Draft Policy 3515, *Religion in the Schools*. This item will be tabled to the February meeting to allow Board Member Rhyan Breen, who was not in attendance at the meeting, an opportunity to engage in the discussion. Dr. Fitch called for approval of the amended agenda. Ms. Powell made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, that the Board approve the amended agenda as presented for January 14, 2019. The motion passed unanimously.
2. At Dr. Fitch's request, Ms. Boyette led the Pledge of Allegiance that was followed by a moment of silence. Ms. Boyette asked that everyone keep the North Carolina Highway Patrol Officer who was shot in Wilson County prior to the meeting in their thoughts and prayers during the moment of silence.
3. Dr. Fitch presented for approval the minutes of the December 19, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, and the January 9, 2019, Special Board Meeting. A few minor edits were made to the December 19 minutes by the attorney prior to the start of the meeting. The Board members received edited copies of the minutes. Ms. Barnes made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, that the corrected minutes of the December 19, 2018, Regular Board Meeting and the January 9, 2019, Special Meeting, be approved. The motion passed unanimously.
4. Under Special Presentation to the Board, Wilson County Schools (WCS) Teacher of the Year Leigh Anne Orr addressed the Board members and thanked them for all that they do for our schools and community. January is Board Appreciation Month. She also brought two of her students from Elm City Middle to hand out Thank You Cards signed by the class. Earlier this month, Brewmasters treated the Board to lunch. We are grateful to Dr. Christine Fitch, Henry Mercer, Debora Powell, Rhyan Breen, Gary Farmer,

Velma Barnes and Beverly Boyette for their service.

5. Under Good News Presentations, Dr. Mills, with the assistance of Ms. Boyette, recognized the following groups and individuals:

- Wilson Rotary Club – The Board recognized the Wilson Rotary Club for being such a great partner for many years. Eldon Newton and Carroll Lipscombe attended on behalf of the Rotary Club. Dr. Mills shared with them that he appreciated the generosity of all of the members in the club, most of which are business owners, executives, nonprofit leaders and government officials. The club has been in existence for 100 years, and its mission is service above self.

Dr. Mills said that he is especially grateful for a recent project. A few weeks ago, Rotarians were in the elementary schools to distribute dictionaries to every third-grade student. This has been an annual project of the Rotary Club since 2003. To date, an estimated 18,000 dictionaries have been presented to students. Club members personally delivered the dictionaries to each classroom.

- Exceptional Children’s Educator of Excellence Award Winner – The Board recognized WCS Physical Therapist Helen Davis for receiving the Educator of Excellence Award for Wilson County at the 2018 Exceptional Children’s Conference. Dr. Mills shared that Ms. Davis has been a part of the WCS Family for 11 years and a physical therapist for more than 36 years.

Ms. Davis is responsible for all physical therapy screenings and evaluations for our Exceptional Children (EC). In the areas of strength, endurance, performance and much more, she recognizes and works with each student's unique needs. She is our only physical therapist and serves all of the EC students in the district. She is an active member of the Assistive Technology team, facilitates sessions on proper lifting techniques and recently she worked with district leaders to transition more students and resources into our high schools. Director of Exceptional Children Dr. Robin Wright said that it is an honor and a privilege to work alongside Ms. Davis because she is such an outstanding advocate for students.

6. Under Chairman’s Report, Dr. Fitch shared that Smart Cookies would be held January 15 at Hearne Elementary with the class of Maggie Murphy and January 17 at Lee Woodard Elementary with the class of Jennifer Froning. Ms. Barnes will attend at Hearne and Ms. Powell at Lee Woodard. Dr. Fitch asked Board members to volunteer to attend three upcoming Smart Cookies events - February 5 at Jones Elementary (Beverly Boyette), February 12 at Lucama Elementary (Henry Mercer) and February 21 at New Hope Elementary (Gary Farmer). She thanked Chick-fil-A for continuing to provide the cookies.

On behalf of the Board, Dr. Fitch thanked Brewmasters for providing boxed lunches at the Board’s policy Special Meeting on January 9. Brewmasters donated the meal in recognition of Board Appreciation Month. Dr. Fitch welcomed Dr. Wanda Dawson as the interim assistant superintendent of human resources. She also recognized Deputy Johnnie Coleman for continuing to provide security at the Board meetings even though he retired last month from the Wilson County Sheriff’s Office. Deputy

Coleman spent many years as a School Resource Office, and Dr. Fitch commended him for his service. She shared that there was recently a great article featuring him in *The Wilson Times*.

7. Under Superintendent's Report, Dr. Mills said that he hoped everyone had a nice Christmas Break and that the second semester is off to a great start. He congratulated the 2018 International Baccalaureate Programme Graduates in the high schools. They were recognized at a special ceremony on January 3, and Dr. Mills, several Board members and senior staff attended. He shared with the Board that WCS has asked parents and staff for their feedback on the 2019-2020 Traditional Calendar. There is a link on the district website and also through social media to review the calendar options and give feedback on which one is preferred. The deadline to provide feedback is January 25. Paper copies are available in the schools. Dr. Mills thanked Associate Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Wilson for creating the calendar option templates and two videos that explain the options and calendar requirements.

Dr. Mills shared that the WCS Teacher Job Fair would be held on March 16 at Darden Middle. More details will be provided as the event approaches. Current job openings are posted on the district website under Employment. Anyone interested in employment can also call Central Office at 399-7700. Dr. Mills reminded the Board of the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Meeting on January 24 from 6-9 p.m. on the campus of Barton College in the Kennedy Family Theater. This meeting is the largest assembly of business and community leaders in Wilson, and Dr. Mills said he is looking forward to celebrating past achievements, future endeavors and several award winners. Dr. Mills ended his comments by thanking Dr. Dawson for filling in as the interim assistant superintendent. Dr. Dawson served as the superintendent in Pamlico County prior to her retirement. He applauded her leadership and willingness to serve WCS until the position is filled.

8. Under Public Input, Claudia Jenkins and Shelley Gibson, parents of students in the Spanish Immersion Program, asked the Board to share with the Spanish Immersion parents and the public the long-term plan for the program. Ms. Jenkins, Ms. Gibson and other parents would like to see it continue in the future and expanded to include fifth grade. Ms. Gibson thanked the Board members for the time they are spending reviewing every WCS policy and for being transparent through the process. Dr. Fitch asked that Spanish Immersion be placed on the agenda for the February Board meeting.
9. Under Committee Meetings/Administrative Services Committee – Committee Chair Mr. Mercer shared that the committee met today to discuss two information items and two action items.

Under QZAB Capital Projects: Gym Floors – Beddingfield H.S., Fike H.S., and Hunt H.S., the Board received information about a contract WCS has entered with Royalwood Associates Inc. for a fee of \$78,329 to refinish and repaint the gym floors at Beddingfield High, Fike High and Hunt High. The floors have not had any major work since they were originally built. The project will be covered by leftover Qualified Zone Academy Bonds (QZAB) funds. Last school year, WCS and the Wilson County Commissioners worked together and received \$5 million in QZAB funds, which are basically interest free loans that save the county and taxpayers

money. The money was initially used for air conditioning in the gyms at Beddingfield High, Fike High, Hunt High, Toisnot Middle and Forest Hills Middle; camera systems in those five schools; and a new roof and chiller at Fike High.

Under Wilson Area School-Based Health Clinic (WASH) at Beddingfield High School, the Board received information about WASH at Beddingfield High. The project is nearing completion and one of the final steps is securing a Certificate of Occupancy. Dr. Mills shared that the facility looks great and in just a month's time (since the December Board meeting), the concrete was poured, decking was finished and the card readers were installed on the doors. He advised the Board that a ribbon cutting ceremony would be held soon, and he would share that date in the future. Dr. Mills also thanked the Maintenance Department for all of their hard work. The opening of the clinic was delayed a few months because the original location of the mobile unit drew concerns. It has since been moved and work was done to ensure that it blended in with the school building. Once it opens, WASH will serve as a health clinic for all WCS employees as well as students at Beddingfield High and the Wilson Academy of Applied Technology. There is also a clinic at Forest Hills Middle. Large portions of both clinics were funded through grants from the Healthcare Foundation of Wilson and staffing is provided by the Wilson County Health Department.

Under Additional Capital Projects for 2018-2019, the Board was presented with several additional capital projects, which included enclosing the metal beams under the Vick Elementary walkway near the auditorium; supplying mulch on the playgrounds at every elementary school; replacing the AC/heating units in three classrooms at Fike High; painting the gym ceiling at Stantonsburg Elementary; and covering some of the expense of WASH at Beddingfield High. The total for these projects is \$392,300. At the December Board meeting, the Board approved the following capital projects: repaving at Lee Woodard Elementary and Gardners Elementary; purchasing an activity bus; and replacing a portion of the roofs at Hearne Elementary, Vick Elementary and the Transportation Department. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve the priority list presented for capital projects by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under 2018-2019 Budget Amendments, General Statute 115C-434 authorizes the Board to make appropriations for the budget year. Budget amendments for the State Public School Fund, Current Expense Fund, Federal Fund and Local Special Revenue Fund were presented by the Administration. Mr. Mercer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, to approve the 2018-2019 Budget Amendments 103, 202, 303 and 803 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 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 Traditional Calendar, the Administration recommended adjusting the calendar to stay within calendar requirements set by the state. The biggest change is that February 18 is no longer a Teacher Workday – it is now a regular school

day for students. Other changes are as follows – WCS was closed for Hurricane Michael on October 11. To make up this day, the April 19 Holiday was moved to April 22. April 19 is now an optional Workday. The former April 22 Annual Leave Day was moved to October 11. The October 19 Workday had been previously approved to be used as a make-up Instructional Day. WCS was closed for a snow day on December 10. To make up this day, the June 7 Annual Leave Day was moved to December 10 – which makes June 7 an optional Workday. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to approve the revised 2018-2019 Traditional Calendar, as recommended by the Administration. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars, the Board was presented with a proposed resolution drafted by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) supporting local control of the school calendar and suggested local boards of education adopt the resolution. The Wilson County Commissioners will also be asked to draft a resolution in support of local control of the school calendar. The calendar has been controlled by the state since 2014. Prior to that, school districts had local control. Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Powell, that the full Board approve the Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars as written. 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 January 9.

- Under Draft Policy 3100, *Curriculum Development* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 3100, *Curriculum Development*, and upon approval remove from our policies, Policy 5100, *Curriculum Development*, as read at a previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 3102, *Online Instruction* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 3102, *Online Instruction*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 3140, *Evaluation of Instructional Programs* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 3140, *Evaluation of Instructional Programs*, as a second reading and upon approval remove Policy 5700, *Evaluation of Instructional Programs*, as in current policy. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 3510, *Religious-Based Exemptions From School Programs* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 3510, *Religious-Based Exemptions From School Programs*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 3610, *Counseling Program* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 3610, *Counseling Program*, as a second reading. The motion passed unanimously.

- Under Draft Policy 4001, *Equal Education Opportunities* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 4001, *Equal Education Opportunities*, and upon approval remove Policy 6900, *Equal Educational Opportunities*, from the current policy. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 4023, *Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 4023, *Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students*, and upon approval remove Policy 6901, *Pregnant Students*, from our policy. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 4100, *Age Requirements for Initial Entry* – Second Reading, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Mr. Farmer, that the full Board approve Draft Policy 4100, *Age Requirements for Initial Entry*, and upon approval current Policy 6011, *Entrance Age: Initial*, Policy 6012, *Entrance Age: Transfer From Another State*, Policy 6013, *Entrance Age: Verification*, and Policy 6014, *Transfer from In-State Nonpublic Kindergarten or First Grade* be removed. The motion passed unanimously.
- Under Draft Policy 4125, *Homeless Students*, Dr. Fitch made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, that the full Board approve Policy 4125, *Homeless Students*, as presented. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Under Committee Meetings/Human Resources Committee - Committee Chair Mr. Farmer shared that the committee met today to discuss an information item.

Under Third Grade Reading, Fourth and Fifth Grade Reading, Fourth through Eighth Grade Math, AP/IB and CTE Teacher Bonuses, the Board received information about bonuses for teachers in the areas of third grade reading, fourth and fifth grade reading, fourth through eighth grade math, AP/IB and Career and Technical Education (CTE). The payments to qualifying teachers will be paid in January 2019 and teachers were eligible to receive bonuses from the local school district and/or the state.

The third through eighth grade bonuses are based on EVAAS growth. The third grade reading bonus was worth \$3,251 at the local level and at the state level. Assistant Superintendent Dr. Dawson shared that 11 teachers received the local bonus, 12 received the state bonus and 11 received both. The bonus for fourth and fifth grade reading was worth \$2,000 per category. Fifteen teachers received the local bonus, 12 received the state and 12 received both bonuses. In fourth and fifth grade math, 16 teachers received the local bonus, 15 received the state and 15 received both. Fourth and fifth grade teachers who teach both areas of reading and math could have received up to \$8,000 if they qualified for both the local and state bonus in both areas. The sixth through eighth grade math bonus was worth \$2,000 per category. Eight teachers received the local bonus, nine received the state and seven received both bonuses.

The AP/IB bonus is based on student performance. To receive the AP bonus, students had to score a 3 or higher and to receive the IB bonus, students had to score a 4 or higher. The bonuses were worth \$50 per student and 27 teachers received them. The CTE bonus was worth \$25 per student or \$50 for every student that earned an industry certification credential. Nine teachers received these bonuses.

10. At 8:41 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, 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 10:08 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion to reconvene to open session. The motion, seconded by Ms. Boyette, passed unanimously.

11. Reporting from closed session, Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Mr. Mercer, to approve the closed session minutes of the December 19, 2018, Regular Board Meeting, and/but do not release the minutes for public inspection because of confidential personnel matters. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Committee Report/Human Resource Services, Mr. Farmer made the motion, 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 Substitute Teachers and Coaches.

Certified

Britt, Bethany (L)-EC
Bullock, Susan (I)-Part-Time Wolfpack WORKS Interventionist
D'Jernes, Margaret-5th Grade
Fluet, Kelsy-1st Grade
Gattis, Lynn-2nd Grade
Hailey, Madison-6th Grade Math/Science
James, Zarría-2nd Grade
Johnson, Katie-Media Coordinator
Jones, Brenda-Part-time Interventionist
Joyner, Julie-7th Grade ELA/SS
Lorek, Mark-Band
Martin, Meagan-Media Coordinator
Moore, Ranisha-EC

Newsome, Allison (L)-1st Grade
Shearin, Jon (I)-CTE-Automotive Tech
Shelby, Sherry-School Nurse
Stocks, Whitney-3rd Grade
Sutton, Ronnie-Social Studies
Wilber, Melissa-Interventionist
Williams, Keyonna-Kindergarten
Wyatt, Cassidy-Kindergarten

Classified

Bunn, Sarah-ASCEP Student Assistant
Haskins, Brian-Teacher Assistant
Jones, Victor-Behavior Support Assistant
McDonald, Margarita-EC Teacher Assistant

Substitute Teachers

Barbee, Amy S.-Substitute
Coples, Wanda-Substitute

Coaches

Lucas, Jeffrey-Cross Country-Head (Toisnot Middle)
Lucas, Joseph (V)-Cross Country (Toisnot Middle)
Martins, Jose (V)-Cross Country (Toisnot Middle)
Mercer, Craig-Assistant Softball (Hunt High)
Rowe, Tiffany-JV Girls Soccer (Hunt High)
Sutton, Ronnie-Wrestling (Hunt High)
Utt, Lauren-Girls Soccer-Head (Toisnot Middle)

INFORMATION ITEMS

The Board received the following personnel list as information.

Administrative – Transfers

Carter, Antonnia-Assistant Principal (Barnes)
Horton, Sonya-Assistant Principal (Wells)
Rose, Brittany-Assistant Principal (Jones)

Certified


Baker, Melissa-Resignation
Brown, Veronica-Resignation
Galich, Scott-Resignation
Haskins, Brian-Resignation


McNeil, Teneisha-Resignation
Moody, Shannon-Resignation
Page, Hannah-Resignation
Patterson, Kara-Resignation
Porterfield, Wilma-Resignation
Smith, Jennifer-Resignation
Spence, Tracy-Resignation
Tillotson, Lori-Resignation
Young, Sherry-Retirement

Classified

Artis, Latisha-Resignation
Harris, Zekilya-Resignation
Holcomb, Betty-Retirement
Thompson, James Troy-Resignation

13. There being no further business at 10:10 p.m., Mr. Farmer made the motion, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.


Dr. Christine L. Fitch, Chairman


Dr. Lane B. Mills, Secretary