

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
 4:00 p.m. – Call to Order – Executive Conference Room
 (Work Session Updates / Closed Session)
Thursday, December 7, 2023
 5:30 p.m. – Minitorium
 Broadcast live on BCS Communications YouTube Account

MINUTES

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Buncombe County Board of Education met in a regular session on December 7, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. in the Minitorium located at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, North Carolina and streamed live on YouTube, when the following business was transacted.

The following Board members were present:

Ann Franklin, Madam Chair
 Peggy Buchanan, Member
 Rob Elliot, Member
 Judy Lewis, Member

Kim Plemmons, Member
 Amanda Simpkins, Member
 Amy Churchill, Vice-Chair

Staff present: Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent; Dr. Jennifer Reed, Associate Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction; Joseph Hough, Assistant Superintendent Auxiliary Services; Dr. Jamie Johnson, Assistant Superintendent of Educational Equity & Student Support; Dr. Donna Lanahan, Director of Secondary Education; Dr. Shane Cassida, Director of Student Services; Dr. Mindy Conner, Director of Special Services; Clark Wyatt, Director of Maintenance; Jeremy Stowe, Director of Transportation; Robert Frisby, Director of Technology; Tim Fierle, Director of Facilities; Shanon Martin, Assistant Director of Student Services; Steve Earwood, Director of Testing & Accountability; Michele Smith, Director of Career Technical Education; Scott Emory and Joshua Ponder, Technology Support Specialists; Dr. Stacia Harris, Director of Communications; Tim Reaves, Assistant Director of Communications; Hann Henson, Digital Communication Specialist; Tina Thorpe, Chief Finance Officer; Lisa Sharpe, Accounting/Purchasing Manager; Dean Shatley, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative Assistant

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:30 p.m. and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

The Madam Chair entertained a motion for the Board of Education to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:

- Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;
- Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential student information pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232g (FERPA);
- Under subsection (a)(3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Elliot made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:10 p.m. and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Shatley called the meeting to order and presided over the meeting until the election of Board Chair and Vice-Chair were concluded.

PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ENKA HIGH SCHOOL Instructed by Major Kevin Den Boer U.S. Air Force (retired) and Master Sergeant Douglas Draper, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIR

Mr. Shatley opened the floor for nominations for Board Chair. Ms. Churchill nominated Ms. Franklin for Board Chair. Ms. Franklin accepted the nomination. Mr. Shatley asked for other nominations, hearing no others, the floor was closed to nominations. Mr. Shatley called for a vote and Ms. Franklin was unanimously approved as Chair.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR

Mr. Shatley opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice-Chair. Ms. Lewis nominated Ms. Churchill for Board Vice-Chair. Ms. Churchill accepted the nomination. Mr. Shatley asked for other nominations, hearing no others, the floor was closed to nominations. Mr. Shatley called for a vote and Ms. Churchill was unanimously approved as Vice-Chair.

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APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the agenda and Mr. Elliot seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Jackson expressed excitement about hearing from the students who will share their musical talents during the Curriculum Feature and to honoring the stellar students and staff members during the Good News portion of the agenda.
- In regard to the agenda, Dr. Jackson noted how many parents, staff members, and community members have been involved in the creation and planning of the agenda items. He expressed his thankfulness to the Board's commitment to hearing from all stakeholders and incorporating the many compliments, comments, concerns, and questions that are received into our commitment to continuous improvement.
- Dr. Jackson thanked all who have helped guide our schools through participation on School Improvement Teams, Parent Advisory Councils, the Teacher Advisory Council, the Exceptional Children Advisory Council, the Student Advisory Council, the system's Calendar Committee, and many other support groups. He also noted that the performance of our students vividly illustrates that success can be achieved when we work together and gives us the assurance that we will accomplish our goals. Dr. Jackson said that he is proud of how all have come together across Buncombe County for our students and families.
- Dr. Jackson announced that work is underway on the Feasibility Study for School Consolidation required by the state. A joint Project Team from both school systems helped write a "Request for Proposals" that has now been issued by Buncombe County. The study will incorporate as many voices as possible. Buncombe County Schools is represented on the Project Team by a student from North Buncombe High School, a parent from Glen Arden Elementary School, our BCS Teacher of the Year from AC Reynolds High School, our BCS Principal of the Year from CA Erwin High School, our Director of Facilities and Maintenance, our Director of Testing, our Director of Communications, our Finance Director, and our Associate Superintendent. He expressed appreciation for the variety of perspectives that these people will bring to the work of making sure that all voices throughout Buncombe County are a part of this study.
- As the winter holidays approach, Dr. Jackson wished our students, staff, and community a joyous season.

GOOD NEWS

- Fairview Elementary School – Blue Ribbon Schools Award
- Black Mountain Primary School - National ESEA Distinguished Schools Award Nominee
- NC Honors Chorus Student Recognition – Koontz Intermediate, Owen Middle, Cane Creek Middle, Valley Springs Middle, Reynolds High, Owen High, North Buncombe High, Roberson High Schools
- The Roy Hobbs Hall of Fame Award – David Ball, District Athletic Specialist
- School Social Worker of the Year – Ami Greene, North Buncombe Middle, North Windy Ridge Intermediate, and Barnardsville Elementary School
- Elementary Counselor of the Year – Laura Traylor, Johnston Elementary School
- Middle School Counselor – Eva Lewit, Erwin Middle School
- High School Counselor of the Year – Melanie Parham, Roberson High School

CURRICULUM FEATURE – Holiday Music

- Reynolds High School Madrigal Singers – Directed by Mr. Philip Haynie

PUBLIC COMMENT

-The following people expressed their support for state statute SB49, the "Parents' Bill of Rights": Kay Olsen from Leicester; Linda Cobaugh; Pamela Owenby from the Reynolds District; Michael Hall; Tom Braine an Asheville resident and Doug Brown an Asheville resident.

-Kim Poteat, an Enka District resident, objected to changes in Policy 3210.

-Staci Metcalf, a resident of the Roberson District, feels that Policy 1310 is not compliant with SB49 in regard to parental notification.

-Carolyn Stewart, from the Owen district expressed concern with Policy 1740 grievance procedures and Policy 3210 test and assessment publication.

- Ronald Gates, Pastor of Greater Works Church, stated support for SB49 and feels that BCS' gender support guidelines do not comply with the law.

- Bill Robinson, from the Reynolds District, spoke about his concern over teen suicides.

-Michael Cobbledick, from the Roberson District, spoke about policies that he felt were un-American.

-The following people expressed their concern over the implementation of state statute SB49, the "Parents' Bill of Rights": Jesse Ryals, a student at UNCA; Ryan Foster, a student at UNCA; Aspen Johnson, a teacher in the Asheville area; Adrian Parra, Youth Outright Director; Brianna Hacker, an Erwin

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District parent; Sarah Hacker, an Erwin District parent; Ash Timmons, an Enka District parent; Ramona Schwartz, a Reynolds District resident; Amber Meredith, a Buncombe County resident; Amanda Simons, and educator in the Asheville area; Craig White, Education for Southern Equality Director; Shea Filler, a medical provider in the Asheville area; and Haley Roth.

-Courtney Blossman, a Roberson District resident feels that language in Policy 4720 is not compliant with SB49.

-The following students from the Nesbitt Academy expressed concerns over SB49 implementation and requested more funding for Green New Schools Initiatives: Liza Porras and Talia Wilson.

-Ada Sloop from the Land of Sky Regional Council, advocated for the Safe Routes to School Program and asked BCS to consider partnering with the Council on this project.

-Kenneth Hipps, an Erwin District parent, expressed concern over fundraising procedures for the volleyball team at Erwin High School.

ACTION AGENDA

- 2023-2024 Budget Adoption

Ms. Thorpe answered Board member's questions regarding the conclusion of ESSER funding, the grants that support School Resource Officer funding and the effects of student enrollment on the budget.

Ms. Lewis made a motion to adopt the 2023-2024 Budget Resolution as presented and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of School Improvement Plans 2023-2024

Mr. Elliot noted that the development of school improvement plans are mandated by state law and requires the involvement from parents to do so. These plans are posted on each school's website.

Mr. Elliot made a motion to approve the School Improvement Plans for 2023-2024 submitted for each school and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of District Preliminary Support Plan for Schools Designated as Low Performing 2023-2024

Ms. Plemmons said she supported the plans submitted for approval and expressed support for increased administrative presence in these schools. Dr. Jackson stated that he was pleased to see that BCS did decrease the number of schools this year that received this designation and that the system will continue to support these schools to eliminate this designation in the future.

Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the district's preliminary support plan for schools designated as low performing and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of BCS Academic Calendar for 2024-2025

Mr. Elliot expressed appreciation to the calendar committee for their efforts in developing the 2024-2025 school calendar. He noted that there was representation on the committee that included students, staff, and administration from all districts. Mr. Elliot also referenced the calendar resolution passed by the Board last year concerning the late start of school and asked Dr. Reed if there had been discussion in the committee concerning this. Dr. Reed stated that the committee did discuss this and reviewed the State school calendar laws. She noted that the Early/Middle College & BCCI calendar are not bound by the same start and end dates because they are considered to be a Cooperative Innovative High School and work to align their calendar to the community college.

Mr. Elliot made a motion to approve BCS' 2024-2025 Academic Calendar as presented and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of Early College/Middle College/Buncombe Center for Career Innovation Academic Calendar for 2024-2025

Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Early College/Middle College/BCCI Academic calendar as presented and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Central Services Renovations: Accept Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) and Authorize Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) to Proceed

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to accept the GMP as proposed by RYSE Construction, in the amount of \$514,959 for the first phase of the Central Services Renovations Project utilizing Article 40/42 funds previously approved for this project and Authorize the CMAR and Architect to proceed with the construction phase based upon terms of their contracts with adjustments to reflect the proposed schedule and actual GMP costs and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- TC Roberson High School Re-Roofing Project: Approval of Change Order

Ms. Lewis made a motion to authorize execution of a change order to J. Bartholomew Construction in the amount of \$191,441.06, to re-roof Areas 18 & 28 at TC Roberson High School, utilizing available Article 39 funds dedicated for roof repairs and replacements and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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- CA Erwin Middle School ADA & Egress Renovations: Approval of Architect's Contract

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve and execute the Architect/Owner contract with LS3P for the CA Erwin Middle School ADA and Egress Renovations Project and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- WW Estes PEP Additions & Renovations: Approval of Architect's Contract

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve and execute the Architect/Owner contract with LS3P for the WW Estes PEP Additions and Renovations Project and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Transportation Department Additions & Renovations: Approval of Construction Manager at Risk (CMAR) and Architect's Contracts

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve and execute the Architect/Owner contract with Novus Architects and the CMAR Contract with Harper General Contractors for the Transportation Department Additions and Renovations Project and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Naming of School Facilities

Dr. Jackson and Mr. Wyatt, Director of Maintenance, expressed their gratitude for Mr. Fierle's tremendous work that he had accomplished during his career in BCS. They both noted the numerous building and construction projects that Mr. Fierle had been instrumental in bringing to completion in Buncombe County. Dr. Jackson and Mr. Wyatt also highlighted the impact that Mr. Fierle's dedication to the students and staff of BCS has had over his almost twenty-four years of service to BCS. Mr. Fierle's design of the Nesbitt Discovery Academy was a very forward-thinking work that received attention nationally in school architectural design; making this request to name the area in the school in honor of him a very appropriate recognition for his work.

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the request to name the Nesbitt Academy atrium area in honor of Tim Fierle, Director of Facilities to be now known as the Timothy Fierle Student Center and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: November 7, 2023 – Special Called Work Session
- Minutes: November 7, 2023 – Regular Meeting Open Session
- Personnel Report
- Approve Extension of Superintendent's Contract through June 30, 2027
- Woodfin Elementary School: Sewer Easement Request
- Curriculum Department Sole Source Procurement Request: Kendall Hunt Publishing Company
- Oakley Elementary School: Request to Change Banking Institution
- **POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**
 - Policy 1310/4002 Parental Involvement
 - Policy 2400 Board Policies
 - Policy 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials
 - Policy 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program
 - Policy 4335 Criminal Behavior
 - Policy 4720 Surveys of Students
 - Policy 6120 Student Health Services
 - Policy 7300 Staff Responsibilities
 - Policy 7800/1610 Professional and Staff Development
 - Policy 7810 Evaluation of Licensed Employees
 - Policy 7815 Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees

Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Elliot commented on the policy development work of the Board. He noted that the Board has listened to public comment and has strived to work hard for all students and serve all students - working to accomplish this within the bounds of state and federal laws.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- 2023-2024 Budget Resource Document
- Notification of Informal Construction & Repair Projects and Change Orders
- **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**
 - Policy 7650 Employee Travel and Other Expense Reimbursement
 - Policy 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission
 - Policy 7631 Salary Supplements

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ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Board of Education will have a Special Called Work Session on January 11, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. in the Yeager Room.
- The next Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on January 11, 2024. Work session updates and Closed Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, and the Open Session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Minitorium at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Elliot made a motion to adjourn at 8:50 p.m. and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

Rob Jackson, Superintendent &
Ex Officio Secretary

Ann B. Franklin, Madam Chair

Minutes for Approval: January 11, 2024
klm