

MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MEETING MINUTES
May 20, 2024

The Martin County Board of Education met on Monday, May 20, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Board of Education Conference Room inside the new Innovation Campus located at 407 East Boulevard, Williamston, NC. All Board members were present except Ms. Cargil, she joined virtually.

Chairman Heath called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and meditation by Mr. Baker.

Chairman Heath requested a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Purvis made a motion to approve the agenda as presented, Mr. Scott offered a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- April 8, 2024 Minutes
- April 22, 2024 Minutes

Chairman Heath requested approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Scott made a motion to accept the Consent agenda as presented, Ms. Mason offered a second to the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Recognitions:

Sarah Stalls recognized the Elementary and Middle School Battle of the Books Teams for placing 2nd place at Regionals, Martin FCCLA: Ezquire Williams, FFA Martin County Livestock Show winners Reagan Cowan and Peyton Rogers, FFA Creed Speaking winner Tonyneia James and recognized the FFA AG Sales Team.

Amy Bennett and Josh McIntyre recognized the MCS RAMS Robotics team. Mr. McIntyre gave a brief description of how the robotics team was started, what was expected, the competition experience and ended with sharing the MCS team was awarded the rookie award at the competition.

Superintendent Report:

Dr. White shared exciting things happening in Martin County and upcoming events including: Kindergarten Registration, Kindergarten Sneak Peaks, School Choice, Bring Your Legislator to School Day, Special Olympics, Mrs. Hills Homemade Dog Treats Project, Prom, Baccalaureate Service approaching, WITN Best of the Class, MCS Leadership changes, End-Of-Year Testing Schedules, Summer Feeding Program Sites, New Opportunities being offered at MCSIC, Drivers Education Registration information, End-of-Year Celebration Schedules, Celebrations and the Summer Camps being offered this summer.

Under Information Items

Mr. Eric Woolard introduced Lifewise Academy (Released Time Religion Learning). The academy has three guidelines to make the program legal: The program cannot be held on a school campus, the academy must be privately funded and the students must have parental permission to attend the program. If approved, the plan would be to hopefully have the program fully staffed in time to start the program in the fall of 2024. Martin County would be the first county in North Carolina to offer the program if approved. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve the program starting 2024 if the program is fully staffed, a second by Mr. Scott and with a 5-2 vote, the motion passed. Mr. Harrell and Ms. Mason opposed the motion.

Mrs. Andrea Lilly presented the following fieldtrip request and asked for approval:

FCCLA – Greensboro State Training Session 5/17/24-5/19/24

RMS Band- Doswell, VA Kings Dominion Reward Trip 5/25/24

STEM Mavericks Team- Greenville, NC ECU Summer Camp 6/16/24-6/21/24

FFA Club- Raleigh, NC State FFA Convention 6/25/24-6/27/24

FCCLA- Seattle, WA National Officer-National Convention 6/28/24-7/24/24

Upon a motion by Ms. Purvis, to approve the field trips as presented, a second by Mr. Scott, and a unanimous vote, the field trips were approved.

Kim Lilley presented information on the K-5 Math Curriculum Adoption and recommended Bridges (Core) Years 1-5 for \$273,230.05 and Bridges (Intervention) \$42,225.62 for a grand total of \$315,455.67 using ESSER Funds. Mr. Baker made a motion to approve Bridges with the condition of getting the shipping cost down. He expressed the shipping of \$20,000 is too high. Ms. Purvis made a second and with a unanimous vote, the motion passed unanimously.

Gwen Hughson presented the 6-8 Math Curriculum Adoption and recommended Savvas/envision for core/tier 1 and tier 2& 3 intervention teacher materials and kits for a 3-year adoption totaling \$118,505.74. Mr. Scott made a motion to approve Savvas/envision for the 6-8 Math Curriculum Adoption, Mr. Baker offered a second and with a unanimous vote, the motion carried.

Gwen Hughson presented the 6-12 ELA Curriculum 5 year Adoption and recommended HMH-Into Literature for a total of \$337,000.00. Mr. Harrell made a motion to approve the HMH-Into Literature adoption, Mr. Scott offered a second and with a unanimous vote, the motion passed.

Mr. Thomas Barber shared a School Nutrition Financial Update, which included the 2023/24 budget of \$2.9 Million with the fund balance appropriated of approximately \$637,000. He shared the fund balance appropriation is due to the extreme increase in labor costs and food costs since the 2021-22 school year. He shared due to the increase changes will be needed in the 2024-25 school year. The School Nutrition Program will be moving to one entrée option in the fall and a reduction in staffing will be made, vacant positions will not be filled and summer feeding will be cut back.

Mrs. Andrea Lilley introduced Mrs. Tracie Smith to share an update on ALP. Mrs. Smith informed the Board who qualifies for the program, the circumstances, credit recovery, the daily schedule, their goals, attendance, and the success they are starting to see with the program.

Mr. Jim Guard shared the yearly CTE Report which included the CTE Funding Overview, Budget for 013, State Program Months for Employment, Overview of CTE Program Adjustments for 2024-25, Budget for 014, State Program Support Funds, Budget for 017 Federal Program Improvement, Budget needs for Improvement to Programs and Budget Needs for Improvement.

Dr. White addressed the Board regarding closing South Creek High School. She shared the community meetings were held and no one spoke at either meeting. She felt all requirements had been met and she felt it was best for the students to close South Creek High School and merge the students with Riverside students. She also shared she wanted to make it clear the South Creek High School building would remain open for South Creek Middle School and the ALP program. Upon a motion by Abby Mason to close South Creek High School, a second by Gail Cargile, and a unanimous vote, South Creek High School will be closed as of July 1, 2024.

Dr. White informed the Board with the high schools merged; the new one high school would need a new name. She recommended Martin County High School. Upon a motion by Ms. Purvis to call the New High School Martin County High School, a second by Ms. Mason, and with a unanimous vote, the new merged High School will be called Martin County High School.

Chairman Heath requested a motion to enter Closed Session under N.C. General Statutes §115C-321 (*personnel*). Upon a motion by Mr. Baker, a second by Mr. Scott, and a unanimous vote, Closed Session was granted at 9:03 pm.

CLOSED SESSION

Chairman Heath requested a motion to return to Open Session. Upon a motion by Mr. Harrell, a second by Ms. Purvis, and a unanimous vote, Open Session was granted at 9:24 pm.

Under Action Items

Chairman Heath requested a motion to approve personnel as presented in Closed Session. Upon a motion by Ms. Purvis, a second by Mr. Baker, and a unanimous vote, personnel was approved.

Chairman Heath requested approval of the April 8, 2024 and April 22, 2024 Closed minutes. Upon a motion by Ms. Purvis to approve the April 8 and April 22, 2024 minutes and keep the minutes sealed, a second by Mr. Baker and a unanimous vote, the closed minutes were approved and will remain sealed.

Public Comments: There were no public comments.

Announcements:

June Board Meeting Monday, June 3, 2024

Last Day of School: Friday, June 7, 2024

Graduation Ceremonies: Saturday, June 8, 2024

June Board Work Session: Monday, June 27, 2024

Ms. Purvis commended Dr. White for her 1 year of service with Martin County Schools.

There being no further business, Chairman Heath adjourned the meeting at 9:27 pm.

Van Heath, Chairman

Dr. Michelle White, Secretary