

PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF ROBESON COUNTY

Board of Education Meeting – Central Office

Summary of Minutes

December 14, 2021

The Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County convened in a regularly scheduled meeting on December 14, 2021 – 6:00 P.M. – Central Office – Virtual Meeting.

Mike Smith, Chairman
Brenda Fairley-Ferebee, Vice-Chairman
Craig Lowry
Henry Brewer
Dr. Linda Emanuel
William Gentry
Vonta Leach
Randy Lawson
Terry Locklear (Telephone)
John Simmons
Dwayne Smith

Also in attendance were: Superintendent Dr. Freddie Williamson; Dr. Robert Locklear, Melissa Thompson, Jennifer Freeman; Bobby Locklear, Assistant Superintendents; Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer; Dr. Glen Burnette, Chief Communications Officer; and Attorney Grady Hunt.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. **Call to Order:** Chairman Mike Smith
2. **Invocation:** William Gentry
3. **Adoption of the Agenda:** Chairman Mike Smith

Mr. Ranny Lawson made a motion, seconded by Henry Brewer, to approve the revised agenda. The Board approved the revised agenda.

4. **Adoption of the Minutes - Open Session:** Mr. Randy Lawson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Brenda Fairley- Ferebee, to approve the open minutes. The Board unanimously approved the open session minutes of November 9, 2021.

5. Mr. Mike Smith, Chairman presented along with the School Board and Cabinet Members a donation for \$2,000 thousand dollars to help the Mayfield Independent School District in Kentucky, which was impacted by recent tornadoes in the area school district recover from tornado impacts. Mr. Dwayne Smith said he plans to travel to the area and participate in helping with this project. He also stated that he would be willing to deliver funds on behalf of the board along with nonperishable items to be delivered sometime in January.

6. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **2022 NCAE Education Professional of the Year**

Ms. Dee Grissett presented the 2022 NCAE Education Support Professional of the Year to Mrs. Celestine Frazier. Ms. Grissett stated that It is my pleasure to be before you this evening to make this special presentation. First of all, Education Support Professionals (ESPs) are the backbone of our schools. They ensure that our schools are clean and our students are well-fed, transport them to and from school, and give them the individual attention they need in the classroom. Many of them live in the communities of the schools for which they work! They are represented by nine career families: Clerical services, Custodial and maintenance services, Food Services, Health and student services, Para-educators, Security services, Skilled trades, Technical services, and Transportation services.

Each year, NCAE has an ESP of the Year Award. All 115 public school units are encouraged to nominate an outstanding ESP in their respective district. The state winner will attend the NEA ESP national conference which will be held in March 2022 in New Orleans. The winner of the NEA ESP of the Year will win \$10,000. I am proud to announce that the individual representing all ESPs across the entire State of North Carolina, is from right here in Robeson County. Mrs. Celestine Frazier has served as an Instructional Assistant at W.H. Knuckles Elementary School for 18 years.

I will read a quote from one of her recommendations: “While in her capacity as an instructional assistant, she has proven herself to be a leader among her peers and an ally to the students and their families. She has a great rapport with teachers and students. Some of her duties include: monitoring students during whole group instruction, teaching students during small group instruction, assisting her teacher as needed, and other duties as assigned by the principal. Mrs. Frazier is not shy about assisting the school community; she is known to volunteer for assignments that will aid the well-being of the school community. Mrs. Frazier is an example of a true lifelong learner who engages students academically as well as meets their needs for social and emotional learning as well. During her time at W.H. Knuckles Elementary, she has served as a member of the School Improvement Team, PBIS Committee, Parental Involvement Committee, and our NCAE Rep. As to the NCAE rep for Knuckles, she keeps staff abreast of local, state, and national information via our bulletin board postings. She ensures timely distribution of information that is pertinent to their professional well-being. Most recently, she played a major role in the recruitment and

retention of members on the school level by promoting NCAE to new and returning staff members at the beginning of the school year.

In her community, she volunteers in her church where she continues her mission by serving as an instructor for a summer camp program. She is a people person and strives to encourage everyone she encounters with a positive word or kind deed. Three words come to mind when you think of Mrs. Frazier: dedicated, dependable and reliable.”

2. 2021 Holiday Card Series Artists Presentation

Ms. Sandra Carter, Arts Supervisor presented a presentation highlighting the 2021 Holiday Card Series Artists winners as follows:

K-2 Category

- Hailey Mata, East Robeson Primary, Iris Adams, teacher
- Allissa Baker, Townsend. Jacobs/Jacobs/Wilkerson, teachers
- Evelyn Arroyo Saavedra, St. Pauls Elementary, Laughren/Hammonds teachers
- Anna Grace Willis, Rowland Norment, Ally Watts, teacher
- Nicole Cassarubias, East Robeson Primary, Iris Adams, teacher
- Parker Carpenter, Parkton, Chad Locklear, teacher

3-5 Category

- Angeline Alvarez Perez, Peterson, Tapanga Bullard, teacher
- Madilyn Hubbard, Prospect, Lezlie Woods-Jacobs, teacher
- Aliz Miranda Ventura, L. Gilbert Carroll, Malinda McKoy, teacher
- Ashley Santos Rodriguez, St. Pauls Elementary, Laughren/Hammonds, teachers
- Hope Locklear, Pembroke Elementary, Dana Dial, teacher

- Yarey Verdejo-Garcia, St. Pauls Elementary, Laughren/Hammonds, teachers

3. **K-12 Online Holiday Enrichment Activities**

Dr. Robert Locklear, Assistant Superintendent presented a list of K-12 Online Holiday Enrichment Activities and shared it with the board which was included in your packet.

4. **FEMA Update**

Mr. Hugh McIlwain, Assistant Finance Officer, mentioned that there is no update at this time. We are waiting to hear back from FEMA regarding requests for more information.

The appeal was turned in from Emergency Management into the federal agency by N.C. Emergency Management on October 8, 2021, he said. Ms. McIlwain stated that the agency has 90 business days to respond. If FEMA asks for additional information within that time, the agency will have an additional 90 days for the next response. If the school system has not heard back within 180 days.

5. **R. B. Dean Update.**

Mr. Hugh McIlwain gave an update on the R. B. Dean Building's reference to the fire damage that happened earlier in the year. He stated that construction has begun preparing damage.

Mr. Hugh McIlwain told the board that the school district's insurance paid for the cost to demolish portions and clean up areas affected by the fire, which totaled more than \$256,000.

6. **ACTION ITEMS**

A. **Resolution to Support Leandro**

Ms. Brenda Fairley-Ferebee made a motion to approve the Resolution to Support Leandro and second by Mr. William Gentry. Motion carried.

B. **Face Covering Policy-4231/5021/7263. OPT-A**

Dr. Freddie Williamson, Superintendent made a recommendation that we continue

with the Policy - 4231/5021/7263 Opt A face covering required as approved at the November Board Meeting. Ms. Brenda Fairley-Ferebee made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Henry Brewer to approve the continuation of the Face Covering Policy. Mr. Randy Lawson and Mr. Dwayne Smith voted against the motion. Motion carried.

C. **Policy Update - Sections 8000 & 9000**

Mr. William Gentry made a motion to approve the Policy Update for Sections 8000 and 9000 and was seconded by Dr. Linda Emanuel to approve the Policy Update for Sections 8000 and 9000. Motion carried.

D. **Approval of Naming Soccer Field at Lumberton High**

Mr. Jerome Hunt, Athletic Director presented the recommendation for the naming of the soccer facility by community members to recognize the outstanding work of Mr. Kenneth Simmons. Board policy was adhered to during the public forum on November 20, 2021, concerning the naming and received positive feedback. Mr. Kenneth W. Simmons is a lifelong resident of Lumberton, NC, and a 1985 graduate of Lumberton High School. As a student-athlete, he lettered in soccer, wrestling and baseball. He was a member of the school's first soccer team in 1981 and twice named Team MVP, along with being selected All-Conference. He was a regional qualifier in wrestling. He captained both the soccer and wrestling teams in his senior year. Mr. Kenneth Simmons served as a soccer coach for Lumberton High School for 28 years and 27 years for the girls' teams. He also received the Regional Coach of the year award six times.

There was a motion by Jerome Hunt and seconded by Mr. Vonta Leach to approve the Naming of the Soccer Facility to Kenneth Simmons Soccer Facilities. Motion carried.

E. **Rosenwald Gym Floor**

Ms. Brenda Fairley-Ferebee made a motion to approve the Rosenwald Gym Floor and seconded by Mr. Craig Lowry, Motion carried.

F. **Sole Source vendor (Newsela)**

Ms. Erica Setzer, Chief Finance Officer, presented the Sole Source Vendors (Newsela) that you received in your packet for approval. There was a motion to approve by Dr. Linda Emanuel and seconded by Mr. William Gentry to approve the Sole Source Vendors (Newsela) for the 2021-2022 school year. Motion carried.

G. **Monthly Financial Report**

Ms. Erica Setzer presented the financial report you received in your packet for approval. There was a motion by Mr. Dwayne Smith and seconded by Mr. Randy Lawson to approve the Finance Report. Motion carried.

H. **Fundraisers**

Ms. Erica Setzer presented the School Fundraisers that you received in your packet for approval. There was a motion by Mr. Dwayne Smith and seconded by Mr. John Simmons. Motion carried.

A motion was made to approve the closed session minutes

CLOSED SESSION

- Certified/Classified Personnel
- Legal Issues
- Closed Session Minutes

Public Comments

7. Motion that the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County go into closed session for the purposes of discussing certified and classified personnel (N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) 1 (6), student transfers (N.C. Gen. Stat. §115C-402 and N.C. Gen. Stat. §143-318.11 (a) (1)), and to consult with the attorney obtained by the Board in order to preserve the attorney/client privileges between the attorney and the Board of Education for the Public School Schools of Robeson County (N.C. Stat.143-318.11 (a) (1) (3). The Board approved the motion.
8. Motion to come out of closed session. The Board approved the motion.
9. Motion to approve personnel as presented. The Board approved the motion.
10. Motion to approve closed session minutes of November 9, 2021. The Board approved the motion.
11. Motion to approve all personnel as presented. The Board approved the motion.
12. Motion to adjourn. The Board approved the motion.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. Mike Smith, Chairman

Superintendent Freddie Williamson, Secretary