

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
 4:00 p.m. – Call to Order – Beaucatcher Room
 (Dinner / Work Session Updates / Closed Session)
Thursday, May 6, 2021
 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 May 6, 2021 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	Pat Bryant, Member
Peggy Buchanan, Member	Amanda Simpkins, Member
Cindy McMahan, Vice-Chair	Max Queen, Member (virtual attendance)
Amy Churchill, Member	

Staff present: Dr. Tony Baldwin, Superintendent; Susanne Swanger, Associate Superintendent; Joseph Hough, Assistant Superintendent; Barry Pace, Director of Technology; Robert Frisby, Asst. Director of Technology; Jennifer Reed, Director of Elementary & Intermediate Education; Tonya Robinson, Director of Secondary Education; Steve Earwood, Director of Testing; Deborah Frisby, Chief Finance Officer; Tina Thorpe, Asst. CFO; Clark Wyatt, Director of Maintenance; Tim Fierle, Director of Facilities; Stacia Harris, Director of Communications; Ben Rickert, Asst. Communications Director; Tim Reaves, Digital Communications Specialist; Scott Emory, Technology Support Specialist; Chris Campbell, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative Assistant

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Bryant made a motion to enter into closed session at 5:08 p.m. and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

The Madam Chair will entertain 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

At 5:30 p.m. Ms. Churchill made a motion to adjourn the closed session and Mr. Queen seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

WORK SESSION UPDATES

Dr. Baldwin reviewed information with the Board that he and Ms. Frisby assembled on a classified personnel salary study. There was a study performed in 2001 by Educational Services Institute, Inc. at a cost of \$100,000. This survey collected information from employees and compared it to salaries in the area and state and developed job descriptions for all classified positions. The recommended pay increases were never implemented due to the fact that the economy took a very large downturn at the time. Dr. Baldwin said that he and Ms. Frisby have talked to a consultant group, HIL, who specialize in educational areas and have a proposal of \$25,000 to perform the salary study. Dr. Baldwin feels this would be a valuable tool in being able to obtain and hold on to classified personnel.

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the number of COVID cases reported for staff and students and those that had quarantined since returning to Plan “A”, in-person learning.

Mr. Campbell reviewed the Valley Springs Middle School HVAC contract recommendation that was on the agenda for the evening’s meeting. Mr. Wyatt has amended his recommendation to the Board and will address that in the open session for Board approval.

CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Franklin stated that Mr. Queen would be joining the meeting via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the agenda at 6:05 p.m. and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ERWIN HIGH SCHOOL –

Instructed by Chief Tony Gutierrez, CW3 Army (Retired), 1st Sergeant Chad Prevatte, Army (Retired) and Command Sergeant Major Richard Carland, Army (Retired)

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MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT – Mr. Campbell stated that the public comment portion of the meeting would be cancelled this evening. (This was due to the fact that those signed up to speak were unwilling to abide by the procedures and accommodations put in place by the Board for Public Comment.)

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Baldwin began by recognizing key staff members for their leadership in the afternoon's public work session of the 2021-2022 comprehensive budget plan. He thanked Mr. Hough, Tina Thorpe, Clark Wyatt, Tim Fierle, Barry Pace, Carol Fay, Greg Hensley, and the principals serving on the Capital Outlay Budget Team – Meg Turner, Ben Alexander, April Wright, and Jason Miller. The total list of submitted capital project requests represented \$129 million in costs. From that list a \$13,335,513 budget was finalized.
- Dr. Baldwin stated that the Board also received a Facilities Needs Report from Mr. Fierle that predicted our school building and campus needs based on projected enrollment patterns and planned housing development around the county.
- On the operating budget front, Dr. Baldwin offered a huge thank you to Deborah Frisby and staff for putting together the power-point that is to be shared with the County Commissioners next week. Once again, the local budget request concentrates on four non-negotiable increases to be determined within the final state budget. These are state approved salary increases for certified and classified employees, as well as rate increase costs for health insurance and retirement. Dr. Baldwin said that while the state allocates dollars to cover increases for all state paid staff, this request allows equal recognition for the seven hundred and fourteen locally paid employees across our district.
- Dr. Baldwin noted that a unique component to the operating budget this year centered around the seventy million dollars of federal funding to be used for COVID Recovery. These ESSER dollars can be allocated and distributed over a two or three - year timeline. He thanked Mrs. Swanger, Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Robinson along with a large group of stakeholders, including district directors, school administrators, teachers, parents, and students who dedicated their time and efforts in developing a comprehensive plan. There were over five hundred stakeholders that provided some type of input in preparing the federal application to distribute allocations.
- While the ESSER funds are intended to be used to recover from the effects of COVID, especially on the academic and social emotional health of students, Dr. Baldwin said that a significant recovery will begin on June 14th with BCS' Summer School Learning and Enrichment Program. He expressed appreciation to Mrs. Swanger, Mrs. Reed and Mrs. Robinson, along with the district leadership team for creating BCS' plan recently approved plan by the state.
- Dr. Baldwin stated that BCS is entering the home stretch to officially complete the current school year! End-of-grade testing in reading, math and science begins on May 18th for grades 3-8. End-of-course high school exams start May 25th, with in-person testing required by the state for all mandated assessments. Schools will work with families to schedule remote only students.
- Dr. Baldwin reminded all that May 31st, Memorial Day, is an optional teacher work-day and June 1st is the last student day and also an early dismissal day. The majority of graduation ceremonies will take place on Saturday, June 5th. Ceremonies will be in-person following all required COVID protocol.
- Dr. Baldwin ended on a very important note. He thanked Buncombe County Teachers for all that they do to provide such incredible support to our students and school communities! He called attention to the fact that this is National Teacher Appreciation Week and Dr. Baldwin encouraged all of our stakeholders throughout the BCS community to take some time and recognize a teacher. If COVID has clearly demonstrated one thing, it is the critical role that teachers play in providing not only the foundation for student academic learning but a strong supportive role in fostering our students' social and emotional health! Dr. Baldwin noted that this has been such an extremely challenging year for all of us, but especially so for our teachers who have been asked to maintain the highest quality of instruction while insuring continued positive engagement with their students and parents and in the process, face continuous change and transition, that in many cases came on short notice. He again, thanked BCS teachers for their dedication, perseverance, and outstanding professional service throughout this entire year of COVID – a year unlike any other.

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GOOD NEWS

- North Carolina Technology Director of the Year, Barry Pace
Dr. Vanessa Wrenn, DPI Director of Digital Teaching and Learning presented Mr. Pace with his award and spoke about the qualities he possesses that made him a deserving honoree. Dr. Wrenn stated that this is a very competitive award and the Mr. Pace and BCS should be proud of his accomplishments. Mr. Pace will go on to compete at the national level. Mr. Pace thanked his staff for the tremendous support they are for him and the BCS family.
- National School Nurse Day Recognition – David Thompson, Student Services Director and April Baur, Program Manager MAHEC School Health Program recognized BCS' School Nurse Managers and School Nurses for the tremendous job they have done this past year to keep students and staff healthy and safe, going above and beyond their normal duties.
- Service Recognition: Deborah Frisby, Chief Finance Officer
Dr. Baldwin recognized Ms. Frisby's over thirty years of service at the school level. He said that BCS was very fortunate to have her for the last seven years as our CFO. Dr. Baldwin wished Ms. Frisby all the best upon her retirement. Ms. Frisby thanked the Board and the staff of the Finance Department for their support.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

- National Board Certified Teacher Recognition
Laura Mayer, NBCT mentor support coordinator, recognized the latest class of new and renewal National Board Certified Teachers in BCS. She stated that with over six hundred NBCT in our system, BCS ranks eighteenth in the nation for NBCT's! Ms. Mayer shared a video that celebrated the efforts of the teachers listed.

ACTION AGENDA

- 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #7

Ms. Churchill made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #7 as presented and Ms. McMahon seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Approval of Funding Request for Current Expense and Capital Appropriation and Submission of the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget to County Commissioners

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the funding request for current expense and capital appropriation and submit the 2021-2022 preliminary budget to the County Commissioners and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- North Buncombe High School: Use of Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment

Ms. Buchanan made a motion to approve the request to use \$11,046.03 of their capital outlay athletic allotment to purchase a new scoreboard from Nevco, Inc. for the football stadium and Mr. Queen seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Valley Springs Middle School: Authorization to Award Mechanical Upgrade Contract

Mr. Campbell explained the bid award process for this project and how funding would come in at a two-phased interval, therefore the amended recommendation that Mr. Wyatt presented.

Ms. Simpkins Made a motion to award a two-phase contract for construction on the Valley Springs Middle School Mechanical Upgrade in the amount of \$6,534,433.00 to Hickory Construction and authorize execution of the phase I contract funded through Article 39 Funds upon receipt of bonds and insurance for \$2,113,820.00, and authorize execution of phase II of the contract upon receipt of ESSER II Funds in the amount of \$4,420,613.00 and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Authorization to Issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for WD Williams Elementary Architect & Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR)

Mr. Bryant made a motion to authorize issuance of an RFQ for Design Teams for Additions and Renovations to WD Williams Elementary School and to form a Steering Committee to develop a short list of prospective consultant teams, conduct interviews and make a recommendation to the Board of the selection rankings and Mr. Queen seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- Authorization of Lottery Application for Security Initiative

Ms. McMahon made a motion to authorize execution of an application for use of lottery funds in the amount of \$1,000,000 for the Security Initiative Project and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously by a roll call vote.

- 2021 Academic Summer School Plans

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve the 2021 Academic Summer School Plans as presented and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved by a roll call vote.

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- **AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENTAL JOINT USE AND LEASE AGREEMENT**

Mr. Bryant asked the Board attorney to summarize the amendment to the original agreement for the Board. Mr. Campbell stated that the original agreement with AB Tech for use of the Birch Building allowed BCS to make needed improvements. This amendment will give BCS permission to spend additional monies to make security upgrades in the portion of the building that we lease. AB Tech has agreed to enter into this amendment and is appreciative of the upgrades. There are no changes to the original agreement or cost.

Mr. Queen made a motion to approve the amendment to the Interlocal Governmental Joint Use and Lease Agreement for the Birch Building on the campus of AB Technical Community College and Ms. McMahon seconded the motion – the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: April 1, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- Personnel Report and Addendum
- Contract Extension for One-to-One Student Device Refresh System-Wide
- Approval of Board Member Training Credits
- Community High School: Alternative Accountability Model Participation
- **POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**
 - Policy 7335 – Employee Social Media
 - Policy 7560 – Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Exempt Employees
 - Policy 7620 – Payroll Deductions
 - Policy 8510 – School Finance Officer

Ms. McMahon made a motion to approve the consent agenda and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Finance Reports
- 2021-2022 Budget Process Resource Materials (Supplemental Information)
- **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**
 - Policy 4400 - Attendance

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The next Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on June 3, 2021 with Work Session Updates and Closed Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Beaucatcher Room and the Open Session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Minitorium at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Churchill made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:10 p.m. and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was unanimously approved by a roll call vote.

Tony Baldwin, Superintendent &
Ex Officio Secretary

Ann B. Franklin, Madam Chair

Minutes for Approval: June 3, 2021
klm