

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

4:00 p.m. – Call to Order – Beaucatcher Room
(Dinner / Work Session Updates / Closed Session)

Thursday, April 1, 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 April 1, 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
Peggy Buchanan, Member
Cindy McMahon, Vice-Chair
Amy Churchill, Member

Pat Bryant, Member
Amanda Simpkins, Member
Max Queen, 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; Stacia Harris, Director of Communications; Ben Rickert, Asst. Communications Director; Tim Reaves, Digital Communications Specialist; Scott Emory and Josh Ponder, Technology Support Specialist; John Henning, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative Assistant

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Queen made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:35 p.m. and Ms. Buchanan 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 5:25 p.m. Ms. Simpkins made a motion to adjourn the closed session and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

WORK SESSION UPDATES

Mr. Hough shared information with the Board members on school safety professional development that BCS staff are being required to complete. This information will be sent to the Board so that they may do the same and earn credits toward their school board training requirements. Ms. Swanger stated that teacher applications for the summer academy are coming in well, but that we are still lacking in bus driver and PEP assistant applications. She also said that graduation schedules are being set. There are three schools that will use the civic center, Nesbitt Academy will host theirs at the Crest Center and the others will hold graduations at the school.

Dr. Baldwin discussed the new CDC guidelines that say that temperature screenings are no longer recommended for students entering the schools. BCS will continue to do the screenings at this time. This will be reviewed about two weeks after the spring break to see if there are any changes in the occurrence of cases. Schools seem to be screening students quickly upon arrival at school. Dr. Baldwin said that there have been only eleven classrooms within the whole system that have had to be quarantined due to a positive COVID case. Administrators are being asked to stress the importance of seating charts with teachers in order to reduce the numbers of whole class quarantines.

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ms. Churchill made a motion to remove from the agenda the action item “AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENTAL JOINT USE AND LEASE AGREEMENT” and then approve the agenda and Mr. Queen seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

VIRTUAL PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / NORTH BUNCOMBE HIGH SCHOOL – Instructed by Command Master Chief Edward Moreno, U.S. Navy (retired) and Captain James Sullivan, U.S. Navy (retired)

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MOMENT OF SILENCE

PUBLIC COMMENT

Students from the Nesbitt Academy, Ren Vallely, Bailey Smith and Arria Williams, voiced their opposition to removing asynchronous Wednesdays from the school week.

Stephanie Parsons, a resident of the Candler area, spoke against the mandate of wearing masks in schools.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Baldwin recognized the dedicated vigilance that has been seen all across the county for respecting the COVID protocols in place within our school buildings and classrooms. BCS' middle and high schools began operating on Monday of this week under Plan "A", in-person instruction. For BCS' K-3 schools, students, and staff members this was actually the fourth week of Plan "A". Dr. Baldwin wished BCS' classroom teachers, support staff and school leadership, an extremely well-deserved spring break ahead!
- Dr. Baldwin noted that later in the agenda, the seven District Teachers of the Year will be announced. The annual process begins by showcasing our top classroom teachers as recognized by their peers in each school. From this list, one distinguished teacher is selected by a system-wide panel of educators for each of the six districts, in addition to, a seventh district made up of our non-traditional schools of choice. From these seven representatives, one BCS teacher will be announced at a later date as our District-Wide Teacher of the Year. While the Teacher of the Year process has proven to be such a significant event in each year past; this recognition during a full year of facing the COVID pandemic took on a special meaning and importance.
- Dr. Baldwin encouraged all within the BCS Community to remain diligent in observing the full scope of preventative measures relative to COVID transmissions during the upcoming spring break. In visiting schools this week, a common comment he heard from teachers and staff referenced how glad they were to have their students back in the classroom. In order to continue in Plan "A" and complete the final two months of the school year without interruptions, it will require a unified commitment from everyone to help prevent the potential for any spike resulting from relaxed habits in social settings. The 3 W's remain important – Wear your Mask; Wash your Hands and Wait to observe Distance.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

- Teacher of the Year Announcement - Presented by Jason Rhodes, 2021 BCS TOY and DeLana Parker, 2020 BCS TOY

Ms. Swanger introduced the two previous Teacher of the Year recipients and recognized the efforts of the selection committee for their work to bring us the seven district Teachers of the Year honorees. Both Mr. Rhodes and Ms. Parker stated how impressed they were with the candidates and the dedication they had seen during the selection process. The following were announced as district Teacher of the Year recipients:

Roberson District – Richard Rookey, Valley Springs Middle School

Reynolds District – Maggie Harvin, Fairview Elementary School

Owen District – William Honey, Williams Elementary School

North Buncombe District – Jennifer Shelley, Weaverville Primary School

Erwin District – Jordan Braschler, Erwin Middle School

Enka District – Katelyn Braschler, Pisgah Elementary School

At-Large District – Arami Bolick Moore, Community High School

ACTION AGENDA

- 2020-2021 Budget Amendment #6

Ms. Churchill made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #6 as presented and Ms. McMahon seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Recommendation for Audit Firm for Years Ending June 30, 2021, 2022 and 2023

Mr. Queen made a motion to award the audit contract to Anderson, Smith & Wike PLLC for the years ending June 30, 2021, 2022, and 2023 and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- 2021-2022 School Calendar

Ms. Swanger answered questions from the Board concerning the loss of a weather waiver which therefore dictated the school start date as specified by the State.

Ms. Churchill made a motion to approve the 2021-2022 School Calendar as presented and Ms.

McMahon seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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- Estes Elementary 3-Classroom Addition Project: Approval of Construction Manager At Risk Contract (CMAR) & Acceptance of the GMP

Mr. Henning informed the Board on the specifics of this project.

Ms. Buchanan made a motion to accept the GMP as proposed by the CMAR, Vannoy Construction, in the amount of \$1,690,720 for the 3-Classroom Addition at Estes Elementary School utilizing Article 39 funds previously approved for this project and approve the CMAR contract and authorized the CMAR and Architect to proceed with the construction phase according to terms of their contracts and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Entrance and Lobby Reconfigurations Project: Approval of Construction Manager At Risk (CMAR) & Architect's Contract

Mr. Fierle and Mr. Henning answered questions from the Board on this project. This first project will be a template to use for other school entrance and lobby reconfigurations

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve and execute the Architect/Owner contract with Novus Architects and the CMAR Contract with Harper Corporation for the Entrance and Lobby Reconfigurations Project and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Entrance and Lobby Reconfigurations Project: Accept GMP and Authorize CMAR and Architect to Proceed with Prototype Project

Ms. McMahon made a motion to accept the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) for the Lobby Reconfiguration Project at Oakley Elementary School in the amount of \$394,106 and authorize the CMAR and Architect to proceed with construction services over summer 2021 based upon the terms of their contracts and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- AMENDMENT TO THE INTERLOCAL GOVERNMENTAL JOINT USE AND LEASE AGREEMENT (removed from agenda)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: February 25, 2021 – Special Called Work Session
- Minutes: February 25, 2021 – Special Called Meeting
- Minutes: March 4, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- Minutes: March 17, 2021 – Special Called Meeting
- Personnel Report as amended
- **POLICY TO BE RESCINDED**
Policy 445 – Selling Items in School

Mr. Queen made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Finance Reports
- **POLICIES FOR FIRST 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

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Board of Education will meet in a Special Called Work Session on May 6, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. in the Minitorium.
- The next Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on May 6, 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

Mr. Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m. and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

Tony Baldwin, Superintendent &
Ex Officio Secretary

Ann B. Franklin, Madam Chair

Minutes for Approval: May 6, 2021
klm