

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
3:00 p.m. – Call to Order – Beaucatcher Room  
(Work Session Updates / Closed Session)

**Thursday, June 2, 2022**

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 June 2, 2022 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, Member  
Judy Lewis, Member

Pat Bryant, Member  
Amanda Simpkins, Member  
Amy Churchill, Vice-Chair

Staff present: Dr. Tony Baldwin, Superintendent; Susanne Swager, Associate Superintendent; Joseph Hough, Assistant Superintendent; Tonya Robinson, Director of Secondary Education; Jennifer Reed, Director of Elementary & Intermediate Education; David Thompson, Director of Student Services; Ginny Barrett, Director of Title I; Robert Frisby, Interim Director of Technology; Stacia Harris, Director of Communications; Clark Wyatt, Director of Maintenance; Tim Fierle, Director of Facilities; Sonya Leonard, Career Instructional Coordinator; Tim Reaves, Assistant Director of Communications; Hann Henson, Digital Communication Specialist; Jennifer Hand, Scott Emory and Joshua Ponder, Technology Support Specialists; Tina Thorpe, Chief Finance Officer; Lisa Sharpe, Purchasing & Risk Control Officer; Dean Shatley, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative Assistant

**MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION**

Ms. McMahon made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:20 p.m. and Ms. Simpkins 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 5:34 p.m. Ms. McMahon made a motion to adjourn the closed session and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

**WORK SESSION UPDATES**

Ms. Thorpe gave the Board an update on the budget process. She reviewed BCS' proposed funding request and the County's alternative recommendation. Ms. Thorpe discussed the items that are in the budget request and how funding would address BCS' needs. Ms. Franklin and Mr. Bryant shared information about the Commissioner's meeting where the budget requests were presented. They said that our finance team did an excellent job in preparing and delivering the requests. Ms. Thorpe answered questions from Board members on the budget. The Board discussed at length BCS' budget needs and the County's upcoming budget approval process.

Mr. Hough updated the Board regarding school safety. He has reiterated to principals this week the importance of checking and securing school doors. Mr. Hough also shared the SRO needs in our system. There are grants in place to hire more SROs, but the issue is staffing from the Sheriff's office. There are not enough available officers. The Board asked if they could receive information on the training that our SROs receive. Mr. Hough will set this up for a future meeting. Robert Frisby reviewed the FUSUS Crisis Alert System. He explained how the alert app works and the immediate notification that goes to the Sheriff's office. A test was performed with the Nesbitt Academy this week. He and Mr. Hough will be setting up a schedule to install and implement at each of the schools.

**CALL TO ORDER**

**PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / OWEN HIGH SCHOOL** Instructed by Lieutenant Colonel Brook King, United States Army (retired) and Sergeant First Class Jeffrey L. Garland, United States Army (retired)

## MOMENT OF SILENCE

### APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Baldwin stated that the dedicated moment of silence in respect to the Robb Elementary School shooting tragedy reminds all of us of the highest priority we must constantly provide to school safety. Earlier this afternoon the Board discussed the many components that are necessary to develop a comprehensive plan for safe schools. Prevention and mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery are four primary phases of emergency and crisis management. We were able to talk about the valuable prevention tool in the “See Something Say Something” app; the enhanced mitigation that comes with completing the facility renovations recommended through our system-wide safety study; and the timeline for mandatory preparedness drills including evacuation and reunification. An activated FUSUS system composed of networked school cameras was cited to notably strengthen efficiency in a crisis response. And last but certainly not least, the importance of mental, social and emotional health supports to address all four phases of crisis management.
- Dr. Baldwin reminded everyone that the 2021-2022 school year is quickly coming to an end. Next Tuesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> is the last day for students and is also an early dismissal. Wednesday is a designated workday for teachers while Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> will represent optional workdays. Likewise, graduation ceremonies have been scheduled to take place just around the corner. The Progressive Education Program will hold their ceremony tomorrow evening starting at 6:00 p.m. in the Richard Greene Theater on the Roberson High School campus. Our second graduation will be for Community High School seniors at the Asheville Christian Academy on Wednesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6 p.m. BCS’ Early and Middle College will conduct their ceremonies on Friday the 10<sup>th</sup> at the AB Tech Event Center also beginning at 6 p.m. On Saturday morning, June 11<sup>th</sup> starting at 9:00 a.m., three of our high schools – Enka, Erwin and Owen will be graduating seniors outside within their schools’ athletic stadiums. At 11:00 a.m. two additional schools will recognize graduates. The Nesbitt Discovery Academy on the UNCA campus and Reynolds High School at the Harrah’s Center in downtown Asheville. North Buncombe High School will follow Reynolds at Harrah’s beginning at 2:00 p.m. and the final ceremony is set for 5:00 p.m. at Harrah’s and will recognize graduates from Roberson High School.
- Dr. Baldwin stated that as one year ends, another begins. There are multiple summer school programs and activities that will start on Wednesday, June 22<sup>nd</sup> and extend through August 10<sup>th</sup>. More details will be forthcoming later on in the agenda under the Curriculum Feature.
- Dr. Baldwin said that on several occasions he has referenced how challenging the current year’s return to fulltime in-person instruction has been. He expressed his appreciation for the dedicated efforts throughout the entire year that our teachers, administrators and support staff, certified and classified, have made to provide a safe and high-quality learning environment for our students. With that said, a number of leadership transitions will be announced tomorrow morning that reflect the retirements and career changes of several long serving principals who have been outstanding leaders for our district. At the high school level those include Mrs. Doris Sellers at Reynolds High and Mrs. Meg Turner at Owen High. At the middle school level, Mr. Steve Molinari will be retiring from Erwin Middle. Principals Brian Chandler at West Buncombe Elementary, Debbie Devane at North Buncombe Elementary, Paula Pinkerton at Estes Elementary and Tina Specht from Glen Arden Elementary will also be leaving their current posts. At the district level, Dr. Baldwin recognized and thanked Mr. David Thompson for his thirty-six years of leadership in Student Services and Mr. David Rhoney in his role as Director of Transportation. While each person will be greatly missed by our BCS family, Dr. Baldwin said that everyone is excited for them as they select new adventures and experiences ahead!
- In closing, Dr. Baldwin thanked the County Commissioners and County management team for hearing and considering the recommendations of BCS’ recently completed salary study for classified employees. The inherent commitment to support these recommendations using a phased-in approach that was presented by the County Manager was highly appreciated. As mentioned earlier, our assistants, bus drivers, custodians, child nutrition workers, office management staff as well as maintenance and transportation department employees provide invaluable support throughout our school district. The commissioners final vote on June 21<sup>st</sup> to accept the County Manager’s proposal would provide a significant boost to the recruitment and retainment of these extremely valuable school employees.

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### **GOOD NEWS**

- Buncombe County Schools Foundation – Christy Cheek, Director  
Ms. Cheek thanked everyone for the support that the BCS Foundation has received since being founded in 1984. She described the Foundation's many programs that have supported students over the years: Ingles Heroes Campaign, BCS Bookmobile, Student Resource Center Assistance, New Teacher Support, the Teacher of the Year Program support, the Principal of the Year support, Innovative Educator Grants, and BCS student scholarships. She noted that one hundred and nine student scholarships were awarded this year. Ms. Cheek also announced the new SMART Scholars program which will support students working in six different skilled trade areas, helping our local workforce grow.
- Estes Elementary School: "Leader in Me" - Lighthouse Certification  
Dr. Paula Pinkerton, principal at Estes Elementary, described the "Leader in Me" Lighthouse Certification that the school was awarded. She noted that Estes Elementary was the first school in the BCS system to become a "Leader in Me" school and now the first to receive this distinction. She expressed her pride and appreciation to the students, staff and stakeholders at Estes Elementary.

### **CURRICULUM FEATURE**

- 2022 Summer Programs

Ms. Robinson, Ms. Reed, Ms. Barrett, and Ms. Leonard presented information on BCS' Summer Programs. Information on the Read to Achieve Summer Camp for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders, the Summer Academy for K-1 and 4<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup> grades, EL Summer Bridge Program for rising 5<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> English language learners, the 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Summer Academy and the CTE Summer Academy for 6<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders, was shared with the Board.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

The following addressed concerns over school safety:

Sara Disher Ratliff, a Reynolds district parent; Greg Parks, an Erwin district parent; and Don Yelton, a Buncombe County resident.

Amber Merideth, an Owen district parent, expressed concerns about food served at schools, support for teachers, staff funding, and student discipline.

Johnathon Sams, from Weaverville, expressed his concern about God being taken out of schools.

Eric Sams, from Weaverville, spoke against a policy revision that the Board approved in May.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

- Budget Amendment #7

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #7 as presented and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Asheville City Schools' (ACS) Bus Driver Payroll Processing Transferred to ACS' Finance Department

Ms. Thorpe explained the transfer of payroll processing procedures to Asheville City Schools finance department from BCS' payroll department. Support for mechanical operations will still be served by our Transportation Department.

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve transferring the ACS Bus Driver Payroll for processing by the ACS Finance Dept. and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of Summer School Contracts

Ms. Thorpe answered board members questions concerning the per hour bonus for summer school contracts.

Ms. McMahon made a motion to approve the temporary summer employment contracts as presented and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Owen High School: Use of Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment

Ms. Buchanan made a motion to approve Owen High School's Athletic Capital Outlay request to upgrade the school's weight room equipment purchase from Dynabody Fitness Equipment and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Haw Creek Elementary School Additions & Renovations Project: Approval of Change Order

Mr. Fierle answered questions from board members concerning the items listed on the change order, finalizing of the project and budget of the project.

Ms. McMahon made a motion to authorize a change order to Hickory Construction Company in the amount of \$405,207 and a completion date of August 26, 2022 and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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- Approval of the 2022-2025 Academically/Intellectually Gifted Plan  
Stephanie Knox, AIG Specialist, shared information on BCS’ AIG Plan. She noted the following concerning the AIG plan; state requirements for plan approvals, the AIG plan development process, state standards, input from stakeholders, funding, staffing, and number of students served. Ms. Knox highlighted new changes for 2022-2025 plan as well. She answered board member questions concerning the plan and how dual language students are served.  
Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the 2022-2025 BCS AIG Plan as presented, and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.
- Consideration of BCS’ Return to Learn Plans – Local Face Covering Policies Per Senate Bill 654  
Dr. Baldwin reviewed the current Covid metric information concerning absences and community levels for the Board.  
Mr. Bryant made a motion to maintain the mask-optional face covering guidelines as approved by the BOE on May 5, 2022 and Ms. McMahan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: May 5, 2022 – Special Called Meeting Open Session
  - Minutes: May 5, 2022 – Regular Meeting Open Session
  - Personnel Report
  - Approval of the 2021-2022 Facilities Report
  - Renewal Driver Education Contract with Mountain Professionals, Inc. for 2022-2023 School Year
  - Renewal Security Guard Services Contract for 2022-2023
  - Sole Source Procurement Request: Imagine Learning
  - Sole Source Procurement Request: Notable, Inc. (Kami)
  - Sole Source Procurement Request: Seesaw Learning, Inc.
  - Sole Source Procurement Request: Apple, Inc.
  - Student Parking Fees
  - North Buncombe High School Request to Change Banking Institution
  - Weaverville Elementary School Request to Change Banking Institution
  - Approval of Board Member Training Credits
  - 2022-2023 CTE Local Plan Approval
  - Buncombe County Schools District Mental Health Plan
- Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda and Ms. McMahan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Finance Reports

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The Board of Education will meet in a Special Called Meeting on June 30, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. in the Minitorium.
- ADJOURNMENT**  
Ms. Simpkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and Mr. Bryant seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.