

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
 4:00 p.m. – Call to Order – Executive Conference Room
 (Work Session Updates / Closed Session)
Thursday, February 2, 2023
 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 February 2, 2023 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
 Rob Elliot, Member
 Judy Lewis, Member

Kim Plemmons, Member
 Amanda Simpkins, Member
 Amy Churchill, Vice-Chair

Staff present: Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent; Jennifer Reed, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; Joseph Hough, Assistant Superintendent Auxiliary Services; Dr. Paula Pinkerton, Director of Elementary & Intermediate Education; Dr. Shane Cassida, Director of Student Services; Robert Frisby, Director of Technology; Clark Wyatt, Director of Maintenance; Tim Fierle, Director of Facilities; Steve Earwood, Director of Testing; Jeremy Stowe, Director of Transportation; Shanon Martin, Assistant Director of Student Services; Jennifer Hand, Scott Emory and Joshua Ponder, Technology Support Specialists; Tim Reaves, Assistant Director of Communications; Hann Henson and Breanna Hensley, Digital Communications Specialists; Lisa Sharpe, Accounting/Purchasing Manager; Carol Edge, Operational Budget Manager; Dean Shatley, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

Mr. Elliot made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:30 p.m. and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

The Madam Chair entertained 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

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to adjourn closed session at 5:10 p.m. and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

CALL TO ORDER

PRESENTATION OF COLORS / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / ENKA HIGH SCHOOL Instructed by Major Kevin Den Boer U.S. Air Force (retired) and Master Sergeant Douglas Draper, U.S. Air Force (Retired)

MOMENT OF SILENCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Jackson recognized the two hundred and thirteen graduates from eleven high schools that crossed the stage this past weekend, having earned their high school diplomas! He noted that this was the largest cohort of mid-year graduates in the school system's history.
- Earlier in the week, Dr. Jackson stated that fourteen high school students representing each of BCS' districts joined together with Mr. Hough and Ms. Reed as the Student Advisory Council was relaunched. The group shared their individual and collective thoughts on our school system and how we might continue to improve our service to students.
- Dr. Jackson congratulated the ten Buncombe County Schools teacher who just earned their initial National Board Certified Teacher (NBCT) status and the fifty-one teachers across the system who successfully renewed their NBCT status. He stated that BCS continues to rank eighteenth in the country in the number of NBCTs employed in the school system.

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- Dr. Jackson shared that the Buncombe County Schools Foundation has announced the beginning of Scholarship Season! The Foundation provides over \$300,000 in scholarships each year. Information on all scholarships can be found on the Buncombe County Schools Foundation Website.
- The Elementary and Intermediate Schools All-County Chorus will perform on February 28 at 6 p.m. at Brookstone Church in Weaverville. Dr. Jackson invited the Board and Community to attend.
- Dr. Jackson said that the Superintendent's Listening and Learning Adventure is continuing. He has now visited all forty-five of our schools and has spent a full school day in eighteen schools. "Town hall-style" meetings have been held in four of the six districts and the next meeting will be held in the North Buncombe district this coming week. Dr. Jackson said he has enjoyed the opportunity to meet parents and community members.

GOOD NEWS

- Elementary/Intermediate Counselor of the Year: Leah Davidson, West Buncombe Elementary School
- Middle School Counselor of the Year: Buffy Weathington, Owen Middle School
- High School Counselor of the Year: Libby Wicker, Erwin High School
- Social Worker of the Year: Lauren Ward, Reynolds High School

CURRICULUM FEATURE

- "Blending Educational Strategies Together" (B.E.S.T.) – Robert Frisby, Director of Technology and Janet Frazier, Media/Digital Learning Specialist

Ms. Frazier described what "Blended Learning" is and how training has occurred for all staff on multiple digital classroom platforms. Mr. Frisby shared the Technology Services team's "Why". He said their driving goal is to provide the best in services through staff field techs, asset management, low voltage and electrically run equipment, PowerSchool to undergird the schools, blended learning coaches, and a network team that manages cyber security are just some of the daily services that Technology provides to the BCS system. Mr. Frisby recognized the team for the hard work over the last three years and thanked them for always doing their best.

PUBLIC COMMENT

-Kelly Smith, a parent and speech language pathologist in the North Buncombe district, spoke in support of pre-K programs hosted in our school and voiced concerns over possible changes to the program.
-Dr. Nyssa Rayne, a parent from the North Buncombe district expressed concerns surrounding Covid and air quality issues in the schools.
- Logan Davis, a student at Roberson High School and member of FCCLA, shared about the FCCLA opportunities that the organization has afforded her and expressed gratitude for being able to participate in FCCLA. She thanked the staff of the CTE department and BCS for the support.
-Carson Hollifield, a student at North Buncombe High School and the FCCLA State President, spoke of the importance of FCCLA in the schools and how it has impacted her life.
- Jemma Richards, a student at North Buncombe High School and member of FCCLA, shared about her involvement in FCCLA and the leadership skills and creativity she gained by participating in FCCLA at the local and state conference levels.
-Shanna Peele, a teacher at Woodfin Elementary and the BCAE President for BCS, thanked Dr. Jackson for his time spent in the schools and asked the Board to support higher pay for teachers and a living wage for all staff by requesting more funding from the local county commissioners.

ACTION AGENDA

- Budget Amendment #3

Carol Edge, Operational Budget Manager, answered questions from the Board concerning the ABC funds transfer process and allocations to the different line item budgets.

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #3 as presented and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Entrance and Lobby Reconfigurations – Accept GMP and Authorize CMAR to Proceed

Mr. Elliot made a motion to accept the GMP and Authorize the CMAR to proceed on the entrance and lobby reconfigurations and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Approval of Wide Area Network (WAN) Contract

Mr. Elliot made a motion to award the Wide Area Network (WAN) contract to Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the request from NBHS to use Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment for the purchase of a lawnmower, fencing for a softball batting cage, and to reupholster the weight room benches for the total amount of \$22,949.43 and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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- Cane Creek Middle School: Use of Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment

Mr. Elliot made a motion to approve the request from Cane Creek Middle School to use Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment for the purchase of new soccer goals and soccer goal wheels and gym wall and basketball backboard padding for the total amount of \$9,958.17 and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- T.C. Roberson High School: Use of Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment

Ms. Churchill made a motion to approve the request from Roberson High School to use Capital Outlay Athletic Allotment for the purchase of two soccer goals in the amount of \$8,934.49 and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: January 12, 2023 – Regular Meeting Open Session
- Personnel Report with Addendum

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the items on the Consent Agenda and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Finance Reports
- Notification of Informal Construction & Repair Projects and Change Orders
- **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**
 - Policy 2410 Policy Development (removed from the agenda)
 - Policy 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
 - Policy 7241 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The next Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on March 2, 2023. Work session updates and Closed Session beginning at 4:00 p.m. in the Executive Conference Room, and the Open Session beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Minitorium at 175 Bingham Road, Asheville, NC 28806.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

Rob Jackson, Superintendent &
Ex Officio Secretary

Ann B. Franklin, Madam Chair

Minutes for Approval: March 2, 2023
klm