

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

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

Thursday, March 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 March 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; Dr. Jennifer Reed, Assistant Superintendent Curriculum & Instruction; Joseph Hough, Assistant Superintendent Auxiliary Services; 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; Tonya Robinson, Director of Secondary Education; Jeremy Stowe, Director of Transportation; Shanon Martin, Assistant Director of Student Services; Jennifer Hand, Scott Emory and Joshua Ponder, Technology Support Specialists; Dr. Stacia Harris, Director of Communications; Tim Reaves, Assistant Director of Communications; Hann Henson and Breanna Hensley, Digital Communications Specialists; Lisa Sharpe, Accounting/Purchasing Manager; Dean Shatley, Attorney and Kim Matthews, Executive Administrative Assistant

MOTION TO CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Churchill 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 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 5:15 p.m. and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

WORK SESSION UPDATES

Board members discussed the budget, programming, staffing and funding for the Pre K Childcare program that operates in several of the high schools. Decisions on the operations of the program will need to be made in the near future.

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

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the agenda and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S COMMENTS

- Dr. Jackson congratulated the teachers that were to be recognized this evening for renewing or becoming newly certified National Board Certified Teachers. He acknowledged the hard work and dedication that would benefit the students in Buncombe County Schools.
- Dr. Jackson took the opportunity to thank the Town Councils of Black Mountain, Montreat, Weaverville and Woodfin, along with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners for their support of our school system through passing a resolution in favor of school calendar flexibility. He noted that these five elected boards have taken action in support of our students and families.

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- The Superintendent's Listening and Learning Adventure continues with a visit to all forty-five schools and an entire day school visit to twenty-six schools to date, said Dr. Jackson. This month completed the seven community town-hall style meetings in each of BCS' six districts and an additional virtual Town Hall. Dr. Jackson stated that he enjoyed meeting parents and community members and thanked all who attended the meetings. Dr. Jackson also thanked the board members for their participation, the Communications and Technology Departments for their assistance at each of the meetings, district team members including our sign language and Spanish interpreters who provided translation, and to Mr. Jeremy Stowe and Mr. Stephen Earwood who have helped to compile the information gathered through the community meeting surveys.
- Dr. Jackson gave a shout-out to our music educators across the school system. He had the opportunity to attend the amazing performance by our Elementary, Intermediate, and Middle School All-County Chorus this week. He noted how their voices, joined in harmony and vividly demonstrated how our Buncombe County Schools system is the tapestry that weaves together all of the communities across our great county.
- In closing, Dr. Jackson expressed his pride at the rigor he has encountered in the classrooms during his visits and the feelings of warmth and care that permeate our buildings. The quality of our teachers and staff members give him confidence that we will accomplish our collective goals. Dr. Jackson also said that he was proud to say that the school system he encountered forty-eight years ago as a student, thirty-one years ago as a new employee, and twenty-two years ago as a parent – continues to build upon our great tradition of excellence.

GOOD NEWS

- National Board Certified Teachers
Dr. Reed thanked those teachers who were renewing and receiving their National Board Certification for their dedication and hard work.
Angela Woehl from North Buncombe Elementary School spoke about the process to become a National Board Certified Teacher and how their efforts will impact students in the classroom. She congratulated them all and presented a certificate to each.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

- STEM Education in Elementary and Intermediate Schools – Carla Billups, Elementary STEM Coach
Dr. Reed introduced Ms. Billups and thanked her for helping to successfully promote STEM learning in the schools.
Ms. Billups described the implementation and the evolution of STEM education in BCS. She also described the types of lessons and benefits to STEM lessons in the elementary STEM labs. Ms. Billups also spoke about future plans for BCS' STEM programs.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Kendra Parks, a Valley Springs Middle School teacher and parent of children in the schools, spoke in favor of allowing dodge ball to be played in schools.
- Nyssa Rayne, a parent from the North Buncombe district, shared concerns surrounding Covid virus precautions.
- Lyssa Pedersen, a teacher from the Erwin district, advocated for higher pay for certified teachers. She encouraged the public to ask the state legislature to increase teacher pay.

ACTION AGENDA

- Budget Amendment #4

Mr. Elliot made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #4 as presented and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Elementary Class Size Waiver Request

Mr. Elliot asked for clarification on the need for a waiver request for only one student. Ms. Thorpe stated that due to state statute, school systems are required to ask for a waiver, even for one student over the class size limit.

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve the class size waiver request for Haw Creek Elementary & the BCS Virtual Academy and Mr. Elliot seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Addendum to Memorandum of Understanding with United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County Schools to Support Community Schools

Dr. Cassida answered questions from the Board about the partnership with United way, how this program will operate and the possibility of the program extending into the future.

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve the addendum to the MOU with the United Way of Asheville to provide middle school mental health support at North Buncombe Middle School and Reynolds Middle School and Mr. Elliot seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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- Memorandum of Understanding with NC Outward Bound Regarding Services for Owen High School

Ms. Churchill made a motion to approve the MOU with NC Outward Bound for services offered to Owen High School students and Ms. Simpkins 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 NBHS' request to use capital outlay athletic allotment funds for the purchase of a new public address sound system for the softball field in the amount of \$3,428.28 and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- CTE Sole Source Procurement Request: Camp Grier

Mr. Elliot made a motion to approve Camp Grier as a sole source for the CTE department for summer career accelerator camp services and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Sole Source Procurement – Edulog

Mr. Stowe answered questions from the Board concerning the services that this program will provide for our students and parents.

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to approve Edulog as a sole source provider for contracted services to the Transportation Department and Ms. Churchill seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Avery's Creek Elementary School Re-Roof Phase 3: Authorization to Award Contract

Ms. Churchill made a motion to award a contract for construction of the Phase 3 Re-Roof at Avery's Creek Elementary School to Cityscape Roofing in the amount of \$77,890, which includes the Base Bid and Alternate 1 and authorize execution of the contract upon receipt of bonds and insurance and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- A.C. Reynolds High School Track Replacement Project: Authorization to Award Contract

Mr. Elliot made a motion to award a contract for construction of the Track Replacement Project at AC Reynolds High School to Baseline Sports, LLC in the amount of \$1,800,000 for the Base Bid and deduct Alternate #2 and authorize execution of the contract upon receipt of bonds and insurance and Ms. Lewis seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- North Buncombe Middle School Security Addition Project: Authorization to Award Contract

Ms. Franklin made a motion to award a contract for construction of a security addition at North Buncombe Middle School to Providence Construction Group, Inc. in the amount of \$820,750, which includes the Base Bid and authorize execution of the contract upon receipt of bonds and insurance and Ms. Plemmons seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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

Ms. Lewis made a motion to accept the GMP as proposed by Harper General Contractors, in the amount of \$597,511 for Pisgah Elementary School Lobby Reconfigurations utilizing Article 39 funds previously approved for this project and authorize the CMAR and Architect to proceed with the construction phase based upon terms of their contracts with adjustments to reflect the proposed schedule and actual GMP costs and Ms. Simpkins seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Black Mountain Primary School: Proposed Permanent Sidewalk Easement with the Town of Black Mountain

Ms. Plemmons made a motion to authorize execution of easement for sidewalk construction on the public street adjacent to the Black Mountain Primary School campus upon receipt of final design and review by staff and the Board Attorney and Ms. Franklin seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Memorandum of Understanding with the County of Buncombe Regarding Solar Project

Mr. Shatley addressed question from the Board concerning the funds provided by the County to install the solar panels, the cost savings to utilities, costs associated with maintenance and upkeep of the panels and panels that were not in operation at this time.

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve the MOU between the county of Buncombe and the Buncombe County Board of Education for Phase 2 of the Solar Panels Project and Ms. Buchanan seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

- Intent for Purchase of E-Rate Related Network Gear

Ms. Lewis made a motion to approve request to purchase E-Rate Related Network Gear for network infrastructure upgrades and Mr. Elliot seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

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CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes: February 2, 2023 – Regular Meeting Open Session
- Minutes: February 2, 2023 – Special Called Meeting
- Personnel Report
- 2022-2023 Summer Program Plan
- Approval of Board Member Training Credits
- **POLICIES FOR SECOND READING**
 - Policy 3430 School Improvement Plan (removed from agenda)
 - Policy 240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
 - Policy 7241 Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators

Mr. Elliot requested that Policy 3430 be removed from approval and placed for first reading in April in order that updated language could be included.

Ms. Simpkins made a motion to approve the items on the consent agenda and Mr. Elliot seconded the motion – the motion was approved unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Finance Reports
 - **POLICIES FOR FIRST READING**
 - Policy 2120 Code of Ethics for School Board Members
 - Policy 2123 Board Member Opportunities for Development
 - Policy 2330 Board Meeting Agenda
 - Policy 2410 Policy Development
 - Policy 5001 Advisory Councils to the Board (removed from agenda)
- Mr. Elliot requested that Policy 5001 be revised with updated language and placed for first reading again in April.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / FUTURE MEETINGS

- The next Board of Education Regular Meeting will be held on April 13, 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

Mr. Elliot made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 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: April 13, 2023
klm