

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 3, 2020

The Columbus County Board of Education met on this date in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Columbus County Board of Education. The following persons were present:

Worley Edwards, Chairman
Randy Coleman, Vice-Chairman
Junior Dew
Monte Herring
Ronnie Strickland

Deanne Meadows, Superintendent
Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent
Bill Phipps, Board Attorney
Bonita Pridgen, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Edwards.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the minutes of the January 13, 2020, January 27, 2020, January 28, 2020, and January 30, 2020, meetings were approved.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the final agenda for February 3, 2020, was approved.

Mrs. Diana Matthews and Mr. Grant Merritt (The News Reporter, Inc.), Mr. Matt Bennett (WWAY-TV3), Mr. Bryant Reed (WECT-6), Mr. Duece Nivens (Tabor City Tribune) and several members of the community were present as guests.

The Board recognized newly certified National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Mrs. Casey Waddell Nealy (Cerro Gordo Elementary School) and Ms. Erica Jackson (Evergreen Elementary School).

Ms. Alyssa Morris, South Columbus High School, was recognized as the Poetry Out Loud Winner.

Mr. Fred McPherson, West Columbus High School was recognized as the recipient of the 2019-2020 North Carolina Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant titled "Animals in Agriculture".

The floor was opened for public comments. Mrs. Kelly F. Lovett, Mr. Corbin Lovett (not in attendance – Student Callie Lovett spoke in his place), Mr. Nico Lagunas, Mr. Anthony Ransom (and son, Mr. Collin Ransom), Mrs. Ashley Ransom, Mr. Michael Sasser, Mr. Thomas McClellan, Mr. Michael Pease (representing the development of "Cottonwood Place"), Ms. Tammy Nunez,

Mrs. Darla Fowler, Mrs. Heather McLamb (did not attend), and Ms. Lynne Thompson, addressed the Board regarding the proposed closing of Guideway Elementary School.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the invoice, in the amount of \$500.00, from Affinity Energy & Environmental Engineers, P.A. for Tabor City Elementary Phase I was approved with the invoices being forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment.. See attachment No. 4051.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the following proposals were approved:

- Closing of Acme Delco Middle School and Hallsboro Middle School, effective June 2020, to consolidate into K-6 at Acme Delco Elementary School and Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School with East Columbus High becoming a Jr.-Sr. High School with Grades 7-12 effective June 2020,
- Closing of Guideway Elementary School to consolidate into K-4 Old Dock Elementary School and 5-8 at Nakina Middle School, effective June 2020,
- The relocation of students and programs for Columbus Career and College Academy from the Fair Bluff campus to the Southeastern Community Campus effective June 2020,
- Closing of Evergreen Elementary School and Cerro Gordo Elementary School (once construction of new K-8 school is completed) anticipated effective date of June 2021,
- Closing of Tabor City Middle School and Tabor City Elementary School (once construction of new K-8 school is completed) anticipated effective date of June 2022,
- Closing of Mount Olive/Plant Operations site and Central Office Operations (Technology and Child Nutrition) relocated to Hallsboro Middle School effective June 2020, and
- Such other closings, combinations or consolidations as may properly come before the Board for consideration at each of the scheduled Public Hearings.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the following overnight in state/out-of-state school trip requests were approved: South Columbus High School Varsity Cheerleaders to travel to Canam Nationals in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina March 20-21, 2020, West Columbus High School FFA to travel to State Dairy Judging in Winston Salem, North Carolina March 26-27, 2020, West Columbus High School FFA to travel to State FFA Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina June 16-18, 2020, West Columbus High School FFA to travel to Chapter Officer Leadership Camp in Bryson City, North Carolina July 26-31, 2020, and South Columbus High School Choral Music Students to travel to the National Heritage Choral Festival Competition 2020 in Washington, DC April 17-19, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the request from East Columbus High School for a supplement, in the amount of 4%, was approved for a JV Girls' Soccer coach for the 2019-2020 school year only.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Herring, Mr. Edwards was nominated to serve on the NCSBA's Legislative Committee.

The following items were presented as information:

--Board was asked to review dates to remember.

--Mrs. Lisa Nowlin shared the monthly financial report. See attachment No. 4052.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board went into closed session to discuss information that is privileged, confidential, and not a public record under GS 143-318.11 (a) (1).

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board returned to open session.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, personnel actions were approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4053.

In other business, the following items were discussed and action, when necessary, taken:

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, Mr. Phipps was approved to respond to the proposal from Davis Academy regarding use of the Chadbourn Middle School campus.

The Board will meet in regular session on March 2, 2020, at the Columbus County Board of Education in the conference room at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:45 p.m.