

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 13, 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. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, the minutes of the December 2, 2019, and December 18, 2019, meetings were approved.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the final agenda for January 13, 2020, was approved.

Ms. Jesslyn Ferentz (WECT-TV 6), Mr. Matt Bennett (WWAY-TV 3), Mr. Grant Merritt (The News Reporter, Inc.) and several members of the community were present as guests.

The floor was opened for public comments. Mrs. Kelly F. Lovett (representing concerned parents of students at Guideway Elementary School and on behalf of Reverend Josh Glagola, Pastor of Old Zion Wesleyan Church, Tabor City, North Carolina), Mr. Nico Lagunas, Guideway Elementary School parent (also speaking on behalf of Ms. Tammy Nunez), Mrs. Lynne Thompson (speaking on behalf of herself, Karen and Kenneth Rivenbark, and Mr. Brent Watts), Mr. Tervon Strickland (speaking regarding the closing of Guideway Elementary School), Columbus Career and College – Fair Bluff and Southeastern campuses Faculty and Staff, Lieutenant Dwayne Barnes, Dare Officer - Columbus County Sheriff's Department, and Mr. Lofton Cox, Guideway Elementary School Advisory Council member (also speaking on behalf of Mr. Ken Smith, Pastor of Dulah Missionary Baptist Church) addressed the Board.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the invoices from Affinity Energy & Environmental Engineers, P.A. for Tabor City Elementary Phase I (\$4,750.00) and Cerro Gordo Elementary Phase I (\$3,450.00) Environmental Assessment were approved with the invoices being forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4041.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the Board approved the proposed Draft 1 2020-2021 School Calendar. See attachment No. 4042.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Herring, the Board approved revisions due to legislative and other policy updates by the North Carolina School Board Associations to policies: 2300 - Board Meetings, 4040/7310 - Staff-Student Relations, 4325 - Drugs and Alcohol, 4333 - Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety, 4400: Attendance, 5015 - School Volunteers, 5070/7350 - Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition, 5071/7351 - Electronically Stored Information Retention, 5210 - Distribution and Display of Non-School Material, 6125 - Administering Medicines to Students, 6420 - Contracts with the Board, 7100 - Recruitment and Selection of Personnel, 7130 - Licensure, 7240 - Drug-Free and Alcohol-Free Workplace, and 7410 - Teacher Contracts. See attachment No. 4043.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the following new policies were approved: 3228/7323 - Use of Personal Technology to Conduct School Business, 4334/5035/7345 - Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones), and 7360/8225 - Crowdfunding on Behalf of the School System. See attachment No. 4044.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the Board approved minor substantive changes to text to policies by the North Carolina School Boards Association as follows: 1200 - Governing Principle – Student Success, 1400 - Governing Principle – School Initiatives, 1500 - Governing Principle – Safe, Orderly, and Inviting Environment, 1600 - Governing Principle – Professional Development, 1700 - Governing Principle – Removal of Barriers, 1800: - Governing Principle – Stewardship of Resources, 2010 - Board and Superintendent Relations, and 6305 - Safety and Student Transportation Services. See attachment No. 4045.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the alignment of Policy Code 3320 - School Trips with AR Code 3320-R School Trips was approved. See attachment No. 4046.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, the special update to policy code: 4240/7312 - Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety (formerly Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations) was approved. See attachment No. 4047.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the following school overnight in state/out-of-state school trip requests were approved:

- South Columbus High School Beta Club to attend the North Carolina Senior Beta Club Convention February 5-7, 2020, in Greensboro, North Carolina
- West Columbus High School Varsity Cheerleaders to attend the Cheer Ltd Canam Nationals March 18-22, 2020, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- Middle School AIG students (county-wide) to travel to WonderWorks March 24, 2020, in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina
- Nakina Middle School Junior Beta Club to travel to Charleston, South Carolina March 25, 2020
- Williams Township School Beta Club to travel to the State Beta Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina February 3-5, 2020, and

- Tabor City Middle School Beta Club to travel to New York City April 16-20, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board appointed Dr. Meadows to represent Columbus County Schools on the Southeastern Community College Presidential Search Committee.

The following items were presented as information:

--A check, in the amount of \$3,275.41, was presented to Veteran's Memorial Park, Ms. Angela Norris, President of the Columbus County Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Memorial Post 8073.

--Ms. Kathaleen Trost, K-5 Art Teacher, was recognized on receiving National Geographic Educator Certification.

--Mrs. Sandi McGirt, teacher assistant, was recognized for receiving an International Paper Grant for Amazon Kids Readers.

--Williams Township School Donors Choose Grants recipients were recognized as follows:

- Mrs. Sandi McGirt, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, Headphones, Tablet Cases
- Ms. Kathy Butler, Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, Headphones, TIME for Kids
- Mrs. Cassie Hoffman, AIG Teacher, Rubiks Cubes
- Ms. Kathaleen Trost – Art Teacher, Art Supplies
- Ms. Charity Worley, Media Center, Community Helpers Lego Sets
- Mrs. Jessica Hughes, Speech Pathologist, Articulation/Sensory Materials
- Ms. Tracy Cox, Third Grade Teacher, Classroom Rugs
- Ms. Amanda Greene, Seventh Grade Mathematics Teacher, Calculators
- Ms. Martha Cotton, PreK Assistant, Classroom Supplies, Sand/Water Table, Paint, Laminating Film

--Mrs. Casey Waddell Nealy (Cerro Gordo Elementary School) and Ms. Erica Jackson (Evergreen Elementary School) were recognized for completion of the certification requirements for the National Board for Professional Standards. Ms. Nealy and Ms. Jackson were not in attendance.

--The Board discussed the protocol for public input meetings to be held on January 27, 2020, at West Columbus High School, January 28, 2020, South Columbus High School, and January 30, 2020, at East Columbus High School. All meetings will begin at 6:30 p.m.

--Board was asked to review dates to remember.

--Mrs. Lisa Nowlin shared the monthly financial report. See attachment No. 4048.

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. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board returned to open session.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, personnel actions were approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4049.

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

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the contract (not to exceed \$9,981.00) with Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. to provide historical architectural evaluations of the Cerro Gordo and Tabor City buildings were approved. The invoice, when received, will be forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4050.

The Board will meet in regular session on February 3, 2020, at the Columbus County Board of Education in the conference room at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.