

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 2, 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. Herring, the minutes of the February 3, 2020, meeting were approved.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, the final agenda for March 2, 2020, was approved.

Mrs. Diana Matthews (The News Reporter, Inc.), Mrs. Peggy Gerald, and Mr. Billy Hobbs were present as guests.

The floor was opened for public comments.

The Board recognized the Barbour (Barbara and Coleman) family for the coat donations to Columbus County Schools students. Mrs. Barbara Barbour informed the Board that the donation was made possible by a nonprofit group from Virginia.

Mr. Mason Parker, Tabor City Middle School student, was recognized as a National Scholastics Silver Key recipient.

Mr. Logan Barsh and Mr. Jacob Russ, East Columbus High School students, were recognized as National Scholastics Honorable Mention recipients. These students were not in attendance.

The Board recognized Nakina Middle School student, Mr. Zachary Faulk, on his selection to participate in the Middle School All District Band.

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

Old Dock Elementary School was recognized on their cash award of \$5,000.00, as the top registered users to enroll and complete at least two qualifying courses from SafeSchoolsHealthyKidsNC.org.

Dr. Williams review the Architectural Survey Consolidation of Schools Summary and Conclusions. The architectural evaluation of two resources, one previously recorded and one previously unrecorded, was undertaken for the proposed school consolidation projects in Columbus County, North Carolina. Both of these resources surveyed, the Cerro Gordo School (CB0067) and Tabor City School (CB1365), did not appear to possess sufficient architectural significance and integrity to qualify for listings on the National Register of Historical Places (NRHP). The Cerro Gordo School was previously added to the North Carolina NRHP Study List in 1999 but no longer appeared eligible. See attachment No. 4054.

Mr. Timmy Ward provided an update on the 2020-2021 SY facilities closures due to consolidation.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, request from the North Carolina Army National Guard to use Chadbourn Middle School for the period March 23-25, 2020, for training purposes, was approved, as shared by Dr. Williams and Mr. Ward. See attachment No. 4055.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the invoice, in the amount of \$500.00, from Affinity Energy & Environmental Engineers, P.A. for Cerro Gordo Elementary Phase I update was approved, with the invoices being forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4056.

Mrs. Lisa Brown and Dr. Cassandra Cartrette shared the Beginning Teacher Support Program monitoring visit held on February 10, 2020. See attachment No. 4057.

Dr. Meadows reviewed the change to Administrative Regulation Code: 3450-R Class Rankings as follows: “School Marshals – the top ten percent (10%) of the students in the junior class will qualify to serve as marshals based on their academic performance as calculated at the end of the first semester of the junior year. This calculation will be based on freshman and sophomore final weighted grade point averages plus first semester of the junior year weighted grade point averages”, was approved. See attachment No. 4058.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, EOG/EOC Summer School/Read to Achieve and Migrant Camp 2020 Guidelines were approved, as discussed by Mrs. Tamra Carter. Summer school will begin Tuesday, May 26, 2020, through Thursday, May 28, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. Summer camp will be held (Monday through Thursday) June 1-18, 2020, from 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. at Acme Delco Elementary School, Chadbourn Elementary School, Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School, Old Dock Elementary School, Tabor City Middle School, and Williams Township School. See attachment No. 4059.

No action was taken on the proposed changes to PK-8 and 9-12 Uniform Descriptions, 2020-2021 SY.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the revised Board of Education meetings dates for 2019-2020 SY were approved. The May 4th meeting was rescheduled to May 5, 2020, and the June 29th meeting was canceled. See attachment No. 4060.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, the proposed Board of Education meeting dates, 2020-2021 SY were approved. See attachment No. 4061.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the out-of-state and/or overnight school trip requests were approved as follows:

- West Columbus High School Baseball team for Spring Break Baseball Trip to Emerald Isle, Morehead City, North Carolina April 13-15, 2020
- East Columbus High School JROTC to travel to Washington DC April 2-5, 2020
- East Columbus High School JROTC to travel to Fort Jackson, South Carolina June 14-20, 2020
- Guideway Elementary School Grades PreK-5th to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina March 20, 2020
- Guideway Elementary School Grades 3-5 to travel to Charleston, South Carolina April 2, 2020
- Tabor City Elementary School First Grade to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina April 3, 2020
- Guideway Elementary School Grades PreK-5th to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina April 2, 2020
- Old Dock Elementary School Kindergarten to travel to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina March 27, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the mascot (Hawks) and colors (red and black) were approved for 7-8 grade students at East Columbus High School, effective July 1, 2020. See attachment No. 4062.

No action was taken on the renaming of East Columbus High School to East Columbus Jr.-Sr. High School effective July 1, 2020.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the revisions (removal of schools being closed July 1, 2020) to Policy 2235/5005: School Advisory Council were approved. See attachment No. 4063.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the revisions to Policy 6305: Safety and Student Transportation Services were approved. The revisions were as follows: Seat assignments are a positive way for the bus ride to be consistent and safe. This shall assist the bus driver regarding discipline and damage done on the bus. When students in grades 6-12 are on their bus route, the bus driver shall assign seats for students by grade levels. Seating assignments will be as follows: 6-8 shall begin at the point closest to the driver and continue toward the rear of the bus until all

have been properly assigned and 9-12 students shall begin at the point where seating for 6-8 students ends. At no time shall 6-8 students be seated with 9-12 students. See attachment No. 4064.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the proposed revision to the School Calendar, 2019-2020 SY were approved. March 13, 2020, was approved as a full day for students and no longer a “mandatory teacher workday (no Students)”. See attachment No. 4065.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the revision on page 9 to the 2019-2020 SY Athletic Handbook was approved. The revision is as follows: Athletic participation is open to students in grades 7-12 only beginning with the 2020-2021 SY. See attachment No. 4066.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the request from Nakina Middle School, Tabor City Middle School, and Williams Township School to consolidate their football teams, 2020-2021 SY was approved.

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. 4067.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Local and State Budgets, 2019-2020 SY were approved as presented by Mrs. Nowlin. See attachment No. 4068.

The Board accepted the 2018-2019 SY Auditor’s Report, as presented by Mr. Alan Thompson. See attachment No. 4069.

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. Herring, personnel actions were approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4070.

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

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the termination of the auditor contract with Thompson, Price, Scott, Adams, & Co, P.A. was approved.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, Mr. Phipps was authorized to respond to Davis Academy regarding the purchase of the Chadbourn Middle School property.

The Board will meet in regular session on April 6, 2020, at the Columbus County Board of Education in the conference room at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 p.m.