MINUTES OF MEETING

COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 8, 2021

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

Worley Edwards, Chairman

Ronnie Strickland, Vice Chairman

Randy Coleman

Monte Herring

Steve Long

Ronnie Strickland

Deanne Meadows, Superintendent

Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent

Bill Phipps, Attorney

Lisa Nowlin, Finance Officer

Bonita Pridgen, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Edwards.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the final agenda for March 8, 2021, was approved.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Herring, the minutes of the February 8, 2021, meeting were approved.

Mr. Thomas Sherrill (The News Reporter, Inc.), Mr. Lavern Coleman (Columbus County Commissioners), Mr. Wendell Duncan (Principal – Williams Township School) and Mrs. Sherry Kennedy (Parent) were present as guests.

The floor was opened for public comments. Kaylib Kennedy, an 11th grade student at Columbus Career and College Academy, addressed the Board regarding Columbus Career and College Academy students being allowed to participate in sports at their respective high schools.

The winners of the American History Essay Contest through the Major General Robert Howe Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution were announced as follows:

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Student** | **School** | **Grade** | **Award** |
| Claire Olivia Coker | Williams Township | 5 | Grade Winner |
| Molly Meares | Williams Township | 6 | Grade Winner |
| Lily Greene | Williams Township | 7 | Grade Winner |
| Briley Connor | Williams Township | 8 | Grade Winner |
| Azariah Bradley | Chadbourn Elementary | 5 | Honorable Mention |
| Kyla Emberlyn Fowler | Williams Township | 5 | Honorable Mention |
| Elizabeth Stubbs | Williams Township | 6 | Honorable Mention |
| Ana Hernandez | Williams Township | 7 | Honorable Mention |
| Anna Grace Phillips | Williams Township | 8 | Honorable Mention |
| Jacob Stanley | Tabor City Middle | 8 | Honorable Mention |

The Board acknowledged Williams Township School Donors Choose Grants recipients, 2020-2021 SY as follows:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Staff Member** | **Donors Choose Project** | **Award** |
| Jessica Blackman | “Power Up” | $ 972.00 |
| Martha Buffkin | “Jump Baby Jump”  “Color Me Happy”  “Let’s Go Fishing” | $ 184.00  $ 242.00  $ 258.00 |
| Kathy Butler | “Keeping Up With The Times”  “For The Love of Graphic Reading”  “Hands 2 Minds Math for Kindergarten”  “Charging Up”  “Getting Back to The Basics”  “Coloring Your World”  “Building The Future With STEM”  “Write Away”  “Oh The Places”  “Learning Everywhere”  “Growing Scientist”  “Lifting Little Lives”  “Be Kind and Learn”  “Lanier’s Lifetime Legacy of Literature”  “Social Writing”  “Can You Hear Me Now”  “No Mistakes Here”  “Beautiful Smiles” | $ 305.00  $ 213.00  $ 319.00  $ 972.00  $ 258.00  $ 327.00  $ 341.00  $ 258.00  $ 221.00  $ 878.00  $ 408.00  $ 334.00  $ 529.00  $6,270.00  $ 687.00  $ 190.00  $ 312.00  $ 203.00 |
| Amy Cribb | “No Pencils Beyond This Point”  “Figuring Out Science One STEM at a Time” | $ 362.00  $ 195.00 |
| Rebecca Cribb | Time Magazine | $ 187.00 |
| Alisa Darrow | “Reading and Writing For Our Future” | $ 257.00 |
| Devon Duncan | “Basically Supplying Needs”  “Going Places” | $ 604.00  $ 463.00 |
| Heather Duncan | Balling On A Budget | $ 851.00 |
| Keyna Floyd | Science Extravaganza | $ 196.00 |
| Cydell Godwin | “Fluent Readers” | $ 576.00 |
| Georganna Gore | “Let’s Learn and Write About The Seasons” | $ 249.00 |
| Victoria Gore | “Hopping Holiday Fun” | $ 587.00 |
| Amber Greene | “Literacy Time” | $ 473.00 |
| Anita Harrelson | “Growing Aggies” | $ 639.00 |
| Janet Hewett | “White Boards” | $ 319.00 |
| Jessica Hughes | “Technology to Help Us Talk” | $ 679.00 |
| Phyllis Lanier | “The Write Stuff” | $ 229.00 |
| Tracy McGraw | “Answer Boards” | $ 319.00 |
| Maxie McPherson | Hands-on Tinkering With Science | $ 420.00 |
| Ashley Porter | Oh, The Places You’ll Go | $ 382.00 |
| Toni Stocks | Healthy Children Learn Better | $ 591.00 |
| Revonda Wayne | “Safe Delivery” | $ 223.00 |
| DeeDee White | “Write On!” | $ 320.00 |
| Cherry Willoughby | “Words to The Wiser” | $ 557.00 |
| Charity Worley | “Aggie Detectives” | $ 620.00 |

Mrs. Sandi McGirt, Teacher Assistant at Williams Township School, was acknowledged for receiving an International Paper Grant ($1,000.00).

Dr. Meadows reviewed the budget presentation, 2021-2022 SY that will be shared with the Columbus County Board of Commissioners on March 9, 2021. See attachment No. 4247.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the “Agreement to Engage in Student Performance Improvement” with the State Board of Education District and Regional Support Team at Tabor City Middle School was approved. The partnership will focus on the continuous improvement process with the intent of providing the best education for all North Carolina students. See attachment No. 4248.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board approved the transfer of collateral from Cerro Gordo Elementary School to Williams Township School for the purpose of securing financing for the construction of the Pre-K-8 school to be located on the campus of Cerro Gordo Elementary.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, the invoice, in the amount of $10,635.00.00, from Tai and Associates, PLLC was approved, with invoice being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4249.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the invoices (#18 – West Columbus PreK-8 School - $11,617.23 and #19 – Tabor City PreK-8 School - $8444.43) from Szostak Design, were approved, with invoices being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4250.

Dr. Williams and Mr. Timmy Ward provided an update on the following projects: East Columbus Junior-Senior High School physical education building, the West Columbus High School windows, and the Williams Township School parapet wall leak. See attachment No. 4251.

Mr. Timmy Ward shared the North Department of Public Instruction Facility Needs Survey, 2020-2021 SY. See attachment No. 4252.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, the “Resolution Approving an Agreement with Columbus County Concerning the Renovating, Expanding, Equipping, and Improving of Existing School Facilities known as Cerro Gordo Elementary School” was approved. The Board also reviewed certain other documents (Deed of Trust, Administrative Agreement, Lease, and Installment Financing Contract) and the March 15, 2021 Notice of Public Hearing of existing school facilities known as Cerro Gordo Elementary School, in connection with Columbus County. Mr. Phipps indicated the documents contained “Whiteville City Schools” and not “Columbus County Schools” and a correction would need to be made in the final documents. Also, the portion of the Williams Township campus that was deeded to Mr. Robert “Bob” Boley, Sr., will need to be excluded from the agreement being used to define collateral for the loan. See attachment No. 4253.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the total bid, in the amount of $314,585.00, submitted by Vincent Lighting System for the auditorium upgrades at East Columbus Junior-Senior High School and South Columbus High School was approved. The accepted total cost includes the base bid ($294,117.00), alternate #1 (stage drapery borders - $1,916.00), alternate #2 (distribution raceways - $14,968.00) and alternate #3 (non dim circuits on FOH hoists $3,584.00). See attachment No. 4254.

A copy of the Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc. Historical Findings Report for Cerro Gordo School (1926-2020) and Tabor City School (1927-2020) was shared. See attachment No. 4255.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the pay request from HERR, Inc., in the amount of $66,500.00, was approved, with invoice being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4256.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Herring, the School Based Treatment Memorandum of Agreement, 2020-2021 SY was approved. See attachment No. 4257.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the Memorandum of Agreement with East Coast Migrant Head Start Project, ending December 31, 2021, was approved. See attachment No. 4258.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Herring, the “Addendum” for contract audiology services with AudPractice Group, LLC, for the period December 30, 2020, and ending June 30, 2021, was approved. See attachment No. 4259.

Donations from Robeson Community College for 87 tablets, 68 laptops, 61 network switches, 11 desktops, 5 projectors, 4 monitors, 3 servers, and 1 cart was shared.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the revisions to the 2020-2021 school calendars for Columbus County Schools and Columbus Career and College Academy were approved. See attachment No. 4260.

The Board was asked to review the North Carolina School Boards Association 2021 Training and Events.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, the revisions to Board Policy: 7100 – Recruitment and Selection of Personnel was approved. See attachment No. 4261.

A COVID-19 update was given by Dr. Meadows.

Dr. Meadows provided an update on the Strategic Plan.

Board was asked to review the dates to remember as listed on the agenda.

Mrs. Nowlin shared the March 2021 Board report. See attachment No. 4262.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the federal, local, special revenue, and state budget amendments were approved, as shared by Mrs. Nowlin. See attachment No. 4263.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board approved the Internal Revenue Service change to mileage reimbursement rates (56¢ per mile) effective January 1, 2021.

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. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, 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. 4264.

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

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, the North Carolina Resilience and Learning Memorandum of Understanding was approved. See attachment No. 4265.

The Board will meet in regular session on April 12, 2021, at East Columbus Junior-Senior High School in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:45 p.m.

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Chairman Superintendent/Secretary