

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 10, 2021

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

Worley Edwards, Chairman
Ronnie Strickland, Vice Chairman
Randy Coleman
Monte Herring
Steve Long

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. Long, the final agenda for May 10, 2021, was approved.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Herring, the minutes of the April 21, 2021, and the April 28, 2021, (convening of the Board at Cerro Gordo Elementary School) meetings were approved. Mr. Strickland indicated corrections were needed on both of the minutes removing his name that was listed twice.

Mr. Deuce Nivens (Tabor-Loris Tribune) was present as a guest and several others were connected to the live stream of meeting.

The floor was opened for public comments.

The Board recognized Mrs. Angela Tyler, teacher at Old Dock Elementary School, for receiving the NC Schools Go Outside grant, in the amount of \$15,000.00, from Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council.

A.R. Ammons Poetry Contest winners for Spring, 2021 were recognized as follows:

DIVISION I

First Place	“Chinese Food is the Best!”	Brylee Graham	Old Dock Elementary School
Second Place	“Christmas”	Brently Smith	Old Dock Elementary School
Third Place	“The Mountains”	Nathan Ward	Old Dock Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Spring”	Phoenix Bush	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“Butterflies”	Arely Cruz	Old Dock Elementary School

Honorable Mention	“Birthday Celebration”	Bryson Lewis	Old Dock Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Oscar”	Alana Nichols	Old Dock Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Winter”	Emma Turner	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“winter”	Jackson Worley	Williams Township School

DIVISION II

First Place	“Seasons”	Kenzie Martin	Evergreen Elementary School
Second Place	“A Picnic Under an Oakwood Tree”	Isabella Rivero	Old Dock Elementary School
Third Place	“Missing You Daily”	Heaven Underwood	Chadbourn Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“My Favorite Thing to Do”	Graydi Canady	Old Dock Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“The Sky”	Ahkia King	Chadbourn Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Fall”	Otis Martin	Evergreen Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Nature’s Wonders”	Olivia McGee	Old Dock Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“Anonymous Search”	Noah Toon	Chadbourn Elementary School

DIVISION III

First Place	“A Letter to COVID-19”	Ella Jones	Williams Township School
Second Place	“Soggy Dirt Road”	Isabelle Edwards	Williams Township School
Third Place	“My Papa”	Baylee Brinson	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“Softball”	Baylee Brinson	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“Inside and Out”	Harmony Coburn	Evergreen Elementary School
Honorable Mention	“My Lifesong”	Briley Conner	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“Stargazing”	Molly Meares	Williams Township School
Honorable Mention	“Save the Rainforest”	Samuel Meares	Williams Township School

DIVISION IV

First Place	“The Cycle”	Zander Holden	South Columbus High School
First Place	“SMY”	TaQuan Shaw	West Columbus High School
Second Place	“Remember”	Alexandra Sumner	South Columbus High School
Second Place	“A Look at Computers”	Anthony Brown	East Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Be Together Again”	Tierra Braddy	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“In My Mind”	Madison Carter	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Time”	Madison Carter	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Cats or Dogs”	Jayliene Franklin	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“What is Life”	Jayliene Franklin	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“A Welder”	Spencer Goins	South Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Mother Earth”	Kaylie Gore	Columbus Career and College Academy
Honorable Mention	“Basketball”	Bethany Lupo	South Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Dear Summer”	Kinley Nance	West Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“Love”	Mayra Mancio Noyola	South Columbus High School
Honorable Mention	“A Star’s View”	Alexandra Sumner	South Columbus High School

A.R. Ammons Board Members, Mrs. Pat Ray, Mrs. Margo Wright, and Mr. Richard Wright, were present for the recognition.

Taylor Duncan and Hailey Long, seventh grade students at Williams Township School, were recognized on the publishing of their novel “Shadows Into Light”.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, K-8 Summer Extended Learning and the High School Summer Extended Learning plans, 2021 were approved. See attachment No. 4291.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the Virtual School Guidelines, 2021-2022 SY were approved, with a change to include hotspots provided by the district. See attachment No. 4292.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the invoices (#20 – West Columbus PreK-8 School - \$11,617.23 and #21 – Tabor City PreK-8 School - \$8,444.45) from Szostak Design, were approved, with invoices being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4293.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Herring, the invoice, in the amount of \$3,968.00, from Szostak Design for the Williams Township roof leaks remediation, was approved. See attachment No. 4294.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the pay request from HERR, Inc., in the amount of \$314,260.00, was approved, with invoice being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4295.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the invoice, in the amount of \$21,951.25, from Tai and Associates, PLLC was approved, with invoice being forwarded to the County of Columbus Finance Officer for payment. See attachment No. 4296.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board approved the sewer agreement with Mr. Ricky Benton, with a hold harmless and indemnity clause. See attachment No. 4297.

Dr. Williams provided an update on the following projects: East Columbus Junior-Senior High School physical education building and the West Columbus High School windows.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the partnership for usage of the Columbus County Health Department’s “Mobile Dental Unit”, 2021-2022 SY was approved. See attachment No. 4298.

By motion of Mr. Jones, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program for Rural Communities grant summary was approved, as presented by Mr. Kelly Jones. If Columbus County Schools is awarded the grant, matching funds in the amount of fifteen (15) percent would be required.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board ratified the following revised North Carolina School Boards Association policies due to technical changes: Policy 1310/4002: Parental Involvement, Policy 3102: Online Instruction, Policy 3230/7330: Copyright Compliance, Policy 3470/4305: Alternative Learning Programs/Schools, Policy 3640/5130: Student Voter

Registration and Preregistration, Policy 4050: Children of Military Families, Policy 4270/6145: Concussion and Head Injury, Policy 4700: Student Records, Policy 5020: Visitors to the Schools, Policy 5030: Community Use of Facilities, Policy 5070/7350: Public Records – Retention, Release and Disposition, Policy 5071/7351: Electronically Stored Information Retention, Policy 5210: Distribution and Display of Non-School Material, Policy 6410: Student Wellness, Policy 6210: Organization of School Nutrition Services, Policy 6220: Operation of School Nutrition Services, Policy 6230: School Meal and Competitive Foods Standards, Policy 6305: Safety and Student Transportation Services, Policy 6315: Drivers, Policy 6321: Bus Routes Policy 6450: Purchase of Services, Policy 7100: Recruitment and Selection of Personnel, Policy 7130: Licensure, Policy 7430: Substitute Teachers, and Policy 9020: Facility Design. See attachment No. 4299.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board approved the revised Spring 2021 North Carolina School Boards Association policies: Policy 1510/4200/7270: School Safety, Policy 1610/7800: Professional and Staff Development, Policy 1710/4020/7230: Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law, Policy 2440: Policy Review and Evaluation, Policy 2610: Board Attorney, Policy 3300: School Calendar and Time for Learning, Policy 3460: Graduation Requirements, Policy 3610: Counseling Program, Policy 3620: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations, Policy 4040/7310: Staff-Student Relations, Policy 4125: Homeless Students, Policy 4240/7312: Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety, Policy 4335: Criminal Behavior, Policy 4400: Attendance, Policy 5000: Schools and Community, Policy 6120: Student Health Services, Policy 6125: Administering Medicines to Students, Policy 6320: Use of Student Transportation Services, Policy 7232: Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace, Policy 7510: Leave, Policy 7720: Employee Political Activities, Policy 8310: Annual Independent Audit, and Policy 8341: Limited Claim Settlement. See attachment No. 4300.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Coleman, Deed to Town of Chadbourn for acquisition a certain lot or parcel of land lying and being in Chadbourn Township, Columbus County, North Carolina and more particularly described as follows: ALL AND SINGULAR, all of the certain tract or parcel of land containing 0.92 total acre, more or less, or 39,899.07 square foot or 0.67 acre, more or less exclusive of right of way or 28,992.56 square feet, as described in a “Survey for the Columbus County Board of Education” of Chadbourn Township, Columbus County, North Carolina dated February 10, 2021, as prepared by Soles & Walker, P.A., P.L.S., which Plat, recorded in Plat Book 100 at Page 38 in the Office of the Register of Deeds for Columbus County, North Carolina, is by reference thereto incorporated herein for more certainty and particularity of description. See attachment No. 4301.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the University of North Carolina at Wilmington Professional Development System School – University Partnership 2021-2024, was approved. See attachment No. 4302.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the purchase, in the amount of \$131,453.26, of 6-8 Math and Reading i-Ready Diagnostic and Instruction with Professional development and K-8 Teacher Toolbox for Math/Reading was approved. See attachment No. 4303.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the Board approved the purchase, in the amount of \$55,200.00, of Reading Horizons (Reading is for Everyone - K-5 Discovery and Elevate) online subscription and professional development. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction approved the request for authorization of noncompetitive procurement proposal for Reading Horizons. See attachment No. 4304.

By motion of Mr. Long, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the 2021-2022 SY calendars for Grades Pre K-8, Grades 9-12, and Columbus Career and College Academy were approved. See attachment No. 4305.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board approved the attorney's attendance of the Virtual NCCOSA Summer Law Conference July 22-23, 2021.

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 May 2021 Board report. See attachment No. 4306.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the federal, local, state, and capital outlay budget amendments were approved, as shared by Mrs. Nowlin. See attachment No. 4307.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Long, the Board approved the salary classification, district administration salary schedule, non-certified salary schedule, bus monitor and bus driver salary schedule, and the pay plan implementation phases, as shared by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4308.

The Board discussed the proposed ESSER funding plan. No action was taken.

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, Dr. Meadows was authorized to act on the new request (grades NC PK – 12) for student reassignment for the 2021-2022 SY in accordance with established Board policy.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, 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. 4309.

In other business, the following items were discussed and action, when necessary, was taken on closed session actionable items:

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Long, Barnhill Construction was granted permission to burn onsite the trees/debris that will be removed to allow for the construction of the new West Columbus Pre K-8 school on the campus of Cerro Gordo Elementary School.

The Board will meet in regular session on June 21, 2021, at West Columbus High School in the cafeteria at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:15 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent/Secretary