

MINUTES OF MEETING  
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
August 20, 2021

The Columbus County Board of Education met on this date in emergency session for a special called meeting at 8:00 a.m. at the central office in the conference room. The following persons were present:

Worley T. Edwards, Chairman  
Ronnie Strickland, Vice Chairman  
Randy Coleman  
Monte Herring (Virtual)  
Steve Long

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Edwards.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Long, the final agenda for August 20, 2021, was approved.

Mrs. Diana Matthews (The New Reporter, Inc.), Ms. Sherry Kennedy (Parent), Annaelise Kennedy, Khalib Kennedy, and Joandy Martinez (Students) Ms. Georgia Spaulding (Principal at Evergreen Elementary School), Ms. Josephine Spaulding (Principal at Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School), Reverend Timothy A. Nance, and several others were present as guests.

There were no special presentations, recognitions, curriculum/instruction/accountability, or auxiliary services items on the agenda.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Board approved the following protocols for the 2021-2022 school year as related to COVID effective August 23, 2021:

- All students and staff as well as any visitors on Columbus County Schools properties are required to wear a mask/face covering beginning Monday, August 23, 2021, in all indoor areas.
- All students and staff are required to wear a mask/face covering on any school district transportation.
- Students and staff would not be required to wear a mask/face covering in outdoor settings, during active eating, when alone in an indoor space or when more than 6 feet from any other person while sitting at a desk (which is determined by the staff member in the classroom).

- It is strongly encouraged that a mask/face covering be worn in outdoor settings if social distancing cannot be maintained.
- School staff shall follow the same protocols from last school year for sanitizing, requiring the use of hand sanitizer/hand washing often, and implementing processes to maintain 3 feet of social distancing as much as possible. See attachment No. 4369.

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

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. Long, the Board returned to open session.

The Board will meet in regular session on September 13, 2021, at East Columbus Junior-Senior 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 8:55 p.m.