

Regular Session Board Meeting
November 9, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 9, 2020, through a remote meeting using the Zoom format. This was agreed to by the board members in order to follow safety guidelines. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Sallie Ryan, and Mrs. Amanda Pacitto.

Mr. Felton opened the meeting by announcing the passing of Mr. Benjamin Saunders, long-time principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary. He extended condolences to his family.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously. The board entered closed session at 9:05 a.m.

The board reconvened open session at 10:00 a.m. with all board members present, except Mrs. Glendale Boone. Due to technical difficulties, Mr. Boone joined the meeting later.

Mrs. Amanda Pacitto made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Cassidy Ryan, Mrs. Sallie Ryan's granddaughter.

There were no public comments.

Superintendent's Report:

Dr. Williams congratulated Mr. Ray Felton on being awarded the North Carolina School Board Association School Board Member Leadership Award. Mr. Felton received the award during the NCSBA Annual Conference, held virtually on November 5-7, 2020. The board congratulated Mr. Felton as well.

Dr. Williams then introduced Dr. Mike Smith, professor of pediatrics and specialist in pediatric diseases at Duke University. Dr. Smith provided a power point with information about the ABC Science Collaborative.

- Partnership with Duke, UNC, and 50+ school districts
- ABC Science Collaborative pairs scientist and physicians with school and community leaders to help understand the most current and relevant information about COVID-19. This program helps school leaders make informed decisions about returning to school using data from their own communities. The ultimate goal of the program is to keep teachers, children and their local communities healthy and safe
- No cost for materials and information
- Signed Memorandum of Understanding required

- Leadership Focus - Superintendents
 - Biweekly Zoom meetings
 - Provide expertise to look at national, state, and local epidemiology; insight into current research (therapies, vaccines, face coverings, outdoor instruction, transmission in HS vs elementary students, etc.)
- School Staff and Family Focus
 - Provide the data in a format that is clear and direct, with best practices that can be implemented in a return to face-to-face educational learning environment.
 - Format: webinars, newsletter content and a public facing website
 - Webinar videos and slidesets available

Information about the program can be found on their website: abcsciencecollaborative.org

Mrs. Glendale Boone was able to join the meeting at 10:22 am.

Board Report:

- Board Members were able to attend some of the parent information meetings at the schools, and thought the principals did a great job
- Mr. Felton, Mrs. Boone, Mr. Byrum and Mrs. Ryan attended the virtual NCSBA Annual Conference. They missed the face-to-face meetings, but felt the conference was informative
- Mrs. Pacitto noted that she is continuing to receive parent concerns and she has instructed them to contact their principals with any questions they might have
- Mr. Byrum questioned whether we are offering career and technical apprenticeships with local community colleges. Mr. Jonathan Hayes, principal at Gates County High, answered that we do have students at the high school completing technical courses at the College of the Albemarle. Mr. Byrum also asked if we have had inquiries about the ROTC program at the high school. Mr. Hayes said we have not had any recently.

Mrs. Pittman had provided monthly reports to the board prior to the meeting, and noted that our expenditures are on target. We are continuing to get COVID-19 funds, and this money will be spent by the December 31st, 2020 deadline. We have some parents that are past due on their tuition payments, and we will address that in the letters being mailed on November 20, 2020.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Releases for 2020-2021:

- Aubrey Mae Ashley released to attend Perquimans County Schools, contingent upon acceptance from Perquimans
- McKinley Stevens released to attend Perquimans County Schools, contingent upon acceptance from Perquimans
- Lillie Ryan Stallings released to attend Perquimans County Schools, contingent upon acceptance from Perquimans
- Catherine Anne & Virginia Rose Lee released to attend Camden County Schools, contingent upon acceptance from Camden
- Marli Wiggins released to attend Perquimans County Schools, contingent upon acceptance from Perquimans

Unfinished Business

- 1) Purchase of Athletic Items for Central Middle –

The county has provided us with information that there is \$5940.85 left from the Central Middle School Project. The school had previously provided a wish list, if there should be any funds left after construction. At this time it was determined that equipment needed for the volleyball team is the most pressing need. Mrs. Ryan made a motion to spend the remaining \$5940.85 on volleyball equipment and other priority items as needed, until the funds are spent. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. October 9, 2020 Special Called Meeting Minutes
2. October 12, 2020 Regular Session Meeting Minutes
3. November 2, 2020 Work Session Minutes
4. Policy 1510/4200/7270 – School Safety
5. Policy 1710/4020/7230 – Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
6. Policy 1740/4010 - Student and Parent Grievance Procedure
7. Policy 1742/5060 – Responding to Complaints
8. Policy 1750/7220 – Grievance Procedure for Employees
9. Policy 1760/7280 – Prohibition Against Retaliation
10. Policy 2120 – Code of Ethics for School Board
11. Policy 2121 – Board Member Conflict of Interest
12. Policy 3000 – Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program
13. Policy 3102 – Online Instruction
14. Policy 3300 – School Calendar and Time for Learning
15. Policy 3460 – Graduation Requirements
16. Policy 3620 – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
17. Policy 4001 – Equal Educational Opportunities
18. Policy 4040/7310 – Staff-Student Relations
19. Policy 4400 – Attendance
20. Policy 4600 – Student Fees
21. Policy 5020 – Visitors to the Schools
22. Policy 5030 – Community Use of Facilities
23. Policy 5070/7350 – Public Records, Retention, Release and Disposition
24. Policy 6305 – Safety and Student Transportation Services
25. Policy 7232 – Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace
26. Policy 7335 – Employee Use of Social Media
27. Policy 7510 – Leave
28. Schedule of Fees for Schools
29. Gatesville Elementary RADA Cutlery Fundraiser
30. New Beginnings Daycare Fun Pasta Fundraiser
31. Gatesville Elementary Annual Book Fair
32. Agreement with Duke University/ ABC Science Collaborative
33. Transportation Contract with Exceptional Children’s Department
34. Obici Healthcare Foundation Grant Resolution
35. Resume Athletics at the Community Center with Safety Protocols
36. Budget Amendment No. 1 – State Funds
37. Budget Amendment No. 1 – Local Fund No. 8
38. Budget Amendment No 1 – Capital Outlay Fund

Mr. Jeremy Wright, Student Services Director, noted that in Policy 5030, in regards to the following: This will apply when the students return to face-to-face in the buildings.

Temporary Restriction on Community Use of Facilities

In order to secure the health and safety of school system students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the requirements of the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), school facilities will not be made available to community groups during or after the school day or on weekends in any week in which the school is holding in-person classes on the school campus. Issues regarding the parties' contractual obligations under long-term leases will be referred to the board attorney. This temporary restriction shall remain in effect until repealed by the board or until the applicable guidance from DHHS is rescinded, whichever occurs first.

It was asked if this would apply to the Saunders Science group and it was agreed that this is an educational program, and they would be allowed to use the facilities.

Mr. Wright also noted that per policy 7510 the following has been added:

Temporary Requirement for Employee Health Certificate

In order to secure the health and safety of school system students and employees during the COVID-19 pandemic, employees will be required to provide a health certificate from a medical professional as a condition of returning to work following isolation due to COVID-19 symptoms or exposure. This temporary requirement shall remain in effect for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year or until repealed by the board, whichever occurs first.

There was no New Business.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. **NEW HIRES**

- Lisa Lassiter-Jordan – School Nurse – Effective Date: 11/30/2020
- Kaila Ballard – Assistant Volleyball/JV Volleyball Coach – GCHS Effective Date: 11/2/2020
- Courtney Jones – Head Soccer Coach – CMS
- Cindy Barber – Assistant Soccer Coach - CMS

2. **TRANSFERS**

- Lorosa Howell – Bus Driver – From Gatesville Elementary to T.S. Cooper Elementary – Effective Date: 11/1/2021
- Sarah Gidden – From Substitute Bus Driver to Regular Driver – Effective Date: 1/1/2021

3. **RESIGNATIONS**

- Julia Townsend – Spanish Teacher – GCHS – Effective Date: 12/31/2020
- Vernon Brinkley – From Regular Driver to Substitute/Activity Driver

Effective Date: 10/15/2020

- Joshua Childers - Head Soccer Coach - CMS
Effective Date: 11/2/2020

4. **GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL COACHES' STIPENDS**

- Matt Biggy – Head Football
- Graylen Boone – Asst. Football/JV(Head)
- Quincy Saunders – Assistant Football
- Jacob Harrell – Athletic Director (all sports)
- Lisa Perry – Cross Country
- Lauren Belch – Head Volleyball
- Kaila Ballard – Assistant Volleyball/ Head JV
- Dominic Ross – Head Soccer
- Katron Greene – Assistant Soccer
- Thomas Arline – Girls' Tennis
- Renee Nicholson – Head Cheerleading
- Hope Melton-Riddick – Head Girls' Basketball
- Aaron Riddick – Asst. Girls' Basketball
- Katron Greene – Head Boys' Basketball
- Mike Manley – Asst. Boys' Basketball
- Thomas Arline – JV Boys' Basketball
- Thomas Arline – Boys' Tennis
- Amber Harrell – Head Softball
- Travis Riddick – Asst. Softball
- Jacob Harrell – Head Baseball
- Danny Hale – Assistant Baseball
- Dominic Ross – Head Girls' Soccer
- Katron Greene – Assistant Girls' Soccer
- Lisa Perry – Head Co-Ed Track
- Matt Biggy – Weightlifting/Track

5. **CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL COACHES' STIPENDS**

- Marcus Barber – Athletic Director
- Jennifer Dail – Athletic Director
- Marcus Barber – Head Football
- Andre Riddick – Asst. Football
- Renee Nowell – Head Volleyball
- Jennifer Dail – Asst. Volleyball
- Marcus Barber – Head Boys' Basketball
- Andre Riddick – Asst. Boys' Basketball
- Kaila Ballard – Head Girls' Basketball

- Robert Costen – Asst. Girls’ Basketball
- Terry Edwards – Head Baseball
- Mark Pierce – Asst. Baseball
- Jennifer Dail – Head Softball
- Katelyn Collins – Asst. Softball
- Marcus Barber – Head Track
- Reba Green- Holley – Head Cheerleading
- Natora Gatling – Asst. Cheerleading

6. **RETIREMENT**

- Elaine Vann-Simpson – CMS English Teacher
Effective: January 31, 2021

7. **NEW BEGINNINGS DAYCARE – CHANGE PART-TIME POSITIONS TO TWO FULL-TIME POSITIONS**

Other Business:

- The December Regular Session Meeting will be held on Monday, December 14, 2020. We will use the Zoom format to conduct the meeting remotely. Closed Session will begin at 9:00 a.m. and Open Session at 10:00 a.m.
- Mr. Byrum made a motion to keep the Annual Staff Appreciation in December as it has been in the past, by giving each school and department money to assist with their individual parties. The budget will remain the same, at \$5.00 per employee. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.
- Special Called Board Meeting – Monday, December 7, 2020 – Face-to-Face – 9:00 a.m. Historical Courthouse.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 11:09 a.m.

Obici Healthcare Grant Resolution Attached.