

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
December 3, 2018

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 3, 2018, at the Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m. Cathy Riddick, Notary Public, administered the oaths of office to Mrs. Glendale Boone and Mr. Leslie Byrum, as returning board members. She also administered the oath of office to Mrs. Sallie Ryan, as a new board member, replacing Dr. Daniel Dickerson. These board members were duly elected in the November, 2018 election.

The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the revisions to Policy 2200 – Election of Officers/Organization of Board. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

Dr. Williams then opened the floor for nominations for the position of chairperson of the Board of Education. Mr. Byrum nominated Mr. Ray Felton for the chairperson position. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the nomination. Mr. Byrum then made a motion to close the nomination and Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously. A call for vote for chair of the Board of Education was made. Mr. Felton was elected unanimously.

Dr. Williams opened the floor for nominations for the position of vice chairperson of the Board of Education. Mr. Byrum nominated Mrs. Glendale Boone for the vice chairperson position. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the nomination. Mrs. Whitehurst then made a motion to close the nomination. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously. A call for vote for vice chair of the Board of Education was made. Mrs. Boone was elected unanimously.

Congratulations to Mr. Ray Felton as Chairman, and Mrs. Glendale Boone as Vice Chair.

Mr. Felton asked Dr. Daniel Dickerson, who was attending the meeting as a guest, to speak about some exciting news for Gates County Schools. Dr. Dickerson informed that there was an agreement signed today, with East Carolina University, that will provide many opportunities for our students, through STEM education, for the next five years. This opportunity for Gates County, is due largely to the generosity of Mr. Ray Felton. There will be more information coming soon about this program.

The board thanked Dr. Dickerson for his service on the board.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to enter into closed session at 3:21 p.m., to discuss matters that are confidential by law, including confidential student matters, and to approve closed session minutes, pursuant to North Carolina General statute 143-318.11(a)(1); to confer with the Board Attorney and preserve the attorney/client privilege as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3); and to discuss confidential personnel matters as allowed by North Carolina

General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 4:17 p.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mr. Byrum made a motion to approve the amended agenda with the deletion of the Lawn Care Contract under Unfinished Business. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

There was a moment of silence, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Omar Minns.

There were no Public Comments.

Dr. Williams and the board members recognized our 2018 Holiday Card Art Contest Winners, with a certificate and small token of appreciation:

Gentry Bernard-Parrish – 1st Grade – Buckland Elementary
Jefferson Perez-Molina – 5th Grade – Gatesville Elementary
Amari Minns – 5th Grade – T.S. Cooper Elementary
Aaliyah Taylor – 7th Grade – Central Middle
Sarah Moore – 11th Grade – Gates County High

Dr. Williams and the board recognized Lori Lories and JoJo Nichols for renewing their National Boards Certification, and congratulated them on their achievement.

During the Superintendent's Report, Student Advisors to the Board, Ben Hawkins, Jordan Mitchell, and Daijha Blount, from Gates County High School, presented a powerpoint presentation, highlighting events happening at the schools.

Dr. Williams presented NC Department of Public Instruction Certificates to each of the principals for Graduation and Growth Awards. He thanked the principals and staff for their hard work to achieve these goals.

Other items he discussed:

- Attended the NC School Safety Directors Meeting on November 15, 2018
- On November 26, 2018 served on the Educational Symposium panel at Elizabeth City State University, to discuss pressing issues facing teacher shortage, which is a dilemma statewide and nationally, classroom management, and the rising cost of obtaining an education degree
- The political landscape facing North Carolina
- Attended the Low Wealth Consortium of NC meeting on November 30, 2018, where there was growing optimism for the passing of the statewide school bond issue. This

would provide much needed funds for improvements to our school facilities. If passed, Gates County would be in the running to get some of these funds.

During the Report from the Board, Mr. Byrum, Mrs. Boone and Mrs. Ryan commented on the North Carolina School Boards Association Conference they attended in Greensboro, November 11th – 14th, 2018. They all felt the information provided was beneficial. Mr. Felton noted that he was excited to see the beginning of construction at Central Middle School. Mrs. Whitehurst was very appreciative of the efforts of the staff, in securing grants for the schools.

Mr. Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer, gave the Financial Report and provided an update on New Beginnings Daycare.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Minutes - November 5, 2018 Regular Session
2. Farm Land Lease to James E. Brinkley
3. Code of Ethics for Board Members
4. Contract With Shot In The Dark Pyrotechnics, LLC
5. Policy 1310-4002 - Parental Involvement
6. Policy 1510-4200-7270 - School Safety
7. Policy 1720-4015-7225 - Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying Complaint Procedure
8. Policy 2121 - Board Member Conflict of Interest
9. Policy 2670 - Business Advisory Council
10. Policy 3410 - Testing and Assessment Program
11. Policy 3420 - Student Promotion and Accountability
12. Policy 3430 - School Improvement Plan
13. Policy 3460 - Graduation Requirements
14. Policy 3470-4305 - Alternative Learning Programs
15. Policy 4125 - Homeless Students
16. Policy 4152 - Unsafe School Choice Transfer
17. Policy 4333 - Weapons, Bomb Threats, Terrorist Threats, and Clear Threats to Safety
18. Policy 5020 - Visitors To The Schools
19. Policy 5025 - Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol
20. Policy 5030 - Community Use of Facilities
21. GCHS Winter Guard Sponsorship/Donation Request
22. GCHS Exceptional Children's Out-of-State Field Trip to Portsmouth, VA
23. GCHS FFA Students' Field Trip to Raleigh, NC
24. Central Middle School's December Events and Field Trip
25. Gatesville Elementary Pre-K Fundraiser
26. T.S. Cooper Elementary 1st Grade Field Trip to Elizabeth City, NC
27. Budget Amendment No. 4 - State Funds
28. Budget Amendment No. 1 - Federal Funds
29. Budget Amendment No. 3 - Capital Outlay Fund No. 4

Under New Business, Mr. Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer, explained his request to change the travel reimbursement mileage rate to comply with OSBM Policy 5.1.26. He requested that the mileage rate be reduced to 33 cents per mile, for trips that exceed 100 miles. Under the current plan, that we have been using, we have reimbursed employees at a flat rate of 54.5 cents per mile, but we have had to use local funds to take care of the difference between the 33 cents

(mileage over 100 miles) and 54.5 cents (for the first 100 miles). This change would save the district considerable funds.

Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion to approve the mileage reimbursement rate, for trips that exceed 100 miles, be reduced to 33 cents per mile from 54.5 cents per mile. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. NEW HIRES

- Joshua Childers – Social Studies Teacher – Central Middle
- Shawn Manley – Assistant Varsity Boys Basketball Coach – Gates County High School

2. INTERIM TEACHER

- Debra Vaughan – Interim EC Math Teacher – Gates County High School – replacing Odessa Williams

3. MENTORS

- Jeremy Wright – Principal Mentor – Central Middle School
- Gail Hawkins – Principal Mentor – T.S. Cooper Elementary

4. RESIGNATION

- Odessa Williams – EC Teacher – Gates County High School

5. SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Ashley Forsythe – non-certified
- Temperence Bryant – non-certified
- Tiffaney Chamblee – non-certified
- Monique Saunders – non-certified

6. ATHLETIC COACH

- Amber Harrell – GCHS Varsity Softball Head Coach

7. VOLUNTEERS

- Angelina Arnold – Buckland Elementary
- Denise Lavine – Buckland Elementary
- Frank Buxton – T.S. Cooper Elementary

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular January session will be held at the Central Office on Monday, January 7, 2019, with closed session beginning at 3:00 p.m., and open session at 4:00 p.m.
- The Board plans to attend the Lions Club Christmas Parade on December 8th, 2018.

- Mr. Byrum made a motion to approve \$5.00 per employee to be used for holiday staff appreciation celebrations in each of the schools and departments. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 5:17 p.m.