

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights  
February 3, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 3, 2020, at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum and Mrs. Sallie Ryan. Mrs. Claire Whitehurst was absent due to illness.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. The board members entered into closed session at 4:02 p.m.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 5:28 p.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.

Mrs. Lola Rountree, Director of Testing/Accountability, recognized Mrs. Joan Bundy, Guidance Counselor at Gates County High and Mrs. Susan Brown, teacher at Gates County High, for renewing their National Boards Certification.

Mrs. Amber Buxton, Principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary, provided information regarding the NC Check In 2. The Istation Diagnostic Reflection showed an upward trend in all student groups. Mrs. Buxton shared that teachers have been doing targeted small group work with each child, based on their areas of need. This information showed that the greatest opportunities for improvement continue to be in comprehension and vocabulary. To combat this, they are doing small group pull out tutoring two days a week, and whole group work on these skills as well. She provided her plans going forth, to continue to monitor the data, and adjust accordingly, to insure each child is given the tools necessary for success. Mrs. Buxton shared that the 5<sup>th</sup> grade has shown the most growth, and she asked Mrs. Mary Hobbs and Mrs. Lovie Roscoe, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teachers, to share their strategies. They shared that they have utilized flexible grouping to allow students more individual instruction time and this has worked well. They both stressed the importance of having one to one conversations with the students, to allow their input. Mrs. Buxton feels confident that T.S. Cooper Elementary students will show growth this year.

Dr. Paula Simpson, School Nutrition Director, had provided a report to the board prior to the meeting. This report compared the total number of meals served in January, 2019 and January, 2020. The report showed there has been an increase at some of the schools. Mr. Leslie Byrum noted that he had heard positive comments about the change in menus. She also provided a financial report.

Dr. Williams recognized Mrs. Crystal Harden, Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives with the Morehead Planetarium and Science Center. Mrs. Harden shared that Gates County, through the Saunders Science Scholars Program, has received a \$500,000 donation from Steve Butts and Addie Miller that will allow this program to continue until 2026. The \$500,000 donation includes an expansion of the program to select an additional fifteen 6th grade students to participate in Saunders Science Scholars. Also, Elizabeth City State University, the Sloan Foundation and GlaxoSmithKline will be partnering with the Saunders Science Scholars Program to provide summer science camps for our schools for two years, and will provide funding to employ teachers and high school students to help with the camps. The Board is very appreciative of the generosity, and the dedication of Mrs. Harden and Mr. Benjamin Saunders, Jr.

Dr. Williams shared that Deja Gainey, Gates County High School graduate and former Student Advisor to the Board, was awarded a 2020 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship, following a highly competitive nationwide contest. The Rangel Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. We are very proud of Ms. Gainey.

Dr. Williams presented 2018-2019 certificates from the North Carolina School Boards Association Academy for School Boardmanship to Leslie Byrum, Scholars Circle, Glendale Boone, Silver Award and Sallie Ryan, Certificate of Merit. Congratulations to these board members for their continued effort in pursuing school board training.

During the Report from the Board, Mrs. Ryan noted that she has been working with the Census Committee to inform the schools and community about the upcoming census. Mr. Byrum noted that it is very important that the census numbers are correct, since funding is based on these numbers. Mr. Felton noted that we are so close now to completion at Central Middle School. He is very pleased with how the project has progressed, even with the problems that we have encountered.

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, was unable to provide reports due to the fact that the month just ended Friday. She will provide to the board at a later date.

Out-of-District Request for 2019-2020 approved:

- Trey & Blake Kitchen to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan County Schools

Out-of-District Request for 2020-2021 approved:

- Ava Grace Nelson to attend Buckland Elementary and Christopher and Thomas Nelson to attend Gates County High. Approval is contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools

## **Unfinished Business:**

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve:

- Policy 3228-7323 - Use of Personal Technology to Conduct Business,
- Policy 7360-8225 - Crowdfunding on Behalf of the School System with the maximum amount for principal approval set at \$500.00, Above \$500.00 to \$2000.00 will require Superintendent approval, and anything above \$2000.00 will require Board Approval. Parental permission for any student videos and pictures must be on file.
- Table Policy 3620 – Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations for further discussion

Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ray Felton requested that Change orders be added to the Consent Agenda as Item #20, and Mrs. Sallie Ryan requested that the minutes from the January 7, 2020 meeting be amended to read that she will adopt Gatesville Elementary this semester and Mr. Leslie Byrum will adopt Gates County High.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. January 6, 2020 Regular Session Minutes
2. Records Retention and Disposition Schedule
3. Policy 4240-7312 – Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
4. T.S. Cooper Elementary School Donations exceeding \$500.00
5. New Beginnings Daycare Fundraisers
6. Substitute EC Driver Contract
7. NCDPI School Safety Training Grant
8. \$8,000.00 Donation
9. \$2,000.00 Donation
10. \$15,000.00 Donation
11. Pre-K Fundraiser
12. GCHS BETA Overnight Trip
13. Donation from Athletic Booster Club to GCHS
14. GCHS Winter Guard Out-of-State Competitions
15. GCHS Winter Guard Fundraiser
16. Economic Improvement Council Lease for Head Start
17. Budget Amendment 1 – Local Fund 8
18. Budget Amendment 1 – State Public School Fund
19. GCHS Donation from America’s Farmers Grow Communities
20. Central Middle School Construction Change Orders

## **New Business:**

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve:

- The use of Fund Balance to hire a Full-time Teacher Assistant, for instructional purposes, at T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- The use of Fund Balance to provide tutoring services at the elementary schools, with the focus on T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Fill vacancy in the finance department, and this position will also assume the responsibilities of the School Nutrition Assistant

Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to issue credit cards to Board Members to be used for travel. The cards will remain in the superintendent's office until needed. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to nominate Mr. Leslie Byrum to serve on the 2020 NCSBA Legislative Committee. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. Chairman Felton thanked Mr. Byrum for his willingness to serve.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the Donor's Choice Grant for Buckland Elementary School. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, requested the mileage reimbursement rate be adjusted to comply with State Policy. The adjustment will be from 58 cents per mile to 57.5 cents per mile for trips not exceeding 100 miles and 33 cents per mile for trips that exceed 100 miles. Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve this request. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Vote taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. **NEW HIRES**

- Susan StaMaria – Custodian – T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Debra Smith – Accounting Technician – Central Office
- Charlene Barnes – Part-time Teacher Assistant – New Beginnings Daycare
- Glenn Askew – Substitute Custodian
- Heather Clifton – School Nutrition Assistant – Central Middle
- Kaila Ballard – Learning Support Assistant – T.S. Cooper Elementary

2. **TRANSFERS**

- Kendrick Harrison – from Part-time Custodian to Laborer – Maintenance Department
- Deanna Heibrun – School Nutrition – from Gatesville Elementary to Gates County High
- Lekisha Holley – Learning Support Assistant – Gatesville Elementary

3. **SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS**

- Earlene Hayes – New Beginnings Daycare
- Margie Asbell

4. **VOLUNTEERS**

- Wanda Carter – Gatesville Elementary
- Mary Hall – Gatesville Elementary
- Cy Bazemore – Gatesville Elementary

5. **INTERNSHIP**

- Carson Barnhill – Gatesville Elementary

6. **COMMUNITY CENTER SCOREKEEPER**

- William Knight

7. **RESIGNATIONS**

- Shanese Eaton – Part-time Teacher Assistant – New Beginnings Daycare

8. **REASSIGNMENTS**

- Tony Coley from principal at Central Middle School to Assistant Principal at Gates County High
- Kelly Eure – from Assistant Principal at Central Middle to Interim Principal at Central Middle

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- Ms. Cathy Riddick, Clerk to the Board, made a request to have regular session board meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, to allow time for the finance department to prepare financial reports for the board. Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to approve this request. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.
- The March Regular Session Meeting will be held on Monday, March 9, 2020 at Buckland Elementary School. Closed Session will begin at 4:00 p.m. and Open Session at 5:00 p.m.
- Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to send a letter to our representatives requesting that Gates County be allowed to operate on a flex calendar schedule with the first semester ending prior to winter break. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was some discussion. Vote taken, and motion passed unanimously.
- Special Called Budget Meeting to be held on February 25, 2020 at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office, beginning at 9:00 a.m. Closed session will be held immediately following the meeting. Other items to be discussed as needed.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to go out of open session and re-enter closed session. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned to closed session at 7:11 p.m.

The board members re-entered open session at 7:35 p.m., to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.