

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
February 4, 2021

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Thursday, February 4, 2021 through a remote meeting using the Zoom format. This was agreed to by the board members in order to follow COVID safety guidelines. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mrs. Sallie Ryan and Mrs. Amanda Pacitto. Mr. Leslie Byrum joined the meeting after the closed session.

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. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously. Board Members entered into closed session at 9:03 a.m.

Chairman Felton reconvened open session at 10:00 a.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Sallie Ryan, and Mrs. Amanda Pacitto.

Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the amended agenda with the addition of Consent Agenda Item No. Eight – Change in schedule for schools to make the Early Release Day on February 10, 2021, a full day for students. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

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

There were no Public Comments.

Saunders Science Program Update: Crystal Harden, Director of Program and Inclusion Initiatives – Morehead Planetarium and Science Center

Mrs. Harden stated that due to the pandemic last March, they had to regroup. They tried to adapt to virtual meetings, but found it difficult with lack of infrastructure in the county. They were able to provide computers, hotspots and science kits through donations provided by the Gates County Community Partnership. Through a generous donation from the benefactor of the Saunders Science Program last year, they were able to expand the program by adding fifteen more families. Applications were submitted, and interviews were conducted in August and September, 2020. In October, 2020, they returned to face-to-face meetings, first at Merchants Millpond, and then at Central Middle School's new gym. These meetings are being held on the second Saturday of each month, and will continue thru May. All COVID safety protocols are being followed, and as of now only students can attend. Parents are not able to attend at this time, to keep the numbers down, and provide a safe learning environment. The Morehead Planetarium and Science Center and the Gates County Community Partnership are donating science supplies, valued at approximately \$13,000, to all five schools. Professional development is being offered to the teachers on March 8, 2021 to help them utilize these supplies. There will be a Benjamin Saunders, Sr. Community Day on June 12, 2021, and summer camp programs will be offered in June and July 2021. The board members thanked Mrs. Harden for her presentation, and for what this program is providing for Gates County students.

2019-2020 Audit Report - Donna Winborne, CPA

Mrs. Winborne gave a brief report regarding the Audit Report for fiscal year ending June 30, 2020. She stated that there were no significant problems and has provided an unmodified opinion, which is the highest opinion that can be received. There were some problems with missing signed concussion forms for the athletes at Central Middle. However, the school is now using a new software program to help with collection of forms. Mrs. Winborne thanked Mrs. Pittman and the finance department for doing a great job.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Barry Williams

- ✓ I am pleased to report that all Gates County Schools are open for face-to-face instruction and continuing to provide virtual/remote instruction. The elementary schools are operating under Plan A attending four days per week and the high school and middle school are operating under Plan B with two cohorts each attending 2 days per week. Due to winter weather, today is the first day back for cohort B. We have had a good reopening of schools with a few COVID-19 related issues. As I assisted with taking temperatures and attestation tickets, I talked to many parents and students who were very happy to be back in school!
- ✓ Tuesday, February 2, 2021, Governor Cooper, NCDHHS and the State Superintendent held a news conference recommending that all school districts provide in-person learning with virtual/remote remaining an option. Gates County Schools is already meeting this recommendation under Plans A and B.
- ✓ Congratulations to Mr. Hayes and the Gates County High School staff and students for being honored as a TOP TEN SCHOOL DISTRICT HIGHEST GRADUATION RATE in the state, for achieving an OUTSTANDING GRADUATION RATE OF 94.1%.
- ✓ Today is the first day of winter athletics, which this year consists of Football, Basketball and Soccer. Athletics is operating under the guidelines of the NCHSAA.
- ✓ Finally, as we continue to be in the COVID-19 pandemic, I would like to remind our staff, students and parents that if you are sick or experiencing COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home!

Board Report

All the board members thanked Mr. Hayes for a job well done on the graduation rate. They are excited to have the students back in the schools

Finance Report

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, gave the Financial Report and provided an update on New Beginnings Daycare and Out-of-District Tuition. We are on target with the budget.

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

- Amoq Huggins to attend Buckland Elementary
- James Hobbs to attend Gatesville Elementary

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. January 11, 2021 Regular Session Minutes
2. January 17, 2021 Special Called Session Minutes
3. Central Middle School Construction Project Change Order No. 53
4. Central Middle School Construction Project Change Order No. 54
5. Resolution Regarding Policy 2200 – Election of Officers/Organization of Board
6. Sale of CTE Surplus Equipment
7. Request to Transfer Child Nutrition Loan Funds Back to Local Fund
8. Change in Schedule – Early Release Day on February 10, 2021 changed to full day for students

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. NEW HIRES

- Stephen Riddick – Bus Driver – replacing Vernon Brinkley
- Darlene Parkinson – School Nutrition – T.S. Cooper Elementary replacing Carla Hendrix
- Yolanda Rushin – School Nutrition – Central Middle – replacing Cynthia Dale Ruffin
- Jennifer Jones – School Nutrition – Gatesville Elementary – replacing Ivory Mitchell

2. TRANSFER

- April Coen – EC Teacher – transfer from T.S. Cooper Elementary to Gates County High

3. LEAVE REQUEST

- Alegrea Boone – GCHS – 1-26-2021 to 2-26-2021

4. SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

- Avis Holley

5. VOLUNTEER

- Jonathan Jones

6. 2020-2021 SHPP (Senior Health Insurance Information Program Contract

- Renee Nicholson

7. RESIGNATION

- Iris Lassiter – Bus Driver

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular March session will be held on Monday, March 8, 2021. 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.
- The budget retreat meeting will be held in February at the Historic Courthouse. Date will be determined once availability is confirmed with the county manager. Tentative dates are February 23rd, 24th, and 25th, 2021.
- Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to request a partial refund of NCSBA Annual Conference registration fees, due to connectivity issues during the sessions. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

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 passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Resolution Attached

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
GATES COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, the Board of Education held an organizational meeting pursuant to Policy Code: 2200 ELECTION OF OFFICERS/ORGANIZATION OF BOARD on December 14, 2020, at which time the current Chair and Vice-Chair were elected; and

WHEREAS, the Board took action to amend Policy Code: 2200 ELECTION OF OFFICERS/ ORGANIZATION OF BOARD on January 11, 2021 to eliminate the limitation on the number of terms of office that an officer(s) could hold;

The Board wishes to ratify, approve, and confirm all actions of the Board taken since December 14 through January 11, 2021.

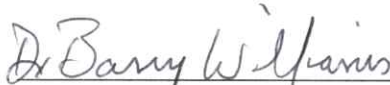
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Gates County Board of Education hereby approves, confirms, and ratifies all actions taken by the Board from the December 14, 2020 meeting through the present time, and also such actions shall be of full force and effect.

Adopted this 4th day of February, 2021.



 Ray Felton, Chairman

ATTEST:



 Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent and
 Secretary to the Board