

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights  
March 4, 2019

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 4, 2019, at Buckland Elementary School. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to enter into closed session at 4:05 p.m., and Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion 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). There was no discussion and the motion carried.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 5:00 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 agenda. 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 Jordan Mitchell and Daijha Blount.

During Public Comments, Ms. Lulu Eure, Director of the Community Center, spoke about the request, made at the Budget Retreat Meeting on February 25, 2019, to begin charging an indirect cost to the community center for payroll and purchase order processing. Since that meeting Ms. Eure has discovered repairs that need to be made to the community center, and feels having to pay the indirect cost could put additional strain on her budget. She would like to clarify whether the community center is in fact part of the school system, or a completely separate entity. She noted that the high school uses the center's facilities for athletics, and feels this should be taken into consideration. The board thanked Ms. Eure for her comments.

Kris Khan spoke about a mentoring program through New Direction, part of Academy Community Child Development, Inc. They work with youth that are struggling with delinquent behavior. Their program targets male and female youth ages 10-17 that are court involved, diverted, delinquent, undisciplined and uncontrollable at home or school. The program engages the parents and families of the students to participate in the program activities. They provide a safe environment for these students after school, when parental supervision is often non-existent. They are currently offering this program in Hertford County. There is no cost to Gates County Schools, but they would like for the Board of Education to be informed, and would like to work with Gates County students. The board thanked Mr. Khan for his comments.

Benjamin Saunders, Jr., Brian Rountree and Michael Gatling spoke on behalf of the Gates County Community Partnership. Mr. Sherley Jones, Jr. is also a director of the partnership, but was unable to attend. Mr. Saunders, Mr. Rountree and Mr. Gatling gave information about their 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt Non-Profit Public Charity. Their mission is to inspire and increase community engagement by the citizens of Gates County, for the educational and social development of its youth. They are participating in mentoring throughout the county. They have donated copy paper to Gates County High School and are organizing an Alumni Charity Basketball Expo for Saturday, April 20, 2019 at the high school. Each of these men graduated from Gates County High School, and look forward to giving back to their community. They want to inspire other graduates to give back also. They plan to work with the community to identify educational needs and funding gaps, and their goal is to meet these needs whenever possible. The board thanked them for their efforts to support our schools and students.

Student Advisors Ben Hawkins, Jordan Mitchell and Daijha Blount presented a powerpoint with happenings at the schools, and brought along a special guest, Mr. Panda Bear.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams asked Mrs. Hawkins, Principal at Buckland Elementary, to present her academic report. Mrs. Hawkins showed a video that the students had put together highlighting nursery rhymes and fairy tales. The students showed their skills in working with green screens. They drew pictures and did the voice over for the video. Mrs. Laura Dickerson, Media Specialist, used funds she had been awarded through a Bright Ideas Grant from Roanoke Electric, to provide materials for this project.

Dr. Williams asked Mrs. Sallie Ryan and Mrs. Tammy Boone to share information from the North Carolina School Board Association 2019 Equity NC Event they both attended in February. This is the first time this event has been held in North Carolina. Both Mrs. Ryan and Mrs. Boone were very impressed with the conference. The event was held for public school leaders, and provided thought-provoking training and conversation about closing gaps for all students. They participated in poverty simulations and exercises in adverse childhood experiences, to help better understand what our students face each and every day. Information was provided, at the event, to help create a school culture that works for every student. Mrs. Boone provided data that detailed where Gates County students rank academically.

During the Report from the Board, Mr. Felton shared that construction is moving along at Central Middle School. He also noted that he and Dr. Williams attended a meeting with State Superintendent Mark Johnson, and other education leaders across the state, where Mr. Johnson shared his vision for North Carolina schools. Mr. Felton hopes that our legislature will provide funds to make this vision a reality. Other board members commented on various events they had attended at the schools, and Mrs. Whitehurst noted that she will be attending the North Carolina School Board Association Spring Law Conference this week in Raleigh.

Dr. Williams approved the following out-of-district requests for the remainder of the 2018-2019 school year:

- Khloe Watson to attend Buckland Elementary School
- Patrick Peterson to attend Central Middle, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Elizabeth City/Pasquotank Schools

Dr. Williams approved the following out-of-district requests for the 2019-2020 school year:

- Mary Grace Baker to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School and James Baker to attend Central Middle School, contingent upon release from Perquimans County Schools
- Evelina Grant to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Reese Brantley Jernigan to attend Gatesville Elementary School

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

There was no Unfinished Business.

The following Consent Agenda Items were presented for approval:

1. Approval of Minutes – February 4, 2019 Regular Session
2. New Beginnings Daycare T-Shirt Fundraiser
3. Auditor Contract with Donna H. Winborne, CPA, PC
4. T.S. Cooper Elementary Out-of-State Field Trip to Virginia Beach, VA
5. 2019-2020 Draft School Calendar
6. Request to transfer funds from Local Expense Fund No. 2 to Child Nutrition Fund No. 5
7. Request to charge Indirect Cost to the Community Center
8. New Beginnings Daycare Fundraisers
9. Buckland Elementary Jr. Beta Club Fundraiser
10. Budget Amendment No. 7 – State Funds
11. Budget Amendment No. 3 – Federal Funds
12. Budget Amendment No. 5 – Capital Outlay Fund
13. Budget Amendment No. 4 – Local Fund No. 8
14. GCHS Ducks Unlimited Club Fundraiser
15. GCHS Robotics Club Overnight Field Trips to Holly Springs, NC and Pembroke, NC
16. GCHS Robotics Club Fundraiser
17. 2019-2020 Budget Presentation to County Commissioners
18. Servicemaster Contract for Custodial Services

Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve Items One through Eighteen on the Consent Agenda. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. The voting is as follows:

	Boone	Byrum	Felton	Ryan	Whitehurst
Items #1 – 5	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Item #6	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Item #7	Yes	No	No	No	Yes
Items #8-18	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Mr. Byrum noted that he felt that Item #7 – Request for Indirect Cost to the Community Center – was creating a double-dipping situation with county funds. Mr. Felton noted that he felt with Item #6- Request to transfer funds from Local Expense Fund No. 2 to Child Nutrition Fund No 5 – there was not sufficient notice given to the board.

All items were approved, with the exception of Item #7 – Request for Approval of Indirect Cost Charge to the Community Center.

There was no New Business.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. NEW HIRES

- Jessica Jacobs – Exceptional Children’s Teacher at Gates County High replacing Odessa Williams
- Carol Drewry – Part-time Teacher Assistant – New Beginnings Daycare - replacing Kimberly Johnson
- Shaunda Vaughan – Math Teacher at Central Middle School replacing Megan Somers
- David Adkins, II – Security for Gates County Schools’ Athletic Games

2. TUTORS FOR RETAINED STUDENTS

Buckland Elementary

- Eboni Branch
- Kristal Brooks
- Kirby-lynn Parker

T.S. Cooper Elementary

- Janice Askew
- Lovie Roscoe
- Iva Boone
- Mary Hobbs

Gatesville Elementary

- Sherry Jones
- Amanda Dillard
- Hannah Szymanik

3. TUTORS FOR AFTER SCHOOL HOURS

T.S. Cooper Elementary

- Jennifer Miller
- Shirley Greene
- Kristi Steiner-Winn
- Iben Bagues

Gatesville Elementary

- Lori Lolie
- Jessica Harrell

4. TUTORS FOR IN-SCHOOL TUTORING

Gatesville Elementary

- Lou Riddick
- Kathy Byrum

5. SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Susan Baker
- Carolyn Hembry

6. ATHLETIC COACHES

- Kristal Brooks – CMS Assistant Track Coach – replacing Hope Melton
- Lauren Belch – CMS Head Softball Coach – replacing Megan Somers
- Leslie Wright – GCHS Asst. Track & Field Coach – replacing Aaron Crofut

7. REGULAR BUS DRIVER

- Virginia Kindley – replacing Penny Pittman

8. SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER

- Stephanie Pierce

9. VOLUNTEER

- Michael Manley – Boys Basketball Coach at Gates County High School

10. RETIREMENT (Effective 6-30-2019)

- Phillipa Smith – GCHS EC Teacher
- Margie Asbell – Buckland Elementary Teacher Assistant

11. RESIGNATIONS

- Melanie Blakley – GCHS Teacher
- Jennifer Odom – Gatesville Elementary Bus Driver

12. ATHLETIC RESIGNATIONS

- Aaron Crofut – GCHS Asst. Track/Field Coach
- Shawn Thomas – GCHS Soccer & Football Coach

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular April session will be held at Gates County High School on Monday, April 1, 2019, with closed session beginning at 4:00 p.m., and open session at 5:00 p.m. *At a later date after the board meeting, the location and time were changed to the Central Office, with closed session beginning at 3:00 p.m. and open session at 4:00 p.m.*
- Mrs. Whitehurst will attend the NCSBA Spring Law Conference March 7-8, 2019

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

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 6:26 p.m.