

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
March 8, 2021

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 8, 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 9:00 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum Mrs. Sallie Ryan and Mrs. Amanda Pacitto.

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). Mr. Leslie Byrum 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 9:02 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 agenda with any amendments coming forth in session. Mrs. Glendale Boone 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.

Superintendent's Report – Dr. Barry Williams

NNDCC

We received a certified letter and Naval contract this week from the Secretary of the Navy, approving my request to establish a Navy National Defense Cadet Corps (NNDCC) unit at Gates County High School. We will offer the program this fall - August 2021. Additional good news, a program in South Carolina has dissolved.

Friday Football

Good attendance. We can accept a few more fans!

Food Concessions

Crafted concession guidelines.

With New NCDHHS Guidance, State Board Urges Reopening All Schools – The State Board of Education (SBE) at its monthly meeting held March 3-4 acknowledged almost one year had passed since schools closed their buildings due to COVID-19.

The governor wants to keep Plan C and the state board wants to move forward and dissolve Plan C school districts.

State Senate Fails To Override Veto Of SB 37 But May Try Again – Members of the NC Senate failed on Monday night to override the Governor’s veto of a bill that would have required school districts to offer some type of in-person learning for students.

***SB 37 requires local school boards to provide:**

- ✓ An in-person Plan A option for ALL students who have an IEP or a 504 Plan
- ✓ An in-person Plan A or Plan B option for all other students in grades K-12 (boards may opt for all Plan A, all Plan B, or a combination thereof)
- ✓ A remote option for families that wish to have this option
- ✓ Reasonable work accommodations be provided for certain classroom teachers in accordance with the StrongSchoolsNC Toolkit
- ✓ Implementation on the first workday that occurs 15 days after becoming law
- ✓ **With the hard work of engineering and designing our Plan(s), Gates County Schools is doing well!**

New COVID-19 Relief Bill

The week kicked off with House Republicans filing a bill that would provide \$1.7 billion in COVID-19 relief. In just three days [HB 196: 2021 COVID-19 Response & Relief](#) (primary sponsors: Representatives John Faircloth, R-Guilford; Dana Bumgardner, R-Gaston; Kyle Hall, R-Rockingham; Larry Strickland, R-Harnett) sped through committee hearings, unanimously passed both chambers, and landed on the Governor’s desk. The bill allocates \$145.3 million for K-12 public education from the 10% DPI reserve of the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund II (ESSER II), including:

- \$40 million reserve for in-person summer programs to address learning loss ([HB 82](#))
- \$26 million reserve to address COVID-19 related needs in public school units
- \$12 million to contract with Voyager Sopris Learning, Inc. to improve student literacy
- Up to \$10 million to bring public school units up to \$180.00 per pupil in ESSER II funds
- \$10 million for additional physical and mental health support services for students
- \$10 million for federal school nutrition programs
- \$10 million to improve the cybersecurity infrastructure of public schools
- \$15 million for extended learning and integrated student support for at-risk students

Presentation by Lisa Ramos with Chartwell Company

Mrs. Ramos provided information about her company, which is a Food Service Management Program. Their focus is establishing a partnership with the school system to offer more food choices and engage the students in making healthy choices, and increasing participation in the school lunch program. They train existing staff in the preparation of food. The board had several questions for Mrs. Ramos regarding equipment, deadline for decision, contract ect.

Board Report

Board members complimented the schools, especially for the homecoming ceremony at the football game Friday night. Mrs. Pacitto gave a shout-out to National Women’s Day. Mrs. Ryan noted that board members had attended a webinar regarding procedures for Open Meetings.

Financial 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:

- Colten Takach to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Requests for 2021-2022:

- Kaiden Anne and Addison Brooke Riddick released to attend Edenton/Chowan Schools, contingent upon acceptance by Edenton/Chowan
- Ava Grace Nelson to attend Buckland Elementary, Christopher and Thomas Nelson to attend Gates County High, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County School
- Blaid Denson and Lillian Roberts to attend Buckland Elementary
- Mary Grace Baker to attend Central Middle and James Baker to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Perquimans County Schools
- Victor Rountree to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan County Schools

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. February 4, 2021 Regular Session Minutes
2. February 25, 2021 Special Called Budget Session Minutes
3. Audit Contract with Donna Winborne, CPA for the Fiscal Year Ending 2021
4. Revised 2020-2021 School Calendar
5. Partnership with Integrated Family Services
6. Gatesville Elementary Reading for Education Fundraiser
7. T.S. Cooper Elementary On-Line SchoolStore Fundraiser
8. New Beginnings Daycare Fundraiser with Midland Fund Raising
9. Budget Amendment No. 4 – State Funds
10. Budget Amendment No. 2 – Local Fund No. 2
11. Budget Amendment No. 1 – Federal Fund
12. Budget Amendment No. 1 – New Beginnings Daycare
13. Budget Amendment No. 4 – Local Fund No. 8
14. Exceptional Children’s Wooden Gates County-OPOLY Game Raffle Fundraiser

Mrs. Sallie Ryan requested an Exceptional Children’s Raffle Fundraiser be added to the Consent Agenda. She then made a motion to approve Items One through Fourteen on the agenda. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

New Business

- Distribution of Gates County Council PTA Funds
Motion by Mr. Leslie Byrum to divide funds between all five school libraries
Second by Mrs. Glendale Boone. Motion passed unanimously
- Committee to research Chartwell Food Management Company – Ray Felton & Sallie Ryan

The following personnel items were approved;

1. NEW HIRES

- Leslie Wolfrey – Central Middle Asst. Girls Basketball Coach
- Ashley Parker – Non-Certified Substitute Teacher
- Kelsey de Medeiros – Gatesville Elementary School Nutrition Manager
- Douglas Smith – Central Middle Head Baseball Coach

2. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS

- Avis Holley – Buckland Elementary – Replacing Lauren Bright while out on leave
- Devin Riddick – Gatesville Elementary – Replacing Ashley Barrow who resigned as of 03/05/2021

3. VOLUNTEERS

- LeAnn Tyler – Buckland Elementary
- Erin Riddick – T.S. Cooper Elementary
- O’Nealia Silvers – Gates County High School
- Nichole Eure – Buckland/Gates County High School
- Jady Bond – Gates County High School Athletics

4. TUTORS

Buckland Elementary

- Susan Bazemore
- Anita Winn
- Carol Wartian
- Eboni Copeland-McNair
- Laurie Morse
- Ebony Branch
- Elaine Vaughan

Gatesville Elementary

- Hannah Szymanik
- Felisha Walton
- Devin Riddick
- Anna Seaborn
- Sherry Jones
- Aretha Ruffin
- Lori Lolie

- Jessica Harrell
- Lakisha Holley
- Geannine Chlomoudis
- Robin Boone
- Amanda Dillard

T.S. Cooper Elementary

- Jean Nistler
- Ken Moors
- Mary Alexa Chambers
- Lauren Smith
- Shirley Green
- Mary Hobbs

Central Middle

- Nekia Williams
- Shaunda Vaughan
- Christina Hutchinson
- Douglas Smith
- Erica Manglona
- Stacey Bisignano
- Deirdre House
- Joshua Childers
- Renee Nowell
- Teresa White
- Katelyn Collins

Gates County High

- Lisa Perry
- Karen Greene
- Dawn Perry
- Catherine Baker
- Megan Hudson
- Renee Kittrell
- Graylen Boone
- Rachel Badgett
- Barry Seebo
- Crystal Hawks
- Amy Cooper
- Susan Brown
- Nina Boyce

- Whitney Farmer

5. EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN TUTORS

Gatesville Elementary

- Amanda Dillard
- Sherry Jones
- Lekisha Holley
- Robin H. Boone
- Lori Ward

Central Middle

- Nekia Williams
- Renee Nowell
- Benecia Spivey
- Teresa White

T.S. Cooper Elementary

- Shannon Parker

6. GOLF COACHES – GATES COUNTY HIGH

- Jacob Harrell – 3/01/2021 – 3/30/2021
- Lauren Belch – 3/31/2021 – 4/29/2021

7. RETIREMENT

- Cathy Riddick – Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent/Clerk to the Board – Effective Date 7-1-2021

8. RESIGNATIONS

- Ashley Barrow – Gatesville Elementary Teacher – Effective: 03/05/2021
- Beverly Knight – T.S. Cooper Elementary EC Teacher Assistant – Effective: 02/26/2021
- Kristal Brooks – Central Middle Track Assistant Coach – Effective: 02/22/2021
- Mark Pierce – Central Middle Assistant Baseball Coach – Effective: 03/01/2021
- Terry Edwards – Central Middle Head Baseball Coach
- Stephen Riddick – Gatesville Elementary Bus Driver – Effective: 03/11/2021

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular April session will be held on Monday, April 12, 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.

Mrs. Sallie Ryan 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 11:09 a.m.