

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
May 11, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2020, through a remote meeting using the Zoom format. This was agreed to by the board members in order to comply with the Governor's Order regarding the Coronavirus Pandemic. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, and Mrs. Claire Whitehurst. Mrs. Sallie Ryan joined the meeting later during 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). Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously with board members present. The board entered closed session at 9:05 a.m.

The board reconvened open session at 10:07 a.m. with all board members present. Mrs. Ryan had joined the closed session meeting at 9:18 a.m.

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

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

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams asked for a moment of silence in loving memory of AJ Foster. He then presented the following information:

Legislative Update – Two bills were signed off by the Governor on May 4, 2020. The Funding piece is located in HB 1043 and the Policy Changes are in SB704. He provided information from a NCASA PowerPoint that condenses the House/Senate COVID-19 bills:

- State and federal funding mechanisms with flow charts and allocation pockets
- Waivers and policy changes
- Governmental immunity
- Continuity of instruction through remote learning
- Calendar requirements with school district opening dates for students August 17, 2020, and a closing date no later than June 11, 2021.

**The Power Point is on the district webpage.

Appreciation Week

Dr. Williams recognized our teachers, nurses and principals over the past few weeks, to show appreciation for all that they do. He delivered gifts to employees in attendance at the schools and departments.

Bus Routes – Dr. Williams has ridden the bus routes delivering meals to students. He stated that all have been very appreciative of the meals. He noted that bus drivers, cafeteria workers and custodians are appreciative of the bonus checks they have received for working on the front lines, and he feels it has lifted the morale of these essential employees, who rarely get noticed.

Wifi on Buses - On Tuesday May 5, 2020 a plan was approved to deploy additional buses to several counties equipped to offer Wi-Fi hot spots in underserved areas. The devices will be delivered sometime this week. Once installed, buses will be placed at the locations listed below. Please note these are the starting locations and subject to change. We will keep the community updated of any changes. With input from the Director of Technology Mr. John Smith & Director of Transportation Mr. Ron Ward, Gates County Schools has decided to start with the following (4) locations:

- 1) Buckland Elementary School parking lot
- 2) T. S. Cooper Elementary School parking lot
- 3) Gatesville Elementary School parking lot
- 4) Central Middle School parking lot

School Reentry

It was easy to close schools, but reopening schools will be extremely challenging. We need a framework for the principals to operationalize the school day. Social distancing will change the culture of the school. We hug to show security, love and hope for our children to be active learners. The areas listed below should be the guiding light for discussions, planning, recommendations for operational changes, improvements, and adjustments associated with preparing Gates County Schools to reopen, once authorized to do so. This will be accomplished with guidance from the state, DHHS, and the Board of Education. Dr. Williams and other superintendents across the state will have discussions with the Department of Public Instruction concerning the following:

- School Operations - Example include: Schools will have to examine every aspect of the school day—from classroom spaces to class schedules—and adjust to address new public-health guidance. Gaps in meal service and distribution plans should be assessed and strengthened. And as for transportation, schools need to devise plans that reflect physical-distancing protocols. All of this will have obvious implications for staffing and costs and is a budget line that Washington should help address.
- Whole Child Supports
- School Personnel
- Academics
- Distance Learning
- Financial Resources
- Legislative Actions

The big challenges going forth are: Health guidance and protocols for schools, social distancing at schools, and improvements to remote learning. The DPI Task Force will start receiving documents for review this week. From there, they will gather input and feedback to get students and teachers back in classrooms, as safely as possible; hopefully, this fall. More updates will follow:

In the Report from the Board, all the board members expressed sympathy for the Foster family and for Buckland Elementary where AJ attended. They also noted how proud they are of all our staff during these unprecedented times. They have stepped up to the challenge of continuing education and providing meals for our students. Mrs. Whitehurst gave a shout-out to several of our former Gates County High students that are graduating from college and pursuing careers.

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, had provided monthly reports to the board prior to the meeting. She noted that our budget is in good standing and we are on target and where we should be this time of the year. She provided projections for the School Nutrition Department and the New Beginnings Daycare. Revenue is up for School Nutrition, and hopefully will continue through the end of the school year. There are concerns about New Beginnings Daycare. Many parents have pulled their children out of the daycare, due to the pandemic, and therefore revenue is down. Mrs. Pittman is projecting a considerable loss through the end of the fiscal year. There are federal funds that will help, but the balance will need to come from local funds. She reported on the N.C. Department of Public Instruction Audit Determination for the School Nutrition Department. Corrective action has been put in place to address the audit findings, and NC DPI has approved our response. These procedures will hopefully eliminate future audit findings.

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

- Carson & Jason Forehand to attend Buckland Elementary
- Virginia Bracy to attend Gates County High
- Avery Hall to attend Central Middle and Makaylin Hall to attend Buckland Elementary. Approval is contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Logan Claverie released to attend Perquimans County Schools. Approval is contingent upon acceptance from Perquimans County
- Austin Warren released to attend Edenton/Chowan County Schools. Approval is contingent upon acceptance from Edenton/Chowan
- Perry Gene and Sarah Elizabeth Newbern to attend Gatesville Elementary. Approval is contingent upon release from Bertie County Schools
- Harley Lewis released to attend Edenton/Chowan County Schools. Approval is contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan
- Taylor Ward to attend Central Middle. Approval is contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan Schools
- Brendan Casper to attend Gates County High. Approval is contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools

- Kayla Rose White to attend Gates County High. Approval is contingent upon release from Northampton County Schools
- McKinley Stevens to attend Buckland Elementary
- Aubrey Ashley to attend Buckland Elementary
- Brynlee, Brystal and Bryce Stevens released to attend Edenton/Chowan County Schools. Approval is contingent upon acceptance from Edenton/Chowan
- Calleigh Williams to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary. Approval is contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Edenton/Chowan County Schools
- Grace & Logan Harders to attend Buckland Elementary. Approval is contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Olivia Long to attend Gatesville Elementary. Approval is contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools

Dr. Williams approved the following crowdfunding request (more than \$500.00 – less than \$2000.00):

- Buckland Elementary DonorsChoose - Ipads and Mechanical Pencils

There was no Unfinished Business.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. April 8, 2020 Regular Session Minutes
2. Policy 2302 – Remote Participation in Board Meetings
3. Policy 4230 – Communicable Diseases - Students
4. Policy 5050 – Emergency Closings
5. Policy 7053 – Teleworking
6. Policy 7560 – Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Certain Exempt Employees
7. Policy 7620 – Payroll Deductions
8. TEACCH Autism Program Contract
9. Central Middle School Construction Change Order #053
10. Budget Amendment No. 3 – Local Fund No. 2
11. Budget Amendment No. 2 – New Beginnings Daycare – Local Fund No. 6
12. Budget Amendment No. 3 - Local Fund No. 8
13. Budget Amendment No. 1 – Federal Grants Fund No. 3
14. Budget Amendment No. 4 – Local Fund No. 8

Under New Business regarding parent request to pro-rate tuition, due to school being cancelled: the board agreed that tuition payments will need to be paid in full through the end of the year. The board requested that research be done regarding policy for past due tuition payments.

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The June Regular Session Meeting will be held on Monday, June 8, 2020. 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.

At 10:39 a.m. Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to go out of the business session and re-enter the closed session. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Board Members re-convened the business session at 11:06 a.m. with the following board members present: Ray Felton, Glendale Boone, Leslie Byrum and Claire Whitehurst. Mrs. Ryan had left the meeting previously at 10:35 a.m.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

NEW HIRES

- Lauren Belch – Girl’s Head Varsity Volleyball Coach – Gates County High School

TRANSFERS – 2020-2021

Employee	Transfer From	Transfer To
Kaila Ballard	T.S. Cooper Elementary Learning Support Assistant	Central Middle Health/PE Teacher
Kelly Eure	Central Middle Interim Principal	Central Middle Principal

RETIREMENT

- Kim Kirby – Teacher – Gatesville Elementary
- Helen Smith – Teacher – Gatesville Elementary (Pre-K)
- Betty Perry – Teacher – Gatesville Elementary
- Robin Brown – Teacher – Gatesville Elementary
- Mae Rose – Teacher – Gatesville Elementary
- Susan Braatz – Teacher – Buckland Elementary

2020-2021 RENEWAL CONTRACTS

1 Year Teacher Contracts

Austin, Barbara	CMS
Baker, Catherine	GCHS
Barber, Marcus	CMS
Boone, Iva	TSC
Brown, Mary	TSC
Childers, Joshua	CMS

Clarke, Kimberly	GCHS
Coen, April	TSC
Collins, Katelyn	CMS
Copeland, Deborah	CMS
Dillard, Yolanda	GES
Evans, Crystal	CMS
Galzerano, Nikki	TSC
Harmon, Holley	CMS
Harrell, Amber	CMS
Hudgins, Hannah	GCHS
Jacobs, Jessica	CMS
Malak, Peter	GCHS
Manglona, Erica	CMS
Nowell, Renee	CMS
Riddick, Brenda	BES
Seebo, Barry	GCHS
Smith, Lauren	TSC
Stiltner, Stephen	GCHS
Vaughn, Shaunda	CMS

2 Year Teacher Contracts

Badgett, Rachel	GCHS
Belch, Lauren	GCHS
Blystone, Savannah	GCHS
Bogues, Iben	TSC
Boone, Alegra	GCHS
Boone, Graylen	GCHS
Bright, Lauren	BES
Brooks, Kristal	CMS
Boyce, Nina	GCHS
Dail, Jennifer	CMS
Dickerson, Laura	BES
Farmer, Whitney	CMS
Hall, Amy	BES
Harrell, Jacob	GCHS
Harrell, Jessica	GES
Hobbs, Whitney	GCHS
Hudson, Donald	GCHS
Hudson, Megan	GCHS
Huchinson, Christina	CMS

Kittrell, Renee	GCHS
Lee, Crystal	GES
Lee, Robert	CMS
Matthews, Brandon	GCHS
Melton, Hope	CMS
Moors, Kenneth	TSC
Newbern, Suzanne	GES
Parker, Brittany	BES
Perry, Janie	GCHS
Perry, Kimberly	GCHS
Perry, Lisa	GCHS
Pritchett, Meredith	GES
Rawls, Mona	GCHS
Roscoe, Lovie	TSC
Roth, Amy	TSC
Smith, Phillipa	GCHS
Szymanik, Hannah	GES
Townsend, Julia	CMS
White, Teresa	CMS
Williams, Odessa	GCHS
Wright, Leslie	TSC

2 Year Administrator Contracts

<u>Administrator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Beginning Date</u>	<u>Renewal Date</u>
Eure, Kelly	Principal	07-01-2020	06-30-2022

4 Year Administrator Contracts

<u>Administrator</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Beginning Date</u>	<u>Renewal Date</u>
Corrente, Scott	Asst. Princ.	07-01-2020	06-30-2024
Hawkins, Gail	Principal	07-01-2020	06-30-2024
Hayes, Jonathan	Principal	07-01-2020	06-30-2024
Wilson, Shawn	Principal	07-01-2020	06-30-2024

RESIGNATION

- Jennifer Miller – Teacher at T.S. Cooper Elementary

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.