

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
October 12, 2020

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, October 12, 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 9:02 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. Amanda Pacitto 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. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their name and their vote, and the motion carried unanimously. The board entered closed session at 9:05 a.m.

The board reconvened open session at 10:03 a.m. with all board members present.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to approve the revised agenda. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their name and their vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

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

During Public Comments Mrs. Ashley Horne made a request to re-open the community center and offer sports, utilizing the outdoor fields and gym. She is willing to work with Mrs. Lulu Eure, Director at the community center, to prepare a plan to do this safely. She also questioned where parents can view Plan A and Plan B. Dr. Williams responded that once approved by the board, these plans will be available for parents to review.

Mr. Felton noted that the board members had received a well-written letter from Catherine Harrell, prior to the meeting. Mrs. Harrell expressed her concerns with virtual learning and offered suggestions as to how to implement face-to-face learning.

Mr. Felton said the board had received numerous calls, emails, ect., from parents and members of the community, and wanted everyone to know that the board has heard their concerns.

Superintendent Report:

NCASA Potential Legislative/Policy Priorities for 2021

- **More COVID-19 Relief** – Accountability Waiver for 2020-21 + Additional Funding & Flexibility
- **Accountability Reform** – School Performance Grading System Changes + Redefine Low-Performing School
- **Leandro Response & Funding Increases**
- **Statewide School Bond Referendum**
- **K-3 Class Size Waiver or Reforms**

- **Educator Pay** – Realign Principal Salary Schedule with APs and Teachers + Increase Pay for All Groups of School Personnel (Phase in Statewide Minimum Pay for Classified Staff)
- **Educator & Staff Recruitment and Retention** – Enhance Teacher and Principal Pipelines
- **Broadband Expansion and School Technology Funding Increase and Regulatory Changes**
- **School Calendar Alignment with Community Colleges**
- **School Choice Reform** – Stop Automatic Funding Increases in Private School Vouchers + Enhance Accountability
- **Transportation Funding**

- **PLAN A Elementary Schools**

- Daily Class Schedule
- Sharing of the Plan
- Technology
- Opportunities to Provide Services for Students in Need:
- Commitment from Parents
- Timeframe

- **Lt Governor Dan Forest**

Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Forest tried unsuccessfully on Thursday to get the North Carolina State Board of Education to vote on allowing all schools the option of opening for full-time in-person instruction.

- **Dr. Kirk Peterson**

Request Chowan University's assistance in providing professional development for the teachers and administrators of Gates County Schools. We have determined that support and training in the following areas would greatly enhance our current instructional design:

- **Virtual Online Instruction**
- **Synchronous Virtual Online and Face-to-Face Instruction**
- **Asynchronous Teaching and Learning**
- **Opportunities/Access for Students Without Connectivity**

- **Merchants Millpond**

Steve Rogers called me and informed me he could allow the Millpond to serve as a hub for students who need internet services. He let me know he has contacted principals but hasn't gotten a response. I think this is as good idea and may be extremely helpful to parents and students who need connectivity.

- **Early Voting**

The Community Center will be used as the "Early Voting" voting site on Wednesday, October 14 through Saturday, October 31 including all weekends.

Schedule:

Access hours are as follows:

- Monday through Friday 7:30 am until 8:30 pm
- Saturdays 7:30 am until 4:00 pm

- Sundays 12:30 pm until 4:30 pm.

The Board of Elections will also be using the Gatesville Elementary School gym. This location will replace a smaller Election Day voting site.

Schedule:

- Monday, November 2
A professional cleaning company will clean the area & set up their equipment.
- Tuesday, November 3
Election Day hours are from 5:00 am to 8:30 pm
Gatesville Elementary School will not be providing Face-to-Face instruction but remote/virtual instruction will continue.
New Beginnings Daycare will remain open.
- Wednesday, November 4
The professional cleaning company will return and clean & pick up all equipment

Board Report:

Sallie Ryan:

- Parent Poll – Virtual vs. Face to Face
- Plan B developed by each school
- Visits to Perquimans County Schools
- Racial Equity Committee

Amanda Pacitto:

- Parents don't feel heard
- Trying to be voice of the parents
- Encourage parents to reach out to principals and teachers and continue to follow-up

Leslie Byrum:

- Thanked school system for allowing him to attend NCSBA Fall Law Conference
- Thanked Mrs. Catherine Harrell for her letter to the board
- Plan B needs to be approved – work on Plan A – need board work sessions
- Need one day a week for catching up – Teachers and Parents are overwhelmed

Glendale Boone:

- COVID Testing at New Hope Missionary Baptist Church
- Thanked everyone for their comments to the board
- Safety is first priority
- Thanked Board, Dr Williams, Mrs. Tammy Boone and all staff for their hard work

Ray Felton:

- Appreciate all comments to the board
- Looking forward to the students returning to school

- Always reach out to principals and teachers when you have a concern
- Very Appreciative of donations to the schools – especially for the donation made to Buckland by the A.J. Foster family

Mrs. Pittman had provided monthly reports to the board prior to the meeting, and we are on target.

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

- Avery & Noah Harris to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Hertford County

Unfinished Business

- 1) Purchase of Athletic Items for Central Middle – Tabled until the county can give us firm figures of what money is left

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. September 14, 2020 Regular Session Minutes
2. Buckland Donation Exceeding \$500.00
3. Carolina RehabWorks, Inc. contract
4. Gates County High Fundraisers
5. T.S. Cooper Elementary Fundraiser
6. T.S. Cooper Elementary Bookfair Fundraiser, Contactless Trunk or Treat and Red Ribbon Week
7. Central Middle School Cheerleading Fundraisers

New Business

1. Chromebooks for the schools – Bids were reviewed from sixteen vendors by Dr. Williams and John Smith, Director of Technology. Netcom Business Solutions, Inc. was chosen as the provider. Cost per unit - \$224 – total cost: \$98,012.00. Funds are coming from the COVID Relief Fund

Mrs. Boone made a motion to purchase the chromebooks from the chosen vendor. Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their name and vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. 2020-2021 Budget Resolution

Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve the 2020-2021 Budget Resolution. Mrs. Sallie Ryan seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their name and vote, and the motion passed unanimously.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. **PART-TIME TEACHER ASSISTANT**

- Amelia Foster - New Beginnings Daycare – Replacing Charlene Barnes – Effective: 9/23/2020

2. **TUTORS**

Buckland Elementary

- Elaine Vaughan – In-School
- Heather Boyd – Afterschool
- Regina Bracy – Afterschool
- Laurie Morse – Afterschool

T.S. Cooper Elementary

- Mary Hobbs – Afterschool
- Iben Bogues – Afterschool
- Lovie Roscoe – Afterschool
- Jeannie Boone - Afterschool

Gatesville Elementary

- Anna Seaborn-Pugh – Afterschool
- Hannah Szymanik – Afterschool
- Sherry Jones – Afterschool
- Jessica Harrell – Afterschool
- Ashley Barrow – Afterschool
- Geannie Chlomoudis - Afterschool

3. **RETIREMENT**

- Earl Ralph – Custodian – Gates County High – Effective: 12/21/2020

4. **RESIGNATIONS**

- Tracey Carr – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 9/10/2020
- Joyce Cutler – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 8/10/2020
- Annette Rian – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 8/10/2020
- David Edwards – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 8/5/2020
- Susan Parker – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 10/1/2020
- Wanda Harrell – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 10/2/2020
- Armental Crawford – Substitute Teacher – Effective Date: 10/5/2020

5. **REINSTATE STIPENDS FOR VOLLEYBALL AND CROSS COUNTRY COACHES AT GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL**

6. **HIRE PERMANENT PAYROLL SPECIALIST FOR FINANCE DEPARTMENT**

Other Business:

- The November Regular Session Meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, 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.
- The Virtual NCSBA Fall Law Conference was attended by Mr. Felton, Mr. Byrum and Mrs. Ryan. They thought the conference was very informative
- Board Members will attend the virtual NCSBA Annual Conference November 5-7, 2020

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their name and vote, and the motion was unanimously approved.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

2020-2021 Budget Resolution attached