

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
November 4, 2019

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 4, 2019, at T.S. Cooper Elementary School. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mr. Byrum made a motion to enter into closed session to discuss personnel as outlined in North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried unanimously. The board members entered into closed session at 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 5:14 p.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Whitehurst made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Boone 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 Public Comments, Mrs. Joni DeCosimo spoke to the board about an incident at Central Middle School involving her son. She wanted to thank the administration at Central Middle and the Central Office, for their handling of the situation, and wanted the board to know that she felt that her concerns had been heard, and she appreciated the attention she received.

During the Superintendent Report, Dr. Williams provided comments on the following:

- We still do not have a state budget
- Homecoming football game at the high school
- Fall Festivals at the elementary schools
- Professional Development on Monday, October 7, 2019
- Fall Law Conference in Asheville that he, Mr. Felton and Mr. Byrum attended
- Receipt of computers from State Superintendent Mark Johnson

Mrs. Amber Buxton, principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary, provided a powerpoint showing how T.S. Cooper incorporates learning with fun.

During the Report from the Board, board members shared their comments about various school events they had attended. Board members indicated they have received positive comments about the high school band program. Mr. Felton gave a brief update on Central Middle School construction.

Mrs. Sandra Pittman, Finance Officer, had provided financial reports just prior to the meeting and apologized for the lateness, due to the month ending last Thursday. She indicated that the State will be requiring all school systems to transition to a new finance software. We will have

two companies to choose from. Considering that we just recently made a change in software, she will try to hold off the implementation until 2021, but we have to commit to a company by providing a Letter of Intent by 12-31-2019. The state will pay the cost to transition. More information will follow at a later date.

Dr. Williams approved the following Out-of-District Requests for 2019-2020:

- Mason Nelson to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Day’Vion Faison to attend Gates County High, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools

Under Old Business, the Master Board Training was tabled until the December meeting.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Approval of Minutes – October 7, 2019 Regular Session
2. Approval of Minutes – October 14, 2019 Special Called Session
3. Approval of Minutes – October 23, 2019 Commissioners Meeting
4. Approval of Minutes – October 29, 2019 Special Called Session (with changes)
5. Contract with Elizabeth City State for Travel Expenses for NC-SMEN Program
6. Buckland Elementary 5th Grade Field Trip to Jamestown, VA
7. Collaborative Partnership Agreement with East Carolina University for Educator Preparation
8. Central Middle School Construction Orders
9. Gatesville Elementary School Improvement Plan
10. Buckland Elementary School Improvement Plan
11. Gates County High School Improvement Plan
12. GCHS Basketball Teams’ Fundraisers
13. Gates County High School BETA Club Overnight/Out-of-State Field Trip
14. T.S. Cooper Elementary School Improvement Plan

There was no New Business.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. **REHIRE**
 - Lauren Frances – Math Teacher at Gates County High
2. **NEW HIRE**
 - Michael Manley – Assistant Basketball Coach at Gates County High
 - Altoria Wilkins – Substitute Custodian
3. **SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVER**
 - Laurie Morse – Teacher Assistant at Buckland Elementary – adding duties of substitute bus driver

4. **VOLUNTEER**

- Nasir Hall - Volunteer Football Coach at Central Middle

5. **LEAVE OF ABSENCE**

- Alronda Hathaway – Part-time Custodian – Gatesville Elementary
Return Date: 11/29/2019

6. **RESIGNATION**

- Sarah Williams – School Nutrition Manager
- Cynthia Perry – Teacher Assistant Gatesville Elementary
- Shaquoya Bonner – 1:1 Teacher Assistant TS Cooper Elementary School

7. **EMPLOYMENT STATUS CHANGE**

- Linda Freeman – New Beginnings Daycare

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The December Regular Session Meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 3, 2019 at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office. Closed Session will begin at 5:00 pm, and Open Session at 6:00 pm.
- The board agreed to approve \$5.00 per employee, to be used for holiday staff appreciation celebrations in each of the schools and departments
- The Board plans to attend the Lions Club Christmas Parade on Saturday December 14, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to return to Closed Session. Mrs. Ryan seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board re-entered closed session at 5:53 p.m.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Mrs. Ryan made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 6.37 p.m.