

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights  
April 1, 2019

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 1, 2019, at the Board of Education Central Office. Chairman Ray Felton called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to enter into closed session at 3:00 p.m. and Mrs. Sallie Ryan 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 unanimously.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 4:22 p.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mr. Leslie Byrum, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Mrs. Sallie Ryan.

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

There were no Public Comments.

Ms. Crystal Harden, Morehead Planetarium Science Center Director of Programs and Strategic Initiatives, provided a powerpoint with information regarding the Saunders Science Scholars Program. Points of interest are as follows:

- 36 applications submitted between August and October, 2018
- 20 applicants interviewed in October, 2018
- 12 students selected in October, with a waitlist – Ms. Harden noted that the program was originally to serve 10 students, but the committee felt there were so many deserving students, and the Saunders family agreed to provide funding from their personal funds for two additional students
- September 21, 2018 - Kick-off football tailgating event held at Gates County High School – this was a big success
- First meeting was held October 27, 2018. Students built and launched rockets
- November 9, 2018 Morehead Board Meeting was held. Steven Butts, who has provided much of the funding for this project, agreed to fund three additional students. Scholarships are being provided for eight students that applied, and were accepted into the NC School of Science and Mathematics Early Accelerator Summer Program
- Monthly meetings have been held between November, 2018 and March, 2019. Students and parents have participated in coding, pasta car building and races, egg drop challenges, crime science mystery solving and chemistry experiments

- Outreach Programs that have been provided to Gates County Schools:
  1. Mobile Planetarium visits
  2. Science on Your Street Mobile Unit visits
  3. Classrooms visits
  4. Science on Stage visits
  5. Duke Energy Family Science nights
  6. STEMville Science Symposium visit
  7. Teacher training workshops
- Program Investment:
 

1. Steven Butts - \$43,000 annually for 5 years	\$215,000
2. Saunders Family - \$2,000 annually for 5 years	10,000
3. Morehead Outreach Programs (funded by private sources) \$14,000 annually for 5 years	70,000
4. NC School of Science & Math Tuition	12,000
5. Salary in-kind	<u>22,000</u>
TOTAL	\$329,000

Mr. Benjamin Saunders, Jr. was in attendance also. This program has been truly inspirational for Gates County. Dr. Williams and the board members thanked Ms. Harden and Mr. Saunders for their dedication to our students.

During the Superintendent’s Report, Dr. Williams presented information on the following:

- Senate introduces K-3 Class Size Waiver Bill
- House Bill 377 – Reduced Testing
- House Bill 354 – Change how the state determines a school’s A-F performance
- House Bill 362 – Codifies the 15-pt scale for A-F school grades – unless new legislation is passed grading will move to a 10-pt grading scale. This will likely mean that significantly more schools will be labeled with D and F grades and fewer would receive A grades.
- House Bill 266 – Awards schools two separate A-F grades, one based on achievement, using the 15-pt scale, and one based on growth, using the 10-pt scale
- House Bill 79 – Allows school districts to determine their first day of school to align with community colleges’ calendars
- House Bill 295 would place a statewide ban on corporal punishment in public schools. This type of punishment has been done away with, but this law would make it harder for a local district to resurrect the policy on its own.
- School Events in April

At this time, Mr. Felton asked for a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Byrum made a motion to approve. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

During the Report from the Board, each of the board members commented on the presentation made by Ms. Harden, and thanked her and Mr. Saunders for their efforts on behalf of Gates County. Mrs. Ryan informed that she and Mrs. Tammy Boone were working on convocation, and she is very excited. The Board shared their comments on various events they had attended at the schools. Mrs. Whitehurst commented on the NCSBA Law Conference she attended.

Mr. Felton noted he was very pleased with the progress at Central Middle School. Mr. Byrum gave an update from the CMS Color Committee on some of the color suggestions for the renovation.

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

- Jake Vernon Williams to attend Buckland Elementary
- Victor Rountree to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan Schools
- Reece Williams to attend Buckland Elementary
- Brendan Casper to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Michael Steven Pierce to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Christopher Nelson & Thomas D. Nelson to attend Central Middle School, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Taylor Ward to attend Central Middle, contingent upon release from Edenton/Chowan Schools
- Andrew Warren Brown and Asher James Brown to attend Buckland Elementary
- Jerome Jones to attend Buckland Elementary
- Blaid Denson to attend Buckland Elementary
- Elizabeth Clark to attend Buckland Elementary
- Cole Thomas Weller to attend Buckland Elementary
- Marykathryn Bourn to attend Central Middle School, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Carson Revelle Saunders to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Carson Forehand to attend Buckland Elementary
- Drake Webster Harrell to attend Buckland Elementary
- Kamryn H. Riddick to attend Buckland Elementary
- McKinley Stevens to attend Buckland Elementary
- Calleigh Williams to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary, contingent upon payment of tuition, and release from Edenton/Chowan Schools
- Aubrey Mae Ashley to attend Buckland Elementary
- Nathan Unger to attend Buckland Elementary, Courtney Unger to attend Central Middle and Hannah Unger to attend Gates County High School, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Makaylin Hall to attend Buckland Elementary and Avery Hall to attend Central Middle School, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Austin Davis Warren released to attend Edenton/Chowan Schools, contingent upon acceptance
- Brystal June Stevens and Bryce Thomas Stevens released to attend Edenton/Chowan Schools, contingent upon acceptance

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

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. February 25, 2019 Budget Retreat Minutes
2. March 4, 2019 Regular Session Minutes
3. School Justice Partnership Interagency Agreement
4. T.S. Cooper Out-of-State Field Trip to Virginia Beach, VA
5. T.S. Cooper Book Fair Fundraiser
6. T.S. Cooper Out-of-State Field Trip to Norfolk, VA
7. Budget Amendment No. 8 - State Funds
8. Budget Amendment No. 5 - Local Fund No. 8
9. GCHS & CMS Winter Guard Overnight Trip to Fayetteville, NC
10. GCHS FFA Fundraisers
11. GCHS HOSA Overnight Trip to Florida
12. Gatesville Elementary Out-of-State Field Trip

There was no New Business.

I. The following personnel recommendations were approved:

**1. INTERNSHIP**

- Erika Roberson – Golden Leaf Foundation – Effective 5-13-2019 thru 6-7-2019

**2. RETIREMENT (Effective 6-30-2019)**

- Patricia Handy – T.S. Cooper Elementary Teacher
- Judy Harrell – Child Nutrition Manager – Buckland Elementary
- Earlene Hayes – New Beginnings Daycare Teacher
- Martha Walton – T.S. Cooper Elementary Teacher Assistant
- Ronald Rodgers – Head Custodian – Central Middle School

**3. RESIGNATION**

- Norine Edwards – Central Middle School EC Teacher

**4. COMMUNITY CENTER REFEREES**

- Braden Nale-Lucas
- Caleb Brickhouse
- Cody Higginbotham
- Haven Stiles
- Emily Conner

**5. APPROVAL OF SUPERINTENDENT CONTRACT EXTENSION**

- Dr. Phillip Barry Williams

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular May session will be held at the Central Office on Monday, May 6, 2019, with closed session beginning at 3:00 p.m., and open session at 4:00 p.m.

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

There being no further business, Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 5:13 p.m.