

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights
April 12, 2021

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 12, 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 9:01 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.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Sallie Ryan 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

Chromebook Update

Chromebook order should be in to the vendor this week and they will deliver them to us at the beginning of the week of **April 12**.

***School Information**

GCHS Prom	Viking Ball
May 14, 2021	May 21, 2021
GCHS Football Field @ 7-11 pm	CMS Gym @ 7 – 10 pm
GCHS Graduation	CMS Graduation
June 4, 2021	May 27, 2021
GCHS Football Field @ 7:30 pm	CMS Parking Lot 5-7 pm (6 -8pm alt. time)

ESSER II Funds

The administrative team is working collaboratively as a team with spending these federal funds. There a several areas we plan to spend the funds to improve our facilities, increase access to technology, support instructional positions, provide safety in the schools, and most importantly

to elevate morale with the employees. This will be shared with the board for their input/advisement, prior to submitting. The application needs to be submitted by May 7, 2021.

Read To Achieve Legislation Revamped By ‘Science of Reading’ —

Senate leadership this week rolled out the latest changes to the state’s Read to Achieve Program in Senate Bill 387: Excellent Public Schools Act of 2021, which would integrate a phonics-based literacy method called the “Science of Reading” into the state’s reading curriculum and instruction, to be implemented in public schools statewide no later than the 2024-2025 school year. Beginning with this school year, the bill would offer new bonuses to incentivize highly-qualified teachers to participate in summer reading camps. Among other important changes, the legislation would also establish “Individual Reading Plans” (IRPs) for students beginning in the 2022-2023 school year. The bill was passed by the full Senate Chamber on Wednesday and full House Chamber on Thursday and has now been sent to the Governor for his approval.

Senate Advances Summer School Program —

Members of the NC Senate this week approved a House bill laying out mandatory requirements for statewide summer learning programs, after making critical changes proposed by the NC Association of School Administrators (NCASA). The amended version of H82: Summer Learning Choice For NC Families extends the expiration of summer program employment contracts from August 1, 2021 to October 1, 2021, and also extends the program reporting deadline to October 15, 2021.

As part of our spring/summer webinar series, NCASA will be hosting a “Roadmap to Summer School” webinar for superintendents on April 13 outlining requirements set by the new summer school program legislation.

Board Report

Board members complimented the staff and faculty for a job well done. Mrs. Ryan noted that Danielle Parker collected \$1000.00 through her Gates County-OPOLY Game Raffle fundraiser. That money will be divided among the schools. She also shared that a parent had complimented Mrs. Kelly Eure, Principal at Central Middle School, for her assistance in getting her children back in school. Mr. Felton complimented Mrs. Kaye Barker for her volunteer work with the football team, and also gave a shout-out to the football team for their dedication through a challenging season. Mrs. Boone and Mrs. Ryan noted they are serving on the strategic planning committees for Buckland Elementary and T.S. Cooper Elementary.

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:

- Annabelle Stallings released to attend Perquimans County Schools
- Dorian Lamont Bond to attend Gatesville Elementary

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

- Kennedy Farmer to attend Buckland Elementary, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools

- Brendan Casper to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Madison & Payton Weller to attend Buckland Elementary, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County
- Carley & Connor Cowper released to attend Edenton/Chowan County Schools
- Nathan Unger to attend Buckland Elementary, Courtney Unger to attend Central Middle and Hannah Unger to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Christian Blaise Harrell and Landry River Harrell to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Brayden Rawls and Ashton Rawls to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Karley Overton released to attend Perquimans County Schools
- Noah Raynor to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Carson & Henry Saunders to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Evelina Grant to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Perry Newbern and Sarah Newbern to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon release from Bertie County Schools
- Aiden Lories to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Olivia Long to attend Central Middle, contingent upon release from Hertford Co. Schools
- Grace Harders to attend Buckland Elementary and Logan Harders to attend Central Middle, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Colton Takach to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary, contingent upon release from Pasquotank Co. Schools
- Avery Chlomoudis and Gage Chlomoudis to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Cooper Hayes and Raylen Hayes to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Johann Parker to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Jake Vernon Williams and Hunter Allen Williams to attend Buckland Elementary
- Madison Matthews and Shelby Matthews to attend Gatesville Elementary and Katie Matthews to attend Central Middle, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Oliver Reece Williams to attend Buckland Elementary
- Makaylin Hall to attend Buckland Elementary and Avery Hall to attend Central Middle, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Kinza Nadia Abid to attend Gatesville Elementary, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Michael Steven Pierce to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Briana Evans, Dalton Patterson, Myra Patterson and Zachery Patterson to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Chloe Monds and Conner Monds to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Jay'lah Nicole Deleon to attend Buckland Elementary
- Cole Thomas Weller to attend Buckland Elementary
- Blaire Tyler and Carter Tyler to attend Buckland Elementary
- Drake Webster Harrell to attend Buckland Elementary
- James Colton Hobbs to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Emma Riddick to attend Gatesville Elementary

- Seth Hayes to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Jenna Strobel to attend Gatesville Elementary
- Camryn Anne Piland to attend Gates County High, contingent upon release from Hertford County Schools
- Alexa Eure to attend Buckland Elementary and Austin Eure to attend Central Middle, contingent upon payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools

Unfinished Business

Dr. Williams and Mr. Felton shared their comments regarding the trip that they, along with Dr. Paula Simpson and Mrs. Sallie Ryan, made to Alleghany County on March 30, 2021, to observe how their schools operate their feeding program, using Chartwell Food Management Service. They were pleased with what they saw, but felt that it was not a true representation, since the pandemic has forced schools to operate outside of their norm.

Dr. Williams commented:

On March 30 (12 hr. day) we traveled to Sparta NC to review the food service at the elementary (k-8) and secondary level. We observed:

- Kids eating and enjoying food **in the cafeteria**
- Kids eating **in the commons area**
- Teachers eating
- Fresh (from scratch) homemade pizza
- Fresh Chicken nuggets, Mac & Cheese and Sweet potato fries
- Fresh broccoli & Fresh fruit
- Cafeteria staff with fitted uniforms
- The Chef talked about the menu (kid choice) and the cafeteria workers talked positive about working with the contracted company
- A “well worth the trip” visit

Mr. Felton read a Q & A Sheet from Dr. Paula Simpson, Director of School Nutrition. Dr. Simpson provided insight into the day to day procedures involved in the feeding program. She stated that she is in full support of the board’s decision. The board expressed their questions and thoughts:

- Does cafeteria equipment need to be changed and if so, at what cost
- How long are we locked into the contract
- Are there other companies other than Chartwell
- Concerns about the students access to menus – suggestions made
- Quality of food
- Maintaining employment for current staff

After much discussion, Mrs. Sallie Ryan made a motion to table making a decision about changing our current program to a food service program, until after the pandemic is over, and we get back to a normal schedule. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed forming a committee to discuss ways we can improve our current program. They requested that students be a part of the committee. Mrs. Sallie Ryan made a motion to provide support to Dr. Paula Simpson in forming an advisory committee, made up of principals, students and Dr. Simpson, to discuss increasing student participation in the school lunch

program. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Byrum and the board members congratulated Dr. Tammy Boone, Assistant Superintendent, on her accomplishment of achieving her doctorate.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. March 8, 2021 Regular Session Minutes
2. 2021-2022 Draft School Calendar
3. Summer AG Camp
4. Gates County High Plant Sale Fundraiser
5. Exceptional Children Transportation Contracts with Jacqueline Lassiter
6. Exceptional Children Transportation Contracts with Betty Lassiter
7. Exceptional Children Transportation Contracts with Carolyn Eason
8. Budget Amendment No. 5 – State Funds
9. Budget Amendment No. 2 – Federal Funds
10. Budget Amendment No. 2 – Capital Outlay
11. Budget Amendment No. 5 – Local Fund No. 8
12. LINQ Contract for 2021-2022

New Business

- Mrs. Chante´ Jordan provided information concerning the American Relief Plan Act (ARPA) which allows employers to extend emergency leave, that was created through FFCRS, for the period between 4/1/2021 and 9/30/2021, with no additional cost to the district for salaries. Retirement and Sub Pay would be a local expense. It also allows a restart window for the 80 hours of leave. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto made a motion to extend the leave until 9/30/2021. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Mrs. Jordan provided a memo regarding Delays & Weather-Related Schedule For Staff, so everyone will know the policy when these events take place. Once approved by the board, Mrs. Jordan will share with all employees. Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve the Delays and Weather-Related Schedule. Mrs. Glendale Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.
- Mrs. Sandra Pittman provided information regarding the state eliminating the option for 10 month employees to be paid on a 12 month schedule. The alternative is to set up Summer Cash through the credit union, or another financial institution. With this program, the credit union can offer twice a month disbursement, during the summer month, and it meets the Department of Public Instruction requirements.
- Dr. Williams requested that the high school move from Plan B to Plan A with four days of instruction. The only difference in Plan A and Plan B is the 6 foot distancing. If approved, this will begin Tuesday, April 20, 2021. We are no longer required to take temperatures and complete the symptom checklist tickets. However, in an abundance of caution, we are going to continue these practices at this time. Mr. Leslie Byrum made a motion to approve Dr. Williams’ request to move to Plan A for Gates County High

School. Mrs. Boone seconded the motion. Chairman Felton called for a vote. Board members stated their vote, and the motion carried unanimously.

The following personnel items were approved:

1. NEW HIRES

- John Wayne Hollowell – CMS Assistant Baseball Coach

2. AG SUMMER CAMP INSTRUCTOR

- William Don White

3. ASSISTANT CTE COORDINATOR

- Donald Hudson

4. SUBSTITUTE TUTORS

- Janice Askew – T.S. Cooper Elementary
- Lovie Roscoe – T.S. Cooper Elementary

5. DAYTIME TUTORS

- Katherine Byrum – Gatesville Elementary
- Vicki Taylor – Gatesville Elementary

6. IN-SCHOOL TUTOR

- Kathy Sisson

7. LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

- Donna Boyce – T.S. Cooper Elementary replacing Lauren Bright while out on leave

8. SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

- Nicole Stiltner – Non-certified

9. COMMUNITY CENTER OFFICIALS (Paid)

- Audriana Hathaway – Volleyball
- Shakara Riddick – Volleyball
- Cailyn Nowell – Volleyball
- Braden Nale-Lucas – Volleyball/Soccer
- Cody Higginbotham – Volleyball/Soccer
- Jonah Dickerson – Soccer
- Ashby Dickerson – Soccer
- Noah Neal - Soccer

10. **COMMUNITY CENTER VOLUNTEERS**

- Clara Alderman – Soccer
- Samantha Ryan - Soccer
- Todd Hargett– Soccer
- Jonathan Hayes – Soccer
- Alegra Boone – Soccer
- Graylen Boone – Soccer
- Mason Lawrence - Soccer
- Nathan Brown – Soccer
- Jason Harrell – Soccer
- Jessica Harrell – Soccer
- Mary Catherine Saunders – Soccer
- Ashley Parker – Soccer
- Keli Boone- Soccer/Volleyball
- Renee Nowell – Volleyball
- Elizabeth Ross – Volleyball
- Stephanie Jordan – Volleyball
- Billy Jordan – Volleyball
- Melissa Jordan – Volleyball
- Audriana Hathaway – Volleyball

11. **VOLUNTEER – GATESVILLE ELEMENTARY**

- Jaliyah Riddick

12. **RETIREMENT**

- Kirby-lynn Parker – Teacher at Buckland Elementary
- Lulu Eure, Community Center Director

13. **RESIGNATIONS**

- Jessica Jacobs –Math Teacher at Central Middle
- Takita Lane – CNA at Central Middle

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular May session will be held on Monday, April 26, 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.
- Mr. Felton noted that we had received the refund for the NCSBA Annual Conference registration fee for Mr. Leslie Byrum.

Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Amanda Pacitto 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 11:33 a.m.