

Regular Session Board Meeting Highlights  
August 6, 2018

The Gates County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday August 6, 2018, at the Board of Education Office. Chairman Felton called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Mrs. Claire Whitehurst made a motion to enter into closed session at 9:05 a.m. and Dr. Daniel Dickerson 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 personnel as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously. The following board members were present: Mr. Ray Felton, (Chair), Mrs. Claire Whitehurst, Dr. Daniel Dickerson and Mrs. Glendale Boone. Mrs. Chante' Jordan, HR Director & Board attorney, John Leidy were present.

Mr. Felton reconvened open session at 10:16 a.m. with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, Mrs. Glendale Boone, Mrs. Claire Whitehurst and Dr. Daniel Dickerson.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve the agenda. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

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

There were no public comments.

Dr. Landon Mason, Economic Improvement Council Director, spoke about the importance of the Head Start Program. This program is vital in preparing students for kindergarten. The program is facing challenges due to funding, and they are requesting they be allowed to use the space at Gatesville Elementary School, without the payment of rent. He believes that if we enter into this partnership with EIC, that it will send a positive message to the community.

Mr. Felton provided information regarding the 2017 NC Education Lottery Funds received by some of the counties in North Carolina. Gates County received far less than some other counties, and therefore we are facing our own challenges regarding funding. However, they would take the request under consideration. Dr. Mason indicated that he understands what we are facing, since he serves some of the poorest counties in the state.

Dr. Dickerson questioned how their funding was generated. Dr. Mason answered that 20% is provided by federal grants and they are required to provide a 20% In-Kind Match. Dr. Dickerson asked if they normally had trouble meeting the 20% match. Dr. Mason said it has become more difficult, and if they don't meet the match, they have to request a waiver or pay back the 20%. Dr. Mason indicated that Mrs. Lori Ward has been instrumental in making sure the Head Start Program is a success. He said he felt it was important to make the board aware of the challenges they are facing, and that is why he asked to speak at the board meeting today. Mrs. Whitehurst asked how Mrs. Ward helped with the program, and Dr. Mason answered that she helps to prevent dual enrollment in Pre-K and Headstart.

Todd Boyette and Crystal Harden from the Morehead Planetarium presented a powerpoint providing information about the Planetarium and the programs they offer. The Saunders Science Scholars is a new program they are offering to Gates County Schools, in honor of Benjamin Saunders, long-time principal of T.S. Cooper Elementary School. This program will provide students, along with their parents, opportunities that have not been available in the past. There will also be opportunities for the community as well. Family applications will be available at each of the schools' open houses. The student criteria for this program, is an interest in science and adult support. The applications will be reviewed, and interviews will be scheduled.

Benjamin Saunders, Jr. thanked Mr. Boyette and Ms. Harden for their support of this program and the honor of naming it after his father. He also thanked Mr. Butts who donated funds for this program. He said his dad was not able to be at the meeting due to his health, but is very appreciative of this honor.

Amanda Hobbs, District AIG Coordinator, provided a powerpoint with information regarding a trip to Belize for AIG students. Gates County will partner with Elizabeth City Middle School in order to keep the cost down. This trip is sponsored by EF Educational Tours, who have been providing school tours for many years. Mrs. Hobbs said she has students that have already signed up for the trip, which will be in the summer of 2019. Mrs. Hobbs will provide information to students at the beginning of school.

Dr. Paula Simpson noted that the Triennial Assessment of Student Wellness Report was created using the Healthy Active Children's Survey. The board questioned if there were areas of concern. Dr. Simpson said the area she felt needed attention, was Community Involvement.

During the Superintendent's Report, Dr. Williams reported that preparations are being made to remove the asbestos at Central Middle School. Once this is complete, demolition can begin. The target date for the completion of the project is January, 2020, barring unforeseen problems. He reported that Gates County Schools has received a grant to provide Resource Officers. He thanked Mr. Jeremy Wright, Student Services Director, for his help in securing this grant. Dr. Williams also noted that he was able to attend the Robotics Camp at the NC School of Science of Math in Raleigh, during July. Some high school students were able to attend the two-week camp, along with their chaperones. Dr. Williams was very impressed with the program.

During the Report from the Board, Mr. Felton commented on the dedication of teachers. Dr. Dickerson said he was impressed with the information provided at the meeting. He feels like our principals and teachers are making things happen.

Mr. Rube Blanchard, Finance Officer, reported that new budget codes are being set up. The initial State Allotment is pretty much the same as last year. There have been increases in retirement and health insurance costs. The Daycare July assessment is not complete, and will be presented at the next meeting.

Dr. Williams approved the following out-of-district requests for the 2018-19 school year:

- Michael Allen McNeil, Jr. to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School

- Brycen Wayne Newsome to attend Central Middle School, and Broden Wesley Newsome to attend Buckland Elementary School, with payment of tuition and release from Hertford County School
- Aubrey Lolie to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Caleb Christenhusz released from Gates County Schools to attend Perquimans County Schools
- Aubrey Fox to attend Buckland Elementary School
- Campbell Beasley to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School, with release from Camden County Schools
- Brystal Stevens to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Kara Marie Wiggins and Kenneth James Wiggins, III to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Caleb Copeland to attend Gates County High School and Zachary Copeland to attend Central Middle School
- Charlotte Geyer to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- McKenna Peters to attend Central Middle School, with payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Madilyn Ashten Sorey to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Mason Ray Williams to attend Central Middle School, with payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Makayla Smith to attend Gates County High School, with payment of tuition and release from Edenton/Chowan County Schools
- Katherine Copeland to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Lilly Grace Kellett and Tinsley Anne Janney to attend Gatesville Elementary School, with payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Addison Riddick and Emma Riddick to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Karalyne Johnston and Noah Johnston to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Carly Cowper and Conner Cowper to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Brayden Harper to attend Gatesville Elementary School, with payment of tuition and release from Hertford County Schools
- Katlyn Elmore to attend Gates County High School, with release from Elizabeth City/Pasquotank County Schools
- Saniyah Depugh to attend Gatesville Elementary School
- Hannah Carlesi to attend T.S. Cooper Elementary School

During Unfinished Business, Dr. Simpson reported the Daycare Committee has received information from Attorney John Leidy and the committee will meet again.

Mr. Felton cautioned us to be mindful of our Workers Comp Rating. Our rating has increased from 1.09% to 1.28%. We need to look at ways to bring this rating down.

The following Consent Agenda Items were approved:

1. Board Minutes - June 28, 2018 Regular Session

2. Policy 1720/4015/7225 - Discrimination, Harassment And Bullying Complaint Procedure
3. Policy 3200 - Selection of Instructional Materials
4. Policy 3565/8307 - Title I Program Comparability of Services
5. Policy 4316 - Student Dress Code
6. Policy 4328 - Gang-Related Activity
7. Policy 4400 - Attendance
8. Policy 5010 - Parent Organizations
9. Policy 5070/7350 - Public Records - Retention, Release and Disposition
10. Policy 6220 - Operation of School Nutrition Services
11. Exceptional Children's Transportation Contracts
12. Psychological Services Contract with Terri Revelle
13. Occupational Therapy Services Contract with Rebecca Ammons
14. School Nutrition Vendor Bids for 2018-2019
15. T.S. Cooper Fundraiser
16. Gates County High Fundraisers for 2018-2019
17. Surry Insurance Renewals
18. 2018-2019 Out-of-District Tuition Request
19. Beginning Teacher Support Program
20. Exceptional Children's Services Contract with PresenceLearning

Under New Business, the Board tabled Item One – Approval of Head Start Lease Agreement and Item Two – Approval of Lawn Maintenance Contract until after further discussion.

The following personnel recommendations were approved:

1. NEW HIRES
  - Kelly Eure – Assistant Principal – Central Middle School
  - Barry Seebo - Science Teacher – Gates County High School
  - Katelyn Collins – CTE Teacher – Central Middle School
  - Donna Critcher – Daycare Supervisor – New Beginnings Daycare
  - Shakinma Lewis – Part-time Teacher Asst. – New Beginnings Daycare
2. TRANSFERS
  - Tony Coley – Transfer from Asst. Principal at Central Middle to Principal at Central Middle
  - Amber Buxton – Transfer from Asst. Principal at Gates County High to Principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary
  - Susan Casper – Transfer from Social Studies Teacher at Gates County High to Asst. Principal at Gates County High
  - Brittany Parker – Transfer from K-5 Teacher at T.S. Cooper Elementary to K-5 Teacher at Buckland Elementary
3. 2018-2019 EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN’S COMPLIANCE SPECIALIST
  - Heather Boyd

4. INTERIM TEACHERS

- Barbara Wiant – Family & Consumer Science Teacher (CTE) at Gates County High – August 16, 2018 – January 23, 2019
- Don White – Agriculture Teacher (CTE) at Gates County High – August 16, 2018 – January 23, 2019

5. SUBSTITUTE TEACHER

- Lauren Francis - Certified

6. 2018-2019 INSTRUCTIONAL COACHES

- Avis Holley – Buckland Elementary School
- Lori Lories – Gatesville Elementary School
- Lisa Wilkins – T.S. Cooper Elementary School
- Kathryn Eure – Central Middle School
- Barbara Toti – Gates County High School

7. 2018-2019 BEGINNING TEACHER SUPPORT COORDINATOR

- Barbara Toti
- Krystle Williams

8. CENTRAL MIDDLE ATHLETIC COACHES

- Lauren Belch – Athletic Director
- Lauren Belch – Head Volleyball Coach
- Whitney Farmer – Assistant Volleyball Coach
- Marcus Barber – Head Football Coach
- Andre Riddick – Assistant Football Coach
- John Long – Head Soccer Coach
- Marcus Barber – Head Boys Basketball Coach
- Andre Riddick – Assistant Boys Basketball Coach
- Robert Costen – Head Girls Basketball Coach
- Deidre House – Assistant Girls Basketball Coach
- Terry Edwards – Head Baseball Coach
- Chris Stiles – Assistant Baseball Coach
- Megan Somers – Head Softball Coach
- Jennifer Dail - Assistant Softball Coach
- Marcus Barber – Track Coach
- Hope Melton – Assistant Track Coach
- Kristal Brooks – Cheerleading Coach
- Michayla Knight – Assistant Cheerleading Coach

9. GATES COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL COACH

- Shawn Thomas – Head Varsity Soccer Coach

10. RESIGNATIONS

- Steve Hunter – Principal at Central Middle School
- Raymond Brickhouse – Soccer Coach at Gates County High School
- Carl Cox – Transportation Bus Mechanic – Effective 8-17-2018
- Lauren Francis – Math Teacher at Gates County High School
- Steven Harrell – Lab Technician II – Technology Dept.

#### 11. SUBSTITUTE TEACHER TERMINATIONS

- Alexander Weber
- Elaine Spivey
- Amanda Hurdle
- Amy Cisneros
- Carolyn McDaniels
- April Bond
- Kelly McKnight
- Mary Scott

In Other Business the following items were discussed:

- The regular September session will be held at the Gates County Board of Education Central Office on Monday, September 10, 2018, with closed session beginning at 5:00 p.m., and open session at 6:00 p.m.
- Board Members will meet at the Central Office at 2:45 on Wednesday, September 5, 2018 to attend the NCSBA District Meeting in Bertie County
- Dr. Williams and Mr. Byrum will attend the NCSBA Fall Law Conference in Asheville, NC on October 17-19, 2018
- The Board Members adopted schools as follows:  
Glendale Boone – Buckland Elementary  
Claire Whitehurst – Gates County High  
Dr. Daniel Dickerson – Gatesville Elementary  
Leslie Byrum – T.S. Cooper Elementary  
Ray Felton – Central Middle

Dr. Williams congratulated Tony Coley, on his promotion to Principal at Central Middle School, and Amber Buxton, on her promotion to Principal at T.S. Cooper Elementary School. Mr. Felton offered words of wisdom.

Dr. Williams will contact Dr. Mason concerning the Head Start Lease, and Mr. Johnnie Greene, concerning the Lawn Care Contract.

There being no further business, Mrs. Boone made a motion to reconvene to Closed Session. Dr. Dickerson seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Felton recessed the session to reconvene to closed session at 11:45 a.m.

At the conclusion of the closed session, Mrs. Boone made a motion to recess until Friday, August 10, 2018, whereby the board would reconvene at 441 Taylor Mill Road, Eure, NC, beginning at 10:00 a.m. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Felton recessed the session at 1:15 p.m.

The Gates County Board of Education returned from recess and met in regular session on Friday August 10, 2018, at 441 Taylor Mill Road Eure, NC 27935. Chairman Felton called the meeting

to order at 10:00 a.m., with the following board members present: Mr. Ray Felton, (Chair), Mrs. Claire Whitehurst, Mr. Leslie Byrum and Mrs. Glendale Boone. Mrs. Glendale Boone made a motion to re-enter closed session and Mr. Leslie Byrum seconded the motion to discuss matters that are confidential by law, including confidential student matters, 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 personnel as allowed by North Carolina General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6). There was no discussion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Felton reconvened the business session at 10:05 a.m.

Mr. John Greene, Maintenance Director, discussed the pros and cons of the lawn care this past year. He is proposing for 2018-2019 that the Maintenance Department be responsible for lawn maintenance at the Bus Garage, Maintenance Building, the Central Office and Gatesville Elementary School. Brinkley's would be responsible for all other campuses. Mr. Byrum cautioned against exceeding payment of \$50,000 for Brinkley's, to avoid possible lawsuit. Mrs. Boone suggested adding more specific requirements, such as necessary equipment and minimum number of employees. The current contract is less than \$50,000.00. If extra work is needed, such as ballfield prep/landscaping or snow removal, etc.; this could be discussed. However, we need to be careful not to exceed \$50,000. Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve Brinkley's Lawn Care contract for Gates County High School, Central Middle School, T.S. Cooper Elementary School, and Buckland Elementary School, and the Maintenance Department to be responsible for lawn care at the Central Office, Bus Garage, the Maintenance Department and Gatesville Elementary School. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion. Board members approved the motion, with the exception of Mr. Byrum, who voted no. Mr. Byrum stated that he disagreed with the process, and thought the maintenance department should receive additional compensation for added duties. The Board requested a letter to be personally delivered to Lilly Pad.

Mr. Felton discussed the CMS Project and praised Daniel Plyler for his diligent work on the project.

Dr. Williams informed that he had talked with Dr. Mason, with the Economic Improvement Council concerning the increase in building rent from \$350.00 to \$450.00 per month. Dr. Mason did not agree with the increase. The board discussed what steps need to be taken next.

Mr. Rube Blanchard presented the 2018-2019 Budget Resolution.

There was discussion regarding the UNC Dental School Screenings for all Pre-K.

Mrs. Boone made a motion to approve the increase in rent to \$450 for the Head Start Program, approve the 2018-2019 Budget Resolution and approve the Pre-K Dental Screening performed by UNC Dental School. Mr. Byrum seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously.

The following personnel items were approved:

- 1) NEW Hire

- Amy Hall – K-5 Teacher at Buckland Elementary
- 2) TRANSFERS
    - Megan Somers – From Math Teacher at Central Middle to Math Teacher at Gates County High
    - Iris Lassiter – Bus Driver at T.S. Cooper Elementary to Bus Driver at Buckland Elementary
  - 3) SUBSTITUTE BUS DRIVERS
    - Timothy Jordan
    - LaRosa Howell
  - 4) RESIGNATIONS
    - Nina Boyce – ELA Teacher at Gates County High
    - William Jones – Social Studies Teacher at Gates County High
  - 5) 2018-2019 INSTRUCTIONAL COACH
    - Anita Winn – Buckland

In Other Business it was requested that the management of Policies be delegated to Mr. Jeremy Wright, Student Services Director.

There being no further business, Mrs. Boone made a motion to adjourn. Mrs. Whitehurst seconded the motion, and the board members approved the motion unanimously. Chairman Felton adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.