

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 2, 2019

The Columbus County Board of Education met on this date in regular session at 5:30 p.m. in the conference room at the Columbus County Board of Education. The following persons were present:

Monte Herring, Chairman
Worley Edwards, Vice-Chairman
Randy Coleman
Junior Dew
Ronnie Strickland

Deanne Meadows, Superintendent
Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent
Bill Phipps, Board Attorney
Bonita Pridgen, Administrative Assistant

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Herring.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Edwards, the minutes of the November 4, 2019, meeting were approved.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the final agenda for December 2, 2019, was approved.

Ms. Diane Mathews (The News Reporter, Inc.) and Mr. Jess Hill (Clerk of Court) were present as guests.

At this time, Mr. Herring turned the meeting over to Mr. Phipps.

Mr. Bill Phipps, Board Attorney, presided over the meeting during reorganization of the Board for 2020.

Mr. Phipps opened the floor for nominations for the office of Chairman. A motion, by Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, to nominate Mr. Worley Edwards to serve as chairman was placed on the floor. There being no further nominees, by motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Coleman, nominations were closed. By motion Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, Mr. Edwards was elected Board Chair by acclamation.

Mr. Phipps opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairman. A motion, by Mr. Edwards, to nominate Mr. Randy Coleman to serve as vice-chairman was placed on the floor. There being no further nominees, by motion of Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Strickland, nominations were closed. By motion of Mr. Edwards, seconded by Mr. Strickland, Mr. Coleman was elected Board Vice-Chairman by acclamation.

Mr. Jess H. Hill administered the oaths of office to Mr. Worley T. Edwards as Board Chair and Mr. Randy Coleman as Vice-Chairman, respectively. See attachment No. 4029.

Mr. Edwards assumed the position as Board Chair at this time.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, Mr. Phipps was retained as attorney for the Board of Education for 2020. See attachment No. 4030.

The floor was opened for public comments.

Mr. Monte Herring was recognized as the recipient of the “The 2019 Raleigh Dingman Award for Outstanding Boardmanship” presented at the 50th Annual North Carolina School Boards Association Conference in Greensboro, North Carolina. To receive this esteemed award, which is given annually by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA), a board member must be peer-nominated by their local school board. The Raleigh Dingman Award is the highest honor bestowed on a North Carolina school board member. The award is named in honor of Dr. Raleigh Dingman, the Association’s first full-time executive director, and was first presented at the 1981 annual conference. In 2002 legislation was passed by the North Carolina General Assembly that provides for the Raleigh Dingman Award winner to serve as an ex officio advisor to the state board of education and to attend meetings and participate in deliberations of the state board. Mr. Herring will serve in this capacity.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the request from Jon Williams to construct a walkway (at no cost to Columbus County Schools) at Williams Township School for his Eagle Scout project was approved. See attachment No. 4031.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, the Town of Cerro Gordo Zoning Compliance Permit was approved with the invoice, once received, being forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4032.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the application for a Variance by the Tabor City Zoning Ordinance was approved with the invoice, once received, being forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4033.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the 2019-2020 School Improvement Plans were approved for the following schools: Acme Delco Elementary School – Mr. Jamie Faulk, Principal, Chadbourn Elementary School – Ms. Deanna Shuman, Principal, Evergreen Elementary School – Ms. Georgia Spaulding, Principal, Tabor City Elementary School – Mrs. Theresa Brown, Principal, and Tabor City Middle School – Ms. Kelly Bullard, Principal. See attachment No. 4034.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Herring, revised North Carolina School Board Association policy 7241: Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators, due to legislative and other policy updates, was approved. See attachment No. 4035.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, Resolution Urging the State to Take Action to Remit Civil Penalties Unconstitutionally Withheld from North Carolina’s Public Schools was approved. See attachment No. 4036.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the request for the attorney to attend the 53rd Annual Attorneys’ Conference at the School of Government in Chapel Hill, North Carolina February 7, 2020, was approved.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the letter of intent selecting Tyler Technologies as the new modern human resources and financial software solution was approved, as presented by Mrs. Lisa Nowlin. See attachment No. 4037.

The following items were presented as information:

--South Columbus High School student, Ms. Layla Ayers (accompanied by her teacher, Ms. Bre Giddings) was recognized as the winner of the North Carolina Yam Festival Best of Show.

--Mrs. Sally Mann, Columbus County Arts Council, presented the North Carolina Yam Festival Best of Show, Ms. Layla Ayers, South Columbus High School with a check purchasing her art.

--Recognition of winners from the Ashley High School One Act Play Contest, held on November 9, 2019, in Wilmington, North Carolina, were as follows:

South Columbus High School – Mrs. Amy Jones, Teacher

Best Actor	Hannah Williams
Best Supporting Actor	Liliana Rivero

West Columbus High School – Mrs. Jessica Williamson, Teacher

Best Actress	Allie Thompson
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--Superintendent’s Choice - Christmas Card Design winner, Ms. Bryssa Simmons, Freshman at West Columbus High School - Mrs. Susan Martin, Teacher

--The Board recognized Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School teacher, Mrs. Sharon Ehlers-Zickafoose, as the recipient of the Lake Waccamaw Lions Club Elementary Teacher of the Year.

-- Atlantic Telephone Membership Corporation (ATMC) Grant recipients, 2019-2020 SY were recognized as follows:

- Guideway Elementary School - Mr. Rod Gore – *Plant Clone/Tissue Culture*
- Nakina Middle School - Mrs. Velvet Hardwick – *Computer Connections*,
Mr. Clayton Reaves – *Science Lab 2.0*, and
Mrs. Julie Sellers – *Finally a Quiet Place to Read*
- Old Dock Elementary School - Mrs. Kim Andrews – *Step Into the Future*

South Columbus High School - Mrs. Donna Thigpen – *School Health Services – Helping Hands*,
Williams Township School - Ms. Amanda Greene – *Updating Technology for All*
Ms. Sheila Lanier – *Reading Equals Succeeding*

--Brunswick Electric Membership Corporation Grant recipients were recognized as follows:

Cerro Gordo Elementary School - Ms. Morgan Pierce – *Colorful Learnin*,
Columbus Career and College Academy - Mr. Fred Mason – *Measuring for Success*
East Columbus High School - Mrs. Mariel Sellers – *Bringing Biotechnology Into the Classroom*
Evergreen Elementary School - Ms. Erica Jackson – *Filling Their Toolkits*
Guideway Elementary School - Mr. Rod A. Gore - *Growing Microgreens*
Hallsboro/Artesia Elementary School – Mr. Troy Pierce – *Creative Solutions*
Nakina Middle School - Mrs. Velvet Hardwick – *Computer Connections*
Old Dock Elementary School - Ms. Pamela Cook – *All Play and Work-How Pre-K Children
Learn*
Ms. Lillie Royal – *Building our Learning*
South Columbus High School - Ms. Mary Gore – *Can you Escape From Math?*
Ms. Jennifer Foley – *Bringing Life to Biology*
West Columbus High School - Mrs. Dawn Hinshaw – *No Soil, No Problem!*
Mr. Fred McPherson – *Animal Agriculture*,
Williams Township School - Mrs. Cassie Hoffman – *Beyond Code with Sphero*

--Mrs. Angela Edwards, Media Coordinator at Cerro Gordo Elementary School, was recognized as the recipient of the Dollar General Literacy Grant, in the amount of \$15,000.00.

--The Columbus County Schools Construction Schedules moving forward were shared.

--Board discussed the Segregated Cost Form for West Columbus PreK-8 School from Mr. David Clinton, Szostak Design, Inc.

--Dr. Meadows shared the revision of AR Code 3320-R School Trips removing item III. D. “High Risk Activities” portion of the regulation. See attachment No. 4038.

--Board was made aware of the school trip request from Tabor City Middle School to attend the Junior Beta Club Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina February 4-5, 2020.

--Dr. Meadows discussed the 2020-2021 School Calendar.

--Board was asked to review dates to remember.

--Mrs. Lisa Nowlin shared the monthly financial report. See attachment No. 4039.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the Board went into closed session to discuss information that is privileged, confidential, and not a public record under GS 143-318.11 (a) (1).

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Dew, the Board returned to open session.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, personnel actions were approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4040.

In other business, the following items were discussed and action, when necessary, taken:

The Board will meet in regular session on January 13, 2020, at the Columbus County Board of Education in the conference room at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Herring, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:45 p.m.

Chairman

Superintendent/Secretary