

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 28, 2020

The Columbus County Board of Education met on this date in special session at 6:30 p.m. in the auditorium at South Columbus High School. The following persons were present:

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

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

The public hearing at South Columbus High School was called to order by Mr. Edwards.

Ms. Diana Matthews and Mr. Grant Merritt (The News Reporter, Inc.), Mr. Deuce Nivens (Tabor City Tribune) and Mr. Matt Bennett (WWAY-TV3) were present as guests.

Dr. Meadows shared the PowerPoint on Consolidation/Closure Proposal.

Mr. Phipps read the following: Notice of Public Hearing BY THE COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION CONCERNING SCHOOL CLOSURES, CONSOLIDATION AND COMBINATIONS AND RELOCATION OF STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Columbus County Board of Education, pursuant to NCGS 115C-72 (a)(1) shall conduct public hearings in the Auditoriums of West Columbus High School on Monday, January 27, 2020, South Columbus High School on Tuesday, January 28, 2020 and East Columbus High School on Thursday, January 30, 2020, each public hearing will commence promptly at 6:30 P.M.. The public input concerning the following matters: PROPOSED CLOSING OF THE ACME DELCO MIDDLE SCHOOL and HALLSBORO MIDDLE SCHOOL, effective June 2020, to consolidate into K-6 at Hallsboro-Artesia Elementary School and Acme Delco Elementary School with East Columbus High School becoming a Jr.-Sr. High School with Grades 7-12. PROPOSED CLOSING of the GUIDEWAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, to consolidate into K-4 at Old Dock Elementary School and 5-8 at Nakina Middle School, effective June 2020. THE RELOCATION OF STUDENTS AND PROGRAMS FOR CCCA FROM THE FAIR BLUFF CAMPUS, to the Southeastern Community College Campus, effective June 2020. THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF EVERGREEN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND CERRO GORDO ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, (once construction of the new K-8 School is completed); effective June 2021. THE PROPOSED CLOSING OF TABOR CITY MIDDLE SCHOOL AND TABOR CITY

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (once construction of new K-8 school is completed); effective June 2022. SUCH OTHER CLOSINGS, COMBINATIONS or CONSOLIDATIONS as may properly come before the Board for consideration by the Board at each of the scheduled Public Hearings. At each of the scheduled hearings the public shall be afforded an opportunity to express their views on the above matters and to express their opinions and provide input as to the proposed matters listed above. The closings and relocation are being sought by the Columbus County Board of Education, as a result of the building projects that are proposed for consolidation in the South and the West, and as a result of the reduced enrollment countywide, as well as the budgetary constraints of operating with less than adequate class size and for such other reasons as may be in the best interests of the Students of Columbus County Schools. The public is invited and encouraged to attend in order to express their opinions and provide their input, concerning the proposed closings and/or consolidations of said schools and the relocation of students and programs as set forth herein. A decision will be announced by Board following the conclusion of the public hearings at the February 3, 2020 monthly Board meeting. This the 13th day of January, 2020. The Columbus County Board of Education By: Worley T. Edwards, Chairman, By: Deanne R. Meadows, SUPERINTENDENT, William W. Phipps, BOARD ATTORNEY 905 PIREWAY ROAD, P.O. BOX 35 TABOR CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28463 PHONE: 910-653-7770 January 17 & 24, 2020.

The floor was opened for public comments. The following provided their input on the consolidation/closure proposal presented by Dr. Meadows: Anthony Ransom, Lynne Thompson, Velvet Wheeler, Betty Farmer Strickland, Nico Lagunas, Brittany Lagunas, Kelly Pineda, Michael Pease, Tori Simmons, Ron Gore, Kelly Lovett, Darla Fowler, Michael Sasser, Justin O'Ferrell, Jeannette V. Duncan, Thomas McClellan, Adelyn Ward, Angela McGee, Meghan Canady, Briana Leduc, Crystal Mathis, and Heather McLamb.

The public hearing was closed.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the meeting was adjourned.