

MINUTES OF MEETING
COLUMBUS COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
May 5, 2020

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

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

Deanne Meadows, Superintendent
Jonathan Williams, Associate Superintendent
Lisa Nowlin, Finance Officer
Bill Phipps, Attorney

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Edwards.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the minutes from the April 6, 2020, meeting, were approved.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, the agenda for May 5, 2020, was approved.

Mrs. Diana Matthews (The News Reporter, Inc.) and Mrs. Chica Threadgill, were connected to the conference call as guests.

The floor was opened for public comments. There were no public comments.

There were no special presentations.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the payment, in the amount of \$1,575.03, for the Commonwealth Heritage Groups, Inc., for Historical Architectural Evaluations at Cerro Gordo Elementary and Tabor City school buildings was approved, as shared by Dr. Williams. Invoice will be forwarded to Mrs. Bobbie Faircloth, County of Columbus Finance Officer, for payment. See attachment No. 4087.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the continuation of “Making Proud Choices”, as requested by the Columbus County Health Department and Dr. Heather Pigot, was approved.

The dropout counts and rates through 2018-2019 SY were shared.

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Dew, contract services for the exceptional children's program, for the periods indicated, were approved as follows: East Coast Migrant Head Start Project (July 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020), Vocational Rehabilitation and Columbus County Schools Third Party Cooperative Agreement and Budget (2020-2021 SY), Barbara B. Bell Psychological Services, Inc. (2020-2021 SY), Behavioral Consultation & Psychological Services, PLLC (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), Progressive Speech Services, Inc. (August 4, 2020 - June 2, 2021), Speech Solutions, Inc. (July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021), Suzanne Huggins, TVI (2020-2021 SY), TDP Creative Solutions, Inc. with Troy Pierce (August 4, 2020 – May 28, 2021), Vida McLeary, MPT/L (2020-2021 SY), and Wilmington Hearing Specialists PA (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). See attachment No. 4088.

Dr. Meadows provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the 2019-2020 SY.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Coleman, bonus pay for the 58 child nutrition employees that worked the entire 10 weeks that the school buildings were closed and served meals to our students was approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4089.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the graduation plans for the Class of 2020, were approved.

By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Coleman, revisions by the North Carolina School Board Associations Spring 2020 Policy updates were approved as follows: Policy 2127: Board Member Technology Use (new), Policy 2302: Remote Participation in Board Meetings, Policy 4230: Communicable Diseases – Students, Policy 5050: Emergency Closings, Policy 7560: Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Certain Exempt Employees, were approved. See attachment No. 4090.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the revisions to Policy 5030: Community Use of Facilities was placed on the floor for vote. After further discussion, Mr. Dew withdrew the motion and the proposed revisions were tabled until the June 2, 2020, meeting.

The following items were presented as information:

--Board was asked to review dates to remember.

--Mrs. Lisa Nowlin shared the monthly financial report. See attachment No. 4091.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Coleman, the Budget amendments (federal, local and state) SY 2019-2020 were approved. See attachment No. 4092.

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) and to discuss the acquisition of real estate/the terms of an employment contract GS 143.318.11. (a) (5).

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Coleman, Dr. Meadows was authorized to act on the new request (grades NC PK – 12) for student reassignment for the 2020-2021 SY in accordance with established Board policy.

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

By motion of Mr. Coleman, seconded by Mr. Strickland, personnel actions (with reassignments amended as discussed) were approved, as recommended by Dr. Meadows. See attachment No. 4093.

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

Mr. Phipps discussed the offer from Davis Academy for the purchase and/or lease of the Chadbourn Middle School property. By motion of Mr. Herring, seconded by Mr. Dew, Mr. Phipps was informed to make a counter offer to sale the property, in the amount of \$500,000.00, and also to negotiate the contract for lease to include prior lease terms stipulating of no modular units and/or other outbuildings would be allowed on the property during the term of the lease.

By motion of Mr. Dew, seconded by Mr. Strickland, the offer to purchase, in the amount of \$4,000.00, property from Archie S. Williams, Jr. and wife, Janice M. Williams, was approved, as discussed by Mr. Phipps. See attachment No. 4094.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the three-year audit services proposal from Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP, was approved, as shared by Mrs. Nowlin. See attachment No. 4095.

The Board will meet in regular session on June 1, 2020, (date correction) at the Columbus County Board of Education in the conference room at 5:30 p.m.

By motion of Mr. Strickland, seconded by Mr. Herring, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:20 p.m.