

Currituck County Schools**Meeting Minutes**

Printed : 6/9/2020 1:41 PM EST

**(2:00 p.m. Closed Session in PLC) Board of
Education Meeting**

04/09/2020 04:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

Attendees

Voting Members

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
Dr. Bill Dobney, Board Member
Will Crodick, Board Member
Janet Rose, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Mark Stefanik, Superintendent

A. Call to Order

1. Invocation

Dwan Craft provided the invocation.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Public Comment Session -

With no comments, the session was closed.

C. Approval of Agenda (Action)

The agenda was amended for the following:

1. Add soil study report for the Moyock properties.
2. Add update on school services provided due to COVID 19.
3. Add discussion on the superintendent search process.
4. Remove Budget Amendment for clarification
5. 20-21 School Calendars for additional discussion
6. Add architect consideration discussion for new elementary school

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

D. Soil Study Report

Matt Mullins, Director of Buildings & Grounds, was asked by the Board to obtain soil samples for the two properties being considered for the new elementary school in the Moyock area. GET

Solutions, a company that provides commercial and residential services in Currituck County and surrounding areas was selected.

Mr. Jerry Stalls of GET Solutions provided the Board with the findings of the study. Information on bores obtained from the Lazy Corner and Survey Road properties was presented.

There is concern with the pit near the Lazy Corner property. The lowering and raising of sediment in the pit also affects the level of the ground water within a certain radius of the pit. This can cause compaction of soil and could affect foundations. Survey Road has clay. There is concern with contracting and shrinking. The clay can be removed to a certain depth of course at an added cost to the project. However, this will add to the expense of the construction of the school.

Lazy Corner does have more topsoil than Survey Road. The clay can be removed to a certain level. Survey Road will provide less reusable soil. There is groundwater at both sites. **Survey Road ground water level is 3.5 to 5 ft. The ground water level at Lazy Corner is 5 to 8 ft and occasionally 9 to 10 ft.** Survey Road would need wet water ponds and the ground water is closer to the topsoil. Contractors may have to do more water removal.

Mr. Stalls and Mr. Crodick discussed the cone of properties affected by the borrow pit. **Mr. Crodick asked how large of a cone is used to gauge the affect. Mr. Stalls said that unfortunately there is not an industry standard and should not be one in his opinion - due to the depth of a pit and volume of pumping. However, he added there are civil engineering companies who can conduct such studies on the cone of influence.**

Mr. Stalls said the Survey Road site is more advantageous due to harvesting sand. Lazy Corner also has clay.

Will Crodick asked about the evaluation of the properties. Mr. Stalls said he could not provide evaluation information. Mr. Crodick inquired about the ground water runoff due to the evaluation and the effect on adjacent properties. Mr. Stalls said runoff could be a factor but for overflow basins and wet water ponds. Mr. Crodick asked if lower sites could inherit water issues at later dates. Mr. Stalls said that engineering could address the issues but uncertain.

Chairman Etheridge asked for a summary page with bullets and obstacles for each property.

E. Discussion on Architect Firms for New Elementary School

Dr. Dobney stated that Clark M. Pierce of Walter Robbs Callahan & Pierce Architects (WRCP) has provided past engineering services to the schools. Janet Rose said she heard WRCP was a reputable firm. Superintendent Stefanik said the district recently conducted a RFQ for the new school's design and received approximately seven to eight quotes. NC Department of Public Instruction provides a list of approved designs. Any new design plan not on the list requires an additional approval process as well as an additional bid process. The RFQ was conducted using the current approved design list. WRCP submitted approved designs but could be asked if additional plans are available. Dr. Dobney cautioned that schools built in the other parts of the state may not meet the requirements of the local area and could cost more to build.

Will Crodick agreed with using the approved plans. Superintendent Stefanik said he could research to find firms that have built schools in northeastern NC.

Mr. Crodick asked for the evaluation of the two sites. Stefanik said the County's Planning Department should have the information. The Board discussed looking at other school designs. The Board discussed reviewing school designs used in the areas between Currituck County and 195.

Mr. Crodick also asked about using a consultant, someone familiar with school building projects. Janet Rose mentioned using a project manager and a civil engineer.

Matt Mullins, Director of Buildings and Grounds, recommended reviewing the plans submitted during the RFQ process and also using the County's Project Engineer - which was offered instead of the district hiring a project manager.

F. Update on School Services due to COVID-19

Superintendent Stefanik reported on the schools response to COVID 19. A newsletter has been created and will be sent out to staff and parents. Currently the district's School Nutrition Department served over 53,000 meals since the schools closed. Buses are used to transport the meals to certain pickup sites. The Technology Department has expanded services to help parents and students. CCS teachers have been through online training and are producing work for students.

Renee Dowdy and Dr. Matt Lutz, Assistant Superintendents, commended the work that has been completed to provide educational service and meals. They added how the new world of online teaching has been challenging. The Technology Dept. was able to get Chrome books to teachers earlier in the year and is currently working on providing devices to students.

Superintendent Stefanik said there have been discussions regarding bonuses for some of the employees who worked during the closing - primarily providing meals to students. He asked for permission to request funding for a bonus, if funds do not come from the state at least from the County Government. Janet Rose and Dwan Craft both supported the effort.

Janet Rose asked about child care for essential workers. Superintendent Stefanik said at a recent Superintendents' meetings it was recommended to wait for specific requests to see if the schools could accommodate. He said the district would need medical guidance to maintain safety.

G. Graduation Ceremonies & Prom

Janet Rose asked about the district having graduation ceremonies and prom. Chairman Etheridge and Superintendent Stefanik referred to the newsletter that will be sent out to parents in an effort to keep everyone updated on the topic. Administration will do everything in its power but cannot address the scheduling of the events at the present time.

Renee Dowdy said that a message will go out to parents informing them about meals, Power School maintenance and grading information that will come out following spring break. Janet Rose commended the work of the Guidance Dept.

H. Superintendent Search Discussion

Chairman Etheridge announced that Superintendent Stefanik will leave the district at the end of July 2020. The Board will start the process of filling the superintendent's position. It will not be taken lightly. At this time the Board is unsure if the Superintendent Search will be conducted in-house or outsourced.

Janet Rose made a motion of to hold a Special Meeting on April 21st at 10:00 a.m. The motion was seconded by Chairman Etheridge. Superintendent Stefanik added that the Board needs to discuss the Capital Outlay Budget and architect firms for the construction of the new school. Dr. Dobney asked for a closed session.

I. 2020-2021 School Calendars (Action)

Will Crodick said he did not like the increase of early release days added to the 2020-2021 school calendars. **He would rather have schools closed for the full day for staff development rather than having several ½ days. Mr. Crodick said instructional time suffers, it's not cost efficient - utilities and buses are still utilized and it can create a hardship for parents dealing with childcare issues.**

Janet Rose asked Dr. Lutz's for a recommendation. Dr. Lutz said only two more early release days were added and that the days were aligned with the high school schedule. The time will be scheduled for professional development for staff.

Mrs. Dowdy said that on a recent survey, parents preferred early release days on Fridays instead of the middle of the week.

Mrs. Rose said it has been difficult finding time to schedule the implementation of the anti-bullying training. She said the early release days could be used for professional development such as trainings.

Mr. Crodick reiterated that time was lost during early release days. He agreed it was beneficial for teachers to receive staff development but the time lost was not beneficial for parents and students.

Janet Rose recommended that the discussion be stopped until Dr. Lutz could regain connection – since the meeting was being held virtually.

The discussion was resumed and the amount of instruction time was discussed. Professional development scheduled when all schools are closed allows all staff member to attend. Dr. Lutz said it allows 5th grade at MES to look like a 5th grade at KIES.

Mr. Crodick said that he disagrees and he also does not care for professional speakers but prefers unit and grade levels meetings.

Janet Rose made the motion to approve the 20-21 calendars. The motion was seconded by Dwan Craft. Will Crodick was the only member opposed.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - Yes

Dwan Craft - Yes

Dr. Bill Dobney - Yes

Will Crodick - No

Janet Rose - Yes

J. Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated April 2, 2020

a. Leave Report - Confidential

2. Banking Reconciliation

3. Budget Amendments Dated April 2, 2020

Due to an error, the Amendments will be revised and added to the May 7th agenda.

4. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - February 10, 2020 (Revised)

5. Board Meeting Minutes for March 11, 2020

6. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - March 11, 2020

7. Surplus Vehicle Sale:

a. Dump Truck 1985 Ford

K. Information Items

1. Closed Session - May 7, 2020- Knapp Professional Learning Center, 2:00 p.m.

2. Board of Education Meeting- May 7, 2020-Knapp Professional Learning Center, 4:00 p.m.

3. April 21, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. Closed session and Special Meeting

It was requested that the following items be added to the May agenda:

- Discussion on graduation ceremonies and prom.
- School Construction on every agenda going forward

L. Board Member and Superintendent Comments

M. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Chairperson

Secretary