

Currituck County Schools**Board of Education Meeting****08/05/2021 06:30 PM****Meeting Minutes**

Historic Currituck County Courthouse

Printed : 10/15/2021 3:29 PM ET

[Stream Live Meeting Here](#) or Mediacom Channel 18 on the mainland.

Attendees**Voting Members**

Karen Etheridge, Chairman
 Dwan Craft, Vice Chairman
 Dr. Bill Dobney, Board Member
 Janet Rose, Board Member
 Kelly Williams Peters, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Matt Lutz, Superintendent
 Albert Mercado, Student Board Member
 Daniel Walker, Student Board Member

A. Call to Order

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Public Comment Session

Robert Griffin, CCHS Teacher, spoke on the opening of the 2021-2022 school year. He was glad to have students returning to the school buildings for in-person instruction. Mr. Griffin made the following comments; students struggled last year; students need to be acclimated back into the buildings and it will not be business as usual. Mr. Griffin believes the overall concern will be the wellbeing of the students. Students and parents need to know that staff care. He wanted to acknowledge the planning by the school's leadership. It must have been a daunting task. He also noted the delay in implementing the district's strategic plan due to the pandemic. Mr. Griffin said he was excited to see students returning, along with the leadership of CCHS Principal, Dr. Justin Durham.

C. Approval of Agenda

Motion made by: Janet Rose
Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft
Voting:
 Unanimously Approved

D. Student Board Member Report

The students were not able to attend the meeting due to summer camps and senior events.

E. Title I Plan Approval

Chairman Etheridge said the Title I plan was presented and reviewed earlier in the work session. Dr. Lutz explained that Title I is a federal program using free and reduced meal data to establish funding amounts. Title I is tailored to focus on the needs of K-5 students. The district's funds are used to fill five teacher positions and three teacher assistant positions. Knotts Island Elementary figures are not used in the district's calculations due to the school's student numbers; however, it does receive funding. It was explained that the school's small student attendance creates issues with the funding calculation, but the district ensures that the school receives the same amount of funding.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft
Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney
Voting:
 Unanimously Approved

F. Strategic Plan Presentation

The mission and purpose of the strategic plan is to take care of the students. The district is excited about the new plan. Renee Dowdy, Assistant Superintendent, reviewed the action

steps of the plan. She explained that the plan was still in draft status and required some tweaking. The presented timeline showed the process started in February 2021. The most important to the process were the stakeholder input sessions - which included all staff in K-12 education levels and parents. The data was collected and targeted listening sessions scheduled. Community leaders, business owners and 136 one-on-one interviews were conducted. Mrs. Dowdy identified a few external and internal forces that would impact the district, some of which cannot be controlled. Beliefs and core values were also identified. The process included collecting 7,000 data points and then creating and drafting the initiatives. The district team created the initiatives. With the help of the strategic plan facilitator the focus was narrowed to three initiatives; 1) Develop the whole student to meet educational, social and emotional needs. 2) Recruiting and maintaining staff and growing leaders into future administrative positions. 3) Engaging the community into our schools - making sure parents know what is happening in the schools and to re-engage parents at the higher grades.

G. 1st Reading of Policies #4400 Attendance & #3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations

Parents will be made aware of the policy revisions which include several changes that are appropriate and needed. There has been a great deal of conversation regarding attendance due to the pandemic and on-line learning. Dr. Lutz said he was glad to see students getting a full day of instruction. Mrs. Dowdy said that with the new policy late arrivals and early dismissal would be counted. Parents are asked to please leave students in school until the final bell rings, otherwise they could miss instruction. The policy revisions highlight excused absences due to school activities and the ability of students to make up missed work. Guidelines are being reviewed so that staff can have some type of standardization. There is a process in place to notify parents and file truancy charges if needed. Student athletes must follow the attendance policy.

When reviewing Policy 3620 - it was asked that the language regarding the establishing of behavior standards not be changed.

H. Mask Mandate Update

Dr. Lutz announced that in a prior special meeting - the board voted to make masks optional. Part of the reason the district could operate last year was that safety protocols were put in place. Masks are encouraged and those not vaccinated or wearing masks would be subject to quarantine guidelines if exposed to COVID. Masks will be worn on buses at all time because social distancing is not possible. Cleaning will continue and the scheduling of the Clorox 360 machine will be shared. Students and staff can be returned to the cleaned area within 5 minutes of using the machines.

The district is asking parents to conduct health checks in the mornings and not to allow sick students to come to school. Parents are also asked to please refrain from sending students if a family member is in quarantine due to COVID. Dr. Lutz said he was pleased to also share that vaccine clinics have been scheduled in partnership with the local health department. The Board discussed the importance of cleaning the schools and providing sanitizers.

I. Field Trip Requests (Informational Only):

1. CCHS- State Tennis, Cary, NC - 6/24-26 2021
2. CCHS- State Wrestling, Thomasville, NC- 6/25-26 2021
3. CCHS- State Track, Greensboro, NC - 6/25-26 2021
4. CCHS- FFA Officer Camp, Crozet, VA - 7/27-30 2021

J. Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated August 5, 2021
 - a. Leave Report - Confidential
2. Budget Amendments
3. June 24, 2021 Board of Education Meeting Minutes
4. 2021-2022 Payroll Calendars
5. Contracts:
 - a. Exceptional Children's Department:

- i. Plan Bee Academy
 - ii. The Peninsula School of Autism: Faison Center
 - iii. Invision
 - b. Technology Department (informational -received prior approval):
 - i. Brainpop
 - ii. Desmos
 - iii. Dreambox Learning
 - iv. Liminex, Inc
 - v. Nearpod
- 6. School Nutrition Bid(s) Approval:
- 7. Banking Reconciliations (Informational Only)
- 8. 2nd Reading for Spring 2021 Policy Revisions
 - a. 1510 School Safety
 - b. 1610/7800 Professional & Staff Development
 - c. 1710/4020/7230 Discrimination & Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
 - d. 2440 Policy Review & Evaluation
 - e. 3300 School Calendar & Time for Learning
 - f. 3460 Graduation Requirements
 - g. 3610 Counseling Program
 - h. 4040/7310 Staff-Student Relations
 - i. 4125 Homeless Students
 - j. 4240/7312 Child Abuse & Related Threats to Child Safety
 - k. 4335 Criminal Behavior
 - l. 5000 Schools and the Community
 - m. 6120 Student Health Services
 - n. 6125 Administering Medicines to Students
 - o. 6320 Use of Student Transportation Services
 - p. 7232 Discrimination & Harassment in the Workplace
 - q. 7510 Leave
 - r. 7720 Employee Political Activities
 - s. 8310 Annual Independent Audit
 - t. 8341 Limited Claim Settlement
 - u. Spring 2021 Policy Memo

K. Information Items

1. District Convocation - August 17, 2021 - Currituck Co Middle School & Pending Board of Education Meeting following Convocation.
2. Work Session - September 16, 2021- Knapp Professional Learning Center, 4:00 p.m.
3. Board of Education Meeting - September 16, 2021 - Historic Currituck County Courthouse, 6:30 p.m.

L. Board Members & Superintendent Comments

Kelly Peters noticed a lot of activity in the schools as everyone prepares for the new school year. She hopes everyone has a nice school year and thanked Robert Griffin for his comments. She wanted parents to know that she reads all of her emails and thanked parents for sending their concerns and input on masks requirements.

Janet Rose congratulated the track team on their win and she thanked the Sheriff's Dept. and Extension Center for holding the summer camps. She also thanked the district's 2020-2021 retirees for their service. She announced that Representative Bobby Hanig has been instrumental in creating a house bill that would increase the transportation funding buffer for Currituck. The geography of the county makes it difficult to operate within the current efficiency guidelines.

Dr. Dobney spoke about the pending house bill that would disband the NCHSAA. There has been way too much time away from school with students traveling 5 to 7 hours for a game. NCHSAA has more than a \$40 million fund balance.

There is also the disservice of requiring 4 units of math for all students. Not all students will go to college - there is a population interested in obtaining trade skills. One size does not fit all. The district welcomed Jennifer Woods, newly hired CTE Director.

Karen Etheridge asked about submitting a formal or an official request regarding the change to the graduation requirements. She noted that the issue had been an ongoing topic of debate. Janet Rose said the Board was asked to draft up the proposed changes when the topic was originally discussed.

Dr. Lutz said he is hoping for new traction on the issue with support from DPI and Mr. Freebird McKinney, SBE Director of Government Affairs. Graduation tracks, testing and accountability are all part of the process.

Dwan Craft said this school year students will need love and support. She was very proud of the summer school graduates. She visited elementary schools during Kindergarten Assessment - the district had over 90% in attendance. She thanked all of the commissioners for their support.

Dr. Lutz thanked everyone who worked in the summer learning programs. The district reported 60% proficiency in math and 90% in science. At risk students regained 242 credits over the summer with 12 seniors graduating.

Dr. Lutz said the district had been very ambitious on hiring but was still searching for EC teachers. He thanked Representative Hanig for support the schools and also the commissioners for a great joint meeting. Currituck Kids will hold an event this Saturday.

Dr. Dobney said it was great to see Administrators back at the work sessions.

Karen Etheridge said the joint meeting had been successful and the plans for the future were wonderful. She welcomed back JP Knapp students, as well as newly hired staff.

M. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary