

MEETING MINUTES



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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

Mrs. Craft presented the invocation and read a poem in memory of a Moyock Middle Student, Hannah Newns, who passed away suddenly.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

CES students led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. School Spotlight- Principal Angela Farris & Central Elementary School

Principal Angela Farris and her students highlighted the school's reading program. Jennifer Barnes explained how the school focused on reading and celebrated it with Title I Family Night. The turnout was enormous with approximately 500 students and parents in attendance. Brandon Wykle, Assistant Principal, provided pictures of the event and explained how different genre stations were positioned throughout the school. Two 3rd grade students were in attendance and shared their reading experiences

with the Board.

B. Public Comment Session

With no comments the session was closed.

C. Approval of Agenda (Action)

The agenda was amended to allow discussion on the current school calendar and to add the approval of a technology contract.

Janet Rose said that after visiting schools and speaking with staff she noticed that everyone is working extremely hard and trying to catch up. The pressure of the lack of substitute teachers is causing an issue. Mrs. Rose spoke on the importance of early release days and how it allows time for teachers to plan. She does not like hearing teachers are missing their planning periods and has noticed other districts addressing these issues

Dr. Lutz said that he was aware and was very comfortable converting Monday, December 20th & 21st from student days to optional work days. Administration will continue to look at a plan to hire more substitutes in the district. He recognizes the struggle, which is not just in Currituck, but a national struggle.

The Board encouraged volunteers to help in the schools and assist teachers. Substitute pay will vary depending on the degree - the correct amount starts at \$80 a day for high school graduates.

Motioned by Dwan Craft to revise the school calendars, seconded by Janet Rose. All were in favor of amending the calendar.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Kelly Williams Peters

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

D. Student Board Member Report

Student BOE members reported on athletics, school events and student competitions.

E. Career Technical Education Update

Jennifer Woods, Career & Technical Education Director, gave a brief overview of the department. She explained the responsibilities of each staff member in her department - positions include Career Development Coordinator, Career Expansion Coordinator and Internship Coordinator. She said this is a capstone for bridging the gap between education and the workplace. She explained how several public committee meetings are held to gain input from the community. Various events are also planned in the schools to promote careers. Ms. Woods highlighted the Health Occupations Class and Microsoft Certification. Several

students from JP Knapp Early College spoke on the benefits of the Microsoft Certification and using it in the workforce. All JP Knapp students are encouraged to take the class which is very helpful with college classes.

Also highlighted was the Construction Class taught by Daniel Meads. Daniel Walker, CCHS Student, spoke on the benefits of the FFA program. The club has organized several membership drives to promote participation. Over 90 students have attended recent FFA events. The CTE groups continue to place high in student competitions. Ms. Woods ended her presentation by stating that February is CTE Month and April 13, 2022 has been reserved for Ag Day.

F. Safe Schools Update

Virginia Arrington, Student Services Coordinator, presented the monthly safe schools update. She also spoke on mental health legislation. Staff members are working to complete the required training. The due date to complete the training is December 17, 2021.

Ms. Arrington presented the monthly COVID information. A recent vaccine and flu shot clinic for staff was recently held. She presented graphs on positivity and quarantine rates and noted the rates were elevated when students were not wearing masks in the schools. The district is offering diagnostic COVID testing to staff and students. Ms. Arrington also noted that the vaccine is now available for elementary students.

Ms. Arrington was asked about a shot clinic for students and she replied that the health department was currently collecting data. Ms. Rose inquired about optional masks for phonics and speech instruction. Ms. Arrington said that teachers are removing masks to allow students to see their mouths. Ms. Rose then asked about the need of students wearing masks during performances. Ms. Arrington said that at the next district play, the same protocols in place for athletics will be used and as well as designated student placement while on the stage. The Board would like to see the same protocols in place during elementary plays as well.

1. Masks in the Schools (Action)

Mrs. Craft said that she wanted the public to know that the Board does not want students in masks but would like to wait until after the holidays to see if masks could be optional again. Student BOE Member, Daniel Walker spoke about the excitement of just being in school again. The masks allow students to be in school and avoid the quarantine mandate. Student BOE Member, Albert Mercado also agreed that being able to attend school and clubs was worth wearing a mask. Mr. Peters said that the Board struggles with the quarantine mandate because they do not want students out of school. Chairman Etheridge said that the current mandate requires unmasked students to be out of school for 10 days following the close contact of a positive case. She added, speaking on behalf of the Board, the difficult decision was made to require masks to keep students in school.

The Board will revisit the mask mandate at the next meeting on January 20, 2022.

Dr. Lutz said with indoor sports season in session it was important for spectators and players on the bench

to wear masks. Students need to be in school to prepare for exams in mid-December.

The motion was made to continue the mask mandate in the schools.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Karen Etheridge

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

G. Field Trips:

1. CCHS Cross Country- Regionals, Jacksonville, NC 10/29-30 2021
2. CCHS Cross Country - State, Kernersville, NC 11/5-6 2021

H. Consent Agenda (Action)

Technology contract added Item #7

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated November 18, 2021
 - a. Confidential Leave Report November 18, 2021
2. Board Meeting Minutes October 21, 2021
3. Joint Meeting Minutes October 27, 2021
4. Budget Amendments November 18, 2021
5. Banking Reconciliations (Informational Only)
6. 2021 Fall Policy Update - 1st Reading
 - a. 1310/4002 Parental Involvement
 - b. 1510/4200/7270 School Safety
 - c. 1720/4030/7235 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex

- d. 2125/7315 Confidential Information
- e. 2302 Remote Participation in Board Meeting
- f. 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use
- g. 3410 Testing and Assessment Program
- h. 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability
- i. 3460 Graduation Requirements
- j. 4050 Children of Military Families
- k. 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements
- l. 4152 Unsafe School Choice Transfer
- m. 4300 Student Behavior Policies
- n. 4316 Student Dress Code
- o. 4400 Attendance
- p. 4700 Student Records
- q. 4720 Student Surveys
- r. 5020 Visitors to the Schools
- s. 5022 Registered Sex Offenders

7. TRAFERA - Technology Contract

I. Information Items

1. Work Session - December 16, 2021- Knapp Professional Learning Center, 4:00 p.m.
2. Board of Education Meeting - December 16, 2021 - Historic Currituck County Courthouse, 6:30 p.m.

J. Board Members & Superintendent Comments

Mrs. Rose looks forward to holiday programs and was pleased the state finally passed a budget. She thanked bus drivers, School Nutrition workers and custodians for pulling double duty.

Mrs. Peters expressed sympathy to the Newns family. She thanked Ms. Woods for a great CTE presentation and would like to see a push for a CTE graduation tract. She wished everyone a nice Thanksgiving.

Dr. Dobney visited CCMS during their anti-bullying program -Olweus. Ms. Arrington said staff are currently working on training teams. The expectation is to have all staff trained by the end of next August and implemented in all schools. He thanked the County Commissioners for the recent Joint Meeting.

Mrs. Craft recently attended the CES Reading Night and MES holiday event. Both events had large attendance. She was also able to visit with the JP Knapp students who presented during the CTE presentation.

Dr. Lutz said the school calendar for JP Knapp will also be modified. The district will also look after the non-certified staff impacted by the optional workdays. He thanked Virginia Arrington for all of her work during the pandemic and congratulated the fall sports teams.

Chairman Etheridge visited several schools as well as attended the NCSBA Conference. She found the break out sessions very informative. In closing she wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

K. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary