

Currituck County Schools

Board of Education Meeting

09/03/2020 06:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Printed : 9/29/2020 4:08 PM EST

Historic Currituck County Courthouse

[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
Will Crodick, Board Member
Janet Rose, Board Member

Non-Voting Members

Dr. Matt Lutz, Interim Superintendent

A. Call to Order

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Chairman Etheridge asked for a motion to amend the agenda to add the appointment of Dr. Matt Lutz as Superintendent and to remove Item #3 in the consent agenda along with policy # 4340 in Item # 6.

Mr. Crodick asked if the contract for Dr. Lutz would be a separate action or combined with the motion. Chairman Etheridge replied that it would be combined.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

C. School Spotlight - Principal Denise Fallon and JP Knapp Early College**D. Approval of Superintendent (Action)**

Chairman Etheridge made a motion to appoint Dr. Matt Lutz as Superintendent and employment contract beginning September 4, 2020 ending June 20, 2023 - seconded by Dr. Dobney. Mr. Crodick said that he was very impressed with Dr. Lutz's communication, input and provided information but disappointed for anyone that works in the system. The system continually does not follow set rules. He added that the current contract was not the contract he agreed to; therefore, he could not vote in favor to hire Dr. Lutz. Mr. Crodick said the contract was already negotiated before the meeting and there was supposed to be an application process for the superintendent's position. The exact length of the buyout of the contract stated in Section 16 Unilateral Termination was discussed by the Board. Mr. Crodick was concerned about the cost of a 12 month buyout and the impact to the district. He was adamant that it should be nine months. He stated that he had nothing against Dr. Lutz, but voiced his concern over a potential \$155,000 buyout.

Karen Etheridge said that the contract was revised to nine months in Section 16 Unilateral Termination by the Board . Mrs. Rose said she would support Dr. Lutz.

Currituck County Clerk of Superior Court, Ray Matuko conducted the oath of office for Dr. Lutz.

Motion made by: Karen Etheridge

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - Yes

Dwan Craft - Yes

Dr. Bill Dobney - Yes

Will Crodick - No

Janet Rose - Yes

E. Recognition of School Nutrition Staff

Dr. Lutz recognized the Child Nutrition and Transportation staff who helped to feed students and the community during the school closings due to the pandemic. Angela Rodriguez, School Nutrition Director, gave a special thank you to Jessica Brick, Transportation Coordinator. The Board thanked the staff as well.

F. Public Comment Session

Johnathan Briggs, parent, stated that he has four students attending the schools. His children miss the in-person instruction. They are struggling with virtual learning as well as struggling emotionally. He is worried about what his children are missing.

Robert Griffin, CCHS Teacher, recapped the Board's timeline for the Superintendent Search. It was originally stated that the new superintendent would be in place by July 31st - this was approved by the Board. He added that in the minutes for the June 25th BOE meeting, Chairman Etheridge stated that numerous applications had been received for the superintendent's position and the timeline would be updated and sent out to the Board Members. Mr. Griffin congratulated Dr. Lutz for being the best of the numerous candidates received and believes Dr. Lutz will do a fine job as superintendent.

Steven Kinsler, parent, stated that his child struggles with impulse control and is slipping with the virtual learning. He does better in a classroom setting versus online learning. Mr. Kinsler asked that the Board act on an option that would allow Kindergarten through 3rd grade to return to the classroom as well as possibly students with IEP's.

Dr. Daniel Robinson is a local pediatrician at Coastal Pediatrics in Elizabeth City. He was unable to attend the meeting so he presented a video where he provided COVID statistics, the risks associated with the virus as well as safety protocols if students were to return to the classroom.

G. 2020-2021 Student Enrollment & Virtual Learning Update

Dr. Lutz provided an update on student enrollment. He said on Sept. 3, 2019 the district enrollment was 4,301 compared to Sept. 3, 2020 with 4,279. In addition, the district has been tracking enrollments as well as the reasons for withdrawals. Dr. Lutz said that it was safe to say when the district re-opens the buildings from virtual only, the district could see approximately 100 students return. The district will be ready for the increased enrollment. Good news is the state will hold the school districts harmless this year on their ADM's. The district will be receiving extra funds.

Will Crodick clarified that the district will be seeing at least 100 new students this year. Dr. Lutz said funding will be based on the projected enrollment. The Board discussed the levelling out of student enrollments - possibly by the end of September.

Regarding virtual learning, Dr. Lutz said there are currently 16 staff member teleworking due to high risk health issues. The district had one staff member report positive for COVID. Dr. Lutz will continue to review the data for reopening as well as obtaining information from other districts. Mr. Crodick asked for an earlier meeting with the possibility of adding parents to the meeting in order to gain input for creating a plan to return to school. Janet Rose asked about the possibility for returning special education students and/or Pre K and Kindergarten. Virtual learning is not working for kindergartners and waiting until October is too near the end of the nine weeks. Dr. Lutz reminded the Board the mandate of 50% capacity creates issues with space and employees. Smaller districts have the advantage of returning students. Chairman Etheridge said it is a common desire to return students to the classroom.

Mrs. Rose made a motion to return K-3 no later than September 21, 2020. Mr. Crodick asked to amend the motion to include K-5.

Dr. Lutz said the district could not be ready to reopen in two weeks. The logistics are daunting and plans must be made if someone tests positive. He understands that virtual is not working for some students but structure must be in place to bring students back in schools.

The Board continued to discuss COVID data for Currituck, pandemic protocols and a possible hybrid schedule for returning students. Dr. Lutz added that a survey will go out next week to parents and staff in an effort to gain more data on remote learning and returning students to the buildings.

Dr. Dobney said that he did not have enough information at the present time to make a decision. Mrs. Rose said that she would like a target date with the ability to adjust it. Chairman Etheridge said she needed more information as well. Those in favor of the September 21st return date - Will Crodick and Janet Rose, voting against Karen Etheridge, Dr. Dobney & Dwan Craft. The motion failed.

Mrs. Rose made a motion for the Board to meet on a weekly basis - seconded by Mr. Crodick. Mrs. Craft said time was of the essence for the survey results. Dr. Lutz said he would create the survey with BOE input and create a meeting schedule.

Dr. Dobney said he would wait for more information. Dr. Lutz said he did not believe a motion was necessary to meet but wanted to be efficient regarding the meetings.

The motion to meet on a weekly basis failed. However, the Board will meet next week to review and discuss survey questions.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Will Crodick

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - No

Dwan Craft - No

Dr. Bill Dobney - No

Will Crodick - Yes

Janet Rose - Yes

H. Approval of 2020-2021 Budget Resolution (Action)

Larissa York, Finance Officer, presented the budget resolution for the 20-21 school year in the amount of \$46,382,732/ JR /BD

Mr. Crodick asked about the cost of legal services. Mrs. York did not have the figure. Mr. Crodick asked that the figure be reviewed because the district could possibly have an attorney attend the Board meetings for what the district currently pays in legal services. If true, he would like the Board to act. He also asked that the district review the spending of local funds and to determine if the district needs as many administrative dollars as appropriated. Dr. Dobney said he would like to wait and see the attorney fees for Dr. Lutz first year as acting superintendent. Mrs. York said she appropriated \$45,000 for legal fees and if not spent could reappropriate the funds.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

I. Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated September 3, 2020
 - a. Leave Report - Confidential

2. Banking Reconciliation
3. August 6, 2020 Closed Session Minutes
4. August 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes
5. Title II Plan
6. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Revised and New Spring Policy Update
 - a. 1320 Title I Parent & Family Engagement
 - b. 1610/7800 Professional & Staff Development
 - c. 3460 Graduation Requirements
 - d. 4110 Immunization & Health Requirements for School Admission
 - e. 4230 Communicable Diseases- Students
 - f. 4270/6145 Concussion & Head Injury
 - g. 7240 Drug Free & Alcohol Free Workplace
 - h. 7241 Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Vehicle Operators
 - i. 7503 Teleworking
7. 2nd Reading & Adoption of Revised and New Title IX Policies
 - a. 1710 Discrimination & Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
 - b. 1720 Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
 - c. 1725 Title IX Sexual Harassment - Prohibited Conduct & Reporting Process
 - d. 1726 Title IX Sexual Harassment & Grievance Process
 - e. 1730 Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities
 - f. 4040 Staff-Student Relations
 - g. 4329 Bullying & Harassing Behavior Prohibited
 - h. 4331 Assaults & Threats
 - i. 4340 School-Level Investigations
 - j. 7232 Discrimination & Harassment in the Workplace

J. Information Items

K. Board Member and Superintendent Comments

Dr. Dobney congratulated Dr. Lutz on his appointment.

Mrs. Craft visited schools and handed out lunches at the virtual convocation. She knows staff is working hard - even harder having to re-open schools virtually.

Mr. Crodick congratulated Dr. Lutz on his new position and does believe he is doing a good job. However, he is displeased about not adhering to policy even before Dr. Lutz was appointed superintendent. Mr. Crodick asked for a legal opinion on local policy related to 115C-47 Powers & Duties, 17A which addresses the adoption of an anti-nepotism board policy. He would like to know if there is local policy in-line with the statute.

Mrs. Rose congratulated Dr. Lutz. She would like an update on the anti-bullying program and its implementation. She will continue to work together to get students back into the school buildings.

Dr.Lutz thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as superintendent. He reported the accreditation process is being reviewed.

Chairman Etheridge congratulated Dr. Lutz and adjourned the meeting.

L. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Chairperson

Secretary