

**Currituck County Schools****Meeting Minutes****Printed : 12/9/2020 12:04 PM ET****Board of Education Meeting****11/10/2020 06:30 PM**Professional Learning Center (PLC) - JP Knapp  
Campus

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**Attendees**

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**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, Superintendent  
Olivia McDonald, Student Board Member  
Taylor McCarthy, Student Board Member

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**A. Call to Order**

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**B. Approval of Agenda (Action)**

Mr. Crodick asked for the agenda to be amended to include the following items; anonymous reporting, accreditation and the legal opinion on the general statutes he read at a previous meeting. The agenda was approved as presented and remained unchanged.

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

**Voting:**

Karen Etheridge - Yes  
Dwan Craft - Yes  
Dr. Bill Dobney - Yes  
Will Crodick - No  
Janet Rose - Yes

**C. Public Comment Session**

The following spoke during the session:

Sterling Robinson expressed his concern with the virtual learning services students are receiving - especially the 4th-5th grade unit. He complained that the schedule does not allow enough time for

instruction. It also does not allow time for student/teacher interaction and feedback.

Cole and Sherry Yeatts expressed their concern with 4th-5th grade virtual learning services. They asked for improvement in virtual instruction and that it be as productive as in-person instruction for those attending school.

Sue Cataen Ingram and Jason Dennis expressed their concern with 4th-5th grade virtual learning services. The virtual students deserve more face to face instruction. She understands the stress teachers are under and asked the Board for additional virtual instructors. Dr. Lutz said that an additional teacher will be added to the virtual unit. Mr. Dennis said his students are falling behind and they deserve quality instruction- just like those attending school.

Dana Parker thanked the Board for allowing the public to speak and voice concerns. She praised the educators but stated there were issues within the district. A group has been formed to work and advocate about the deficits in the district and to also make positive changes. Mrs. Parker encouraged the Board to work together with parents to improved the district.

Robert Griffin thanked Mr. Crodick for his service and was also glad the Board had student representatives serving. He spoke about the end of the first semester and the concern with administering exams. High school students have not been allowed to attend school for in-person instruction due to the pandemic. It was his preference that exams not be given to high school students. It has been a difficult semester and would not be beneficial to the students to bring them into the buildings for only exams. Mr. Griffin asked the Board to allow students to complete the required course work without exams - which counts as 20% of their grade.

Dennis Johnson expressed his concern with the current virtual instruction schedule for elementary students. He preferred the schedule when all students were virtual. The current virtual schedule does not provide enough time for face to face instruction before the teacher has to move on to another subject.

#### **D. Return to Learn Update for Elementary, Middle & High Schools**

Dr. Lutz said the district will continue to reevaluate virtual services. A teacher is being added to the 4th-5th grade unit. Mrs. Rose asked if 4&5th grade could be synchronized learning - like middle and high school students. Dr. Lutz said there was not a willingness to provide synchronized learning at the elementary level. Adding an additional teacher to the 4 & 5th grade virtual group will provide smaller groups of students for the teachers. Dr. Lutz said the district has never provided virtual learning before and it can be reconfigured as required and needed. Chairman Etheridge asked about the time allowed between classes for virtual students and teacher and student interaction. Dr. Lutz said teachers have been working diligently and the schedule will be reevaluated. Dr. Lutz said the district must hire qualified teachers which has been difficult due to the pandemic. Mr. Crodick cautioned that the district's math scores were low and the ELA scores were lagging behind before March 2020. He said the there was not enough staff to spread out to provide the level of services needed.

Dr. Lutz provided the update on school operations which was also presented during the earlier work session. The group discussed the needs of the high school which remains remote. Small groups of at-risk students are being brought into the building for in-person support. Self-contained students in the EC program will be brought in starting November 16th. At this time the state has not granted a testing waiver so schools are expected to give EOC's and CTE assessments. The Board expressed their concerns with requiring students to take exams. Dwan Craft asked what were the consequences for not following the mandated testing guidelines. Dr. Lutz said it could affect the NC Report Card data and create possible funding issues. He does expect guidance in the near future from the state due to pressure, because this issuer affects all NC school districts.

Mrs. Rose made a motion that the district contact elected officials to see if they can do something that would not require high school students to return to school for the sole purpose of taking an

exam. Dr. Dobney said a meeting was already scheduled with Representative Hanig and Senator Steinberg to discuss an additional diploma track and the exam issue should be added. Mr. Crodick said he would support the motion and would like to also file a legal challenge against the exam requirement. Mrs. Craft said that she would like to hold off on the legal challenge. The Board agreed and directed Dr. Lutz to reach out to the elected officials for help on the matter.

Mr. Crodick asked about the purpose of 1/2 day Fridays for CCHS. Dr. Lutz and Mrs. Rose responded it was to allow extra time for teachers to collaborate and student support. Mr. Crodick was informed that on Oct 30th CCHS staff members were allowed to dress up and a staff party was held. He asked why the school was not supporting failing students during that time instead. Mrs. Rose inquired about the process to help failing students. Dr. Lutz said the teacher would reach out to parents first and the student could also let the teacher know help was needed. Mr. Crodick questioned whether it was okay to have a party when students were failing. Renee Dowdy said that was an unfair assumption. It was only a snapshot of a 30 minute staff luncheon and a way to rebuild morale. Students were in the building receiving support that day. Chairman Etheridge said Mr. Crodick's statement was unfair and she supported the effort to make someone smile during these difficult times.

## **E. Consent Agenda (Action)**

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated November 10, 2020
  - a. Leave Report - Confidential
2. 1st Reading of 2020 Fall Policy Updates
  - a. 1510/4200/7270 School Safety
  - b. 1740/4010 Student & Parent Grievance Procedure
  - c. 1742/5060 Responding to Complaints
  - d. 1750/7220 Grievance Procedure for Employees
  - e. 1760/7280 Prohibition Against Retaliation
  - f. 3000 Goals & Objectives of the Educational Program
  - g. 3410 Testing & Assessment Program
  - h. 3460 Graduation Requirements
  - i. 3620 Extracurricular Activities & Student Organization
  - j. 4001 Equal Educational Opportunities
  - k. 4400 Attendance
  - l. 4600 Student Fees
  - m. 5020 Visitors to the Schools

- n. 5030 Community Use of Facilities
  - o. 6305 Safety & Student Transportation Services
  - p. 7510 Leave
  - q. Policy Update Chart
3. Budget Amendments Dated November 10, 2020
  4. Banking Reconciliation
  5. October 6, 2020 Board Meeting Minutes

## **F. Information Items**

1. Board of Education Meeting- December 1, 2020- Historic Currituck County Courthouse, 6:00 p.m. The meeting date was changed due to several conflicts.

## **G. Board Member and Superintendent Comments**

Mr. Crodick stated accomplishments that had taken place while he had served on the Board. However he was displeased with selective enforcement still practiced in the district and the unfair treatment of the previous CCHS principal. He was also upset that a fellow board member, Janet Rose, had negatively discussed his children at a polling site. He asked parents to question if the schools were any better off under the leadership of board members who are serving multiple terms.

Mrs. Rose spoke about Veteran's Day and thanked Mr. Crodick for his four years of service as a Board Member.

Dr. Dobey said a meeting is scheduled with local state representatives for support on creating an additional CTE based diploma track.

Mrs. Craft thanked everyone for their confidence and support for her re-election. She will continue to be a visible member of the board.

Dr. Lutz thanked Mr. Crodick for his service.

Chairman Etheridge also thanked Mr. Crodick.

## **H. Adjourn Meeting (Action)**

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Chairperson

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Secretary