

**Currituck County Schools****Board of Education Meeting****02/10/2020 06:30 PM****Meeting Minutes**

Historic Currituck County Courthouse

**Printed : 3/18/2020 10:33 AM EST**

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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**

Mark Stefanik, Superintendent  
Mallory Fields, Student Board Member  
Sydney MacDonald, Student Board Member  
Olivia McDonald, Student Board Member  
Taylor McCarthy, Student Board Member

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**A. Call to Order**

1. Invocation  
Invocation was led by both Dwan Craft and Janet Rose.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
Dr. Matney introduced Ryan Engelhard - who has been accepted into the Naval Academy upon graduation.
3. School Spotlight- Dr. Brian Matney, Currituck County High School Principal & Principal John Parkman, Currituck County Middle School  
Dr. Matney and his staff showcased the school's AP Capstone Program. Capstone status must be earned and CCHS is only one of 1,800 schools offering the program. Mr. Rawls, AP Math teacher, explained the programs two tracks and the requirements. The sequence was also explained along with the benefits. The AP Capstone status helps the student stand out when applying to colleges. The program also prepares the students for college rigor and the students earn college credits. The program promotes research and analytical thinking.

Principal Parkman and his staff spoke about the school's mission. Students explained that not only are academics important at CCMS, but students are given the opportunity to take part in character Ed groups. The groups work together on community service projects which promotes a positive school environment.

4. Teacher Bonus Recognition  
Assistant Superintendent, Renee Dowdy, and Dr. Matt Lutz, Assistant Superintendent, recognized teachers receiving the state's performance bonus.

Elementary educators in grades in 3-8, ranking top 25% in the state and/or LEA scores in reading and math:

Kim Ballance, Jeanne Philbrook, Leanne Heflin, Stephanie Sanderlin, Katrina Costello, Kaitlyn Snyder, Laura Hughes, Nicole Johnston, Lorin Fentress and Sherry Kight.

Educators 6-8 Math- ranking top 25% in state and/ or lea scores:

Kristin Joyner, Pattie Coffie, Jennifer Powell, Karen Guzinski and Lisa Stutlet.

**Advance Placement Educators:**

Thomas Andrejkovics  
 Deb Butler  
 Kim Mawhinney  
 Zach Dearman  
 Valerie Person  
 Liz Brinker  
 Robert Griffin  
 Anita Rubino  
 Joanna Blume

**CTE Educators:**

Michelle Dowdey, Jeff Rhodes, Susan Sawyer and Julie West

**5. School Growth & Principal Recognition**

Superintendent Stefanik recognized the Principals and schools that received growth status from the NC Department of Public Instruction:

CES - Karrie Chappell  
 JES - Julie Irio  
 KIES- Kevin Goins  
 GES- Angel  
 MES - Brandi Kelly  
 CCHS- Dr. Brian Matney  
 CCMS - John Parkman  
 MMS- Anne Radkee  
 JPK - Denise Fallon

Principals Receiving Performance Bonus: Deb Gorza -KIES, Denise Fallon - JPK and CES Karrie Chappell

**B. Public Comment Session**

1. Jason Sarnowski - spoke about the fact that CCHS students do not have the ability to practice in the county because there is not a regulation size pool. He gave the analogy of the students using an undersize football field and basketball court to practice. Students are not able to get the full training experience. He asked Board members to asked the County Commissioners to fund a pool.
2. Laurie Saarnowski spoke for the Hanke family who were unable to attend the meeting. She also explained how the small pool at the YMCA is not adequate for the CCHS swim team.
3. Dana Parker apologized for not being an advocate for public education. By remaining silent she and others have given the impression that they are pleased with the current situation in the schools. She said that Commissioners referred the parents to the Board of Education when they asked for items such has a regulation pool, working score boards and improved athletic restroom facilities. She asked the Board to ask for funds and to take a bold approach to the educational needs of the students. Mrs. Parker asked the Board to consider building a new state of the art high school rather than a new elementary school. Students could then be moved to the existing buildings to handle the growth in the county.
3. Dawn O'Donnell, parent, also asked for a regulation swimming pool. Sixty percent of the swim team qualified for regionals; however, she feels they are at a disadvantage having to practice in a

small, hot therapy pool.

4. Andrew Sarnowski, CCHS swimmer, explained how practices are conducted. The small pool puts the team at a disadvantage. The team consist of 26 members.

5. Sybil O'Neal spoke about respect and behavior. She said good teaches have left because of students bad behavior. She said that principals should be visible . She asked that Board to speak with Administration to get a back bone and handle issues in the schools.

6. Glenn Hines spoke about picking sites for new schools. He used SES for an example. The site was very expensive due to the water level which has caused high waste water costs. He cautioned the Board to be careful when purchasing sites and use the science available. He said the site on Survey Rd. may not be the best site.

Mr. Crodick responded to Hines, O'Neal and added that he was unaware of the swimming pool issues.

Superintendent Stefanik said that posting to Facebook should not be used as a formal complaint. The district cannot reply or respond to Facebook posts. Parents and staff with complaints should email the Superintendent or Assistance Superintendents. Anonymous complaints are also reviewed for those that wish to remain anonymous.

Janet Rose said that she was never in favor of the small pool. She also was aware that the Commissioners referred the pool issue back to the BOE.

Karen Etheridge said she has to go to Elizabeth City to watch her grandchildren swim. She is an advocate for a pool but the Board also has a fiscal responsibility.

### **C. Approval of Agenda (Action)**

The motion was made to pull item 12 b. Lawn Care Contracts from the Consent Agenda and voted on separately.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Will Crodick

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

### **D. Student Board Member Report**

Student reported on activities, student academic competitions and athletics.

### **E. Field Trip Requests:**

1. CCMS - All-District Band, Greenville, NC 1/30-2/1/2020
2. CCHS - All- District Band, Greenville, NC 1/30-2/1/2020
3. MMS - All-District Band, Greenville, NC 1/30-2/1/2020
4. CCHS - State Swim Meet, Raleigh, NC 2/5-2/6/2020
5. JPK - Model United Nations Simulated Conference, Norfolk, VA 2/13-2/16/2020
6. CCHS - Region Wrestling, Havelock, NC 2/14-2/15/2020
7. CCHS - State Track, Winston-Salem, NC 2/14-2/15 2020
8. CCHS - National Welding Competition, Jacksonville, FL 2/27-3/1/2020
9. JPK -FBLA State Leadership Conference, Greensboro, NC 3/18-3/21/2020
10. MMS - FBLA State Competition, Greensboro, NC 3/18-3/21/2020
11. CCHS - FBLA State Leadership, Greensboro, NC 3/18-3/21 2020

### **F. Accreditation Discussion**

Mr. Crodick said he would like to see the district move forward with accrediting the high school. He believes transcripts showing that Currituck Couty High School is accredited would greatly benefit the students moving forward to colleges and universities. In addition it would be economically beneficial for the County.

Dr. Dobney said that students historically have been accepted in colleges without the accreditation.

Students have received full scholarships to universities such as Duke, UVA, Wake Forest and just recently a recipient of the Morehead-Cain scholarship. He added that the district has absorbed constant funding cuts over the years. Accreditation would cost approximately \$30,000. He would support the process if it would benefit the County but does not want the funds to come out of the school district's budget

Superintendent Stefanik has been monitoring the accreditation process. DPI stated the process and JPK used the process to become accredited for over two years now. CCHS has been monitoring but the the school is short in some of the required areas.d. Cognia is another agency - \$30,000 annually until accreditation is received.

Dr. Matney explained the process of using Cognia. He likes the concept of having a third party review and help as a school attempts to grow.

Larry Lombardi, Economic Director for Currituck County, said that developers look at the schools. To have the accreditation would be another tool in the toolbox when competing. He said it was an absolute plus.

Will Crodick said that spending the \$30,000 would be a beneficial. Mr. Crodick read a letter from the County Commissioners supporting the accreditation of CCHS. He made a motion to start the accreditation process with Cognia. It was seconded by Dwan Craft.

Janet Rose said accreditation has been up for discussion many time and thinks it's a wonderful thing if it benefits our students. She asked Denise Fallon, Principal of JP Knapp, how it impacts students. Mrs. Fallon said she has a lot of inquiries about it especially from families moving from VA, but she cannot link it to college acceptance because the school's focus is on students graduating with an Associates Degree.

Superintendent Stefanik said if approved, a meeting would be scheduled with Cognia. CCHS continually hangs within meeting three or four of the state's requirements needed to move forward with the accreditation process. The DPI accreditation process used the reporting standards on NC Report Card.

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

#### **G. Landscaping: Island Lawncare & Landscaping, Donald Ferebee Landscaping and Odom's Lawncare & Tractor Service**

Mr. Stefanik explained that the lawn contracts where taken out for bid. The three contracts listed on the agenda are the selected contractors.

Mr. Crodick said that he would abstain from the vote because approximately two years ago he helped one of the individuals and received money for equipment on his farm.

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

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

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC - Audit Contract for June 30, 2020
2. Personnel Report Dated February 10, 2020

Janet Rose asked about the hiring process for the district's athletic coaches. She asked if the positions were advertised and she noticed not all coaches were on the teaching staff. Mr. Stefanik replied that the positions were advertised and the district would like to have

teachers as coaches but when staff is not available the district looks to the community. Mrs. Rose and Superintendent Stefanik discussed the benefit of having staff as coaches and the positive relationship it creates with students.

Dr. Dobney reminded the Board that an item on the agenda should be pulled out for discussion.

There were no more items for discussion so the Board moved forward with the Consent Agenda vote.

- a. Leave Report - Confidential
3. Banking Reconciliation
4. Revised 2019-2020 K-8 & CCHS School Calendars
5. Budget Amendments Dated February 10, 2020
6. Adoption of 4240 - Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
7. Approval of Episode of Violence  
Approved to allow additional benefits and leave time for injured staff member, Greta Nelson, Principal of Shawboro Elementary School.
8. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - November 7, 2019
9. Board Meeting Minutes for December 19, 2019
10. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - December 19, 2019
11. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - January 17, 2020
12. Contracts:
  - a. Modular Technologies, Inc - Modular Classrooms  
The Board accepted the vendor's bid. The finalized contract will come before the Board at the March meeting.

#### **I. Information Items**

1. Work Session - March 11, 2020- Knapp Professional Learning Center, 4:00 p.m.
2. Board of Education Meeting- March 11, 2020- Historic Currituck County Courthouse, 6:30 p.m.
3. Dr. Dobney and Assistant Superintendent Renee Dowdy will continue the effort in trying to get the state Board of Education to allow a second graduation track for students pursuing CTE degrees. They recently met with Representative Bobby Hanig.

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

The Board and Superintendent Stefanik spoke about visiting schools, congratulated staff and students on their success. Superintendent Stefanik said the Board will continue to look into land options to secure the best possible location for the new school.

Chairman Etheridge thanked those that spoke in the Public Meeting Session. She also said that she would like to dispel a myth about the relationships of the County Commissioners and Board of Education. The two may not always agree but they are now working together for the good of the community.

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

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

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Chairperson

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Secretary