

Currituck County Schools

Board of Education Meeting

03/16/2021 06:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

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Historic Currituck County Courthouse



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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
Taylor McCarthy, Student Board Member
Albert Mercado, Student Board Member
Daniel Walker, Student Board Member

A. Call to Order

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

B. NBCT Recognition

Christy Hodges, Instructional Coach, recognized the newly National Board Certified Teachers. She explained the process and the benefit of the NBCT program. She added that it was one of the most respectable certifications in K-12 instruction. It can take up to five years. There is also a renewal process. She thanked the Board for their support.

Newly certified: Missy Swain and Dana Pierro

Renewal: Molly Parker, Amber Everett and Anna Thomas

C. Student Board Member Report

The Student Board Member Report included information on school events and information for students.

D. Public Comment Session

With no comments, the session was closed.

E. Approval of Agenda (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

F. 2021-2022 School Calendars (Action)

Dr. Lutz and Renee Dowdy, Assistant Superintendent, presented the draft 2021-22 calendar options. Action was not taken but instead will be delayed until the April Meeting in order to

gain feedback from staff and parents. Mrs. Dowdy explained there has been a delay on adopting the calendars as district await direction from NCDPI and/or State Board of Education. At this time there is no direction on flexibility or required remote learning days.

The Board discussed how it would not be surprising to quickly revise the calendar based on directions from the State. The pandemic has caused several quick revisions. The district will try to give parents enough time to plan accordingly. Flexibility would allow an early start with the semester ending before the winter/holiday break.

Dr. Dobney asked the student board members to share the calendars with their peers and to provide feedback at the next meeting. Dr. Lutz said he was also waiting on summer school requirements which will also impact the start date of the new school year.

G. Budget Amendments (Action)

Larissa York, Finance Officer, provided Budget Amendments # 4 - with a budget of just over \$50 million. Revenue increases included funds received from the DLI grant. Federal Grants funds increased due to funds received for the special needs risk pool and CARES Act money. Also, funds were received from the County Government for the purchase of three new mobile classrooms units. The Board approved the amendments.

Mrs. Craft thanked the County for the appropriation for the mobile units.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

H. Senate Bill #220 and In-person & Virtual Instruction (Action)

Dr. Lutz presented the details of SB 220. Just recently the State passed SB 220 requiring schools to bring students back into the buildings. Currituck students have been attending school for in-person instruction for several months. Students were brought back as much as capacity levels would allow. Middle schools returned in cohorts in October 2020 and the district's high schools returned in January 2021. The district will continue operating the required virtual academy. Dr. Lutz noted that a few of the district's teachers had to be placed in the virtual academy in order to provide services.

Dr. Lutz presented students numbers for the middle schools and high schools and if A&B cohorts were combined for four days of instruction. The district has been actively bringing back at-risk students into the buildings. The law does require districts to return student with IEP's to in-person instruction if parents wish to do so.

CCHS has the potential to have 500 students in-person. This is roughly ½ of the school's population.

Dr. Lutz made the recommendation that effective Monday, March 22nd, student in both A&B cohorts return to four days of in-person instruction. The Transportation Dept. is able to provide bus service for the student currently in the cohorts. Social distancing of 6 ft is not required under SB 2020. If the plan is adopted then the district must work and report to the health department. Dr. Lutz said he is not aware of any spread among students in the classroom.

Janet Rose made the motion to bring back both A&B cohorts. It was seconded by Dwan Craft. The Board thanked Dr. Lutz for his hard work since October. Kelly Peters was assured that safety protocols and reporting would stay in place.

Mrs. Rose asked about having a prom. Dr. Lutz said he will look into it - smaller districts are having proms in outdoor venues.

Mrs. Craft said during the State Board of Education's recent visit they commended the district on the ability to return students to the classrooms.

Dr. Lutz reminded everyone that families who chose virtual will remain virtual until further notice. Although the district had to follow state mandates and operate a virtual academy, class sizes restrictions were no lessened. Families were twice offered in-person or virtual instruction. The district will continue to review students in the secondary level; however, transportation/bus service continues to be an issue,

Mrs. Rose said she heard from parents that if the initial plan allowed more than two days of in-person instruction, they would have returned their students to the buildings. Dr. Lutz asked to be allowed to return A& B cohorts and then look at the availability of buses/transportation.

Mrs. Peters asked about in-person students switching to virtual. Dr. Lutz said he would be able to provide more information on switching back and forth at the April meeting.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

I. Consent Agenda (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Janet Rose

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated March 16, 2021
 - a. Leave Report - Confidential
2. Board Meeting Minutes for February 18, 2021
3. Summer School Plan 2021
4. Banking Reconciliations (Informational Only)

J. Information Items

1. Joint Meeting with County Commissioners, March 23, 2021- Cooperative Ext. Center, 5:30 p.m.
2. CCHS Greenhouse Ribbon Cutting - April 1, 2021 - campus of CCMS, 9:00 a.m.
3. Work Session - April 15, 2021- Knapp Professional Learning Center, 4:00 p.m.
4. Board of Education Meeting - April 15, 2021 - Historic Currituck County Courthouse, 6:30 p.m.

K. Board Members & Superintendent Comments

Kelly Peters said the visit and tour with NCDPI & SBE was great and all were very impressed. The Sheriff Dept. visit to KIES was great for the students. She reminded everyone that it was Social Worker week. She thanks parents and staff for their patience and hard work. She was looking forward to the joint meeting with the County Commissioners.

Janet Rose was glad to see in-person and virtual instruction running well. She was excited to see football games with the band playing again. She thanked the County for the mobile unit purchase and also the Sheriff's Dept for their action hero appearance in the schools.

Dr. Dobney thanked the Student BOE members for their commitment, Dr. Lutz for his leadership and county commissioners for their support.

Dwan Craft thanked the commissioners as well and spoke about her visits at the schools.

Dr. Lutz congratulated the NBCT teachers and staff who were instrumental in the district receiving the DLI grant. Dr. Lutz said the district was fortunate to have Freebird McKinney to tour KIES via ferry and other mainland schools. They were able to see the transportation issues but to also see students in class learning.

Graduation is schedule for May 27th for CCHS and May 21st for JP Knapp.

Dr. Lutz thanked [Ben Stikeleather](#), County Manager, for attending the BOE Meetings.

Chairman Etheridge said she was glad to see unity within the district and good things happening under the leadership of Dr. Lutz. The itinerary for the March 2nd tour had been impressive and she enjoyed the tour where she witnessed staff teaching and children learning.

L. Adjourn Meeting (Action)

Motion made by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

Chairperson

Secretary