

**Currituck County Schools****Meeting Minutes****Printed : 6/25/2020 2:32 PM EST****(2:00 p.m. Closed Session) Board of Education Meeting****05/07/2020 04:00 PM**Professional Learning Center (PLC) - JP Knapp  
Campus

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**This meeting can be viewed at CCS\_BOE YouTube****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

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**A. Call to Order**

1. Invocation
2. Pledge of Allegiance

**B. Public Comment Session**

Several letters and voicemail were presented during the Public Comment Session concerning the debate on whether to hold 2020 graduation ceremonies and/or what type of ceremony should be held. Graduation ceremonies are impacted by COVID-19 and state mandates on social distancing.

Presenting: Pamela Lykins, John Harlow, Stephanie Harlow, Kim Hartman, Zackery Harlow, Travis Semones, Abigail Rose, Connor Kelly, Shawn Maynard, Qiana Harvey, Stacey Smith, Rachael Mooney, Sharon Cole and Harriet Kralik

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

The agenda was amended to remove Items listed in the Consent Agenda J - 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10. An update on Educational Services due to COVID 19 was added to the agenda.

Janet Rose seconded the motion for the purpose of discussion. Mrs. Rose said that she would like the COVID-19 policy update. Mr. Crodick said he had not had the opportunity to review the proposed policy updates due to the system being down. He expressed his concern with adopting policies under the recommendation of lawyers and North Carolina school board groups that can restrict the Board's rights and narrow its ability. Mr. Crodick added that he wanted to be sure of the policies that he voted on because currently policies exist that are way beyond the state's requirements which can reduce the Board's input as elected officials. Mrs. Rose said that she would like a report on the changes to COVID-19 rules. Superintendent Stefanik said that he did not have with him all of the changes that were made on May 4th. Mr. Crodick added that if policy revisions or adoptions are required by the state, he will vote even if not in favor. However if the revision language is only recommended, he is not comfortable rubber stamping the changes going forward. He recommended going through the policy manual to delete subjective policies.

Mrs. Rose asked that instead of the COVID-19 policies, an update on educational services due to COVID-19 be added to the agenda. Superintendent Stefanik said that Assistant Superintendents, Dr. Lutz and Mrs. Dowdy would provide an update later in the meeting.

Mr. Crodick requested that additional language be added to previous meeting minutes in order to add to the reflection of the record.

Mrs. Rose said in a previous meeting she asked for the email regarding the mobile unit funding. Superintendent Stefanik replied that the email was available.

Dr. Dobney said he would vote against removal of the Renewal of Administrator Contracts.

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Janet Rose

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - Yes

Dwan Craft - Yes

Dr. Bill Dobney - No

Will Crodick - Yes

Janet Rose - Yes

**D. 20-21 FY Draft Budget for Currituck County Schools (Action)**

The draft budget and interim budget resolution were combined and voted on as one action.

Larissa York, Finance Officer, provided the Board with the Draft 20-21 FY Budget and Interim Budget Resolution. She explained the in-depth draft budget includes information on where the money comes from and where it will be spent. The budget given to the Commissioners will provide purpose codes as well as PRC codes for better understanding. Mrs. York said she has very little information at the time because the State has warned that allotments may change. Superintendent Stefanik said that based on the projected ADM, the district may need additional 4 or 5 primary teachers due to the State's mandate on class sizes. He shared with the County that the district will not increase the number of positions that are outside of state or federal mandates and funding. The Board discussed details of the budget including the proposed \$400,000 cut to the Capital Outlay Budget. The Board discussed the concerns with making cuts due to the County's projected decreased revenue caused by COVID-19. The County is currently concerned with a 40% reduction. Mr. Crodick questioned the revenue sources and questioned cuts in other areas besides the Capital Outlay Budget. He expressed his concern with the \$1 million funding amount and the school district being able to maintain repairs and purchase mobile units. Mr. Crodick said it might be best for the district to do a better job presenting the concerns to the County. Chairman Etheridge agreed and said the \$400,000 reduction in the Capital budget is a huge hit. The Board discussed absorbing the \$25,000 for the mobile unit lease. Mrs. Rose expressed her concern with the cuts and the loss to the fund balance. Superintendent Stefanik said the budget could be presented to the Commissioners and follow it up with a presentation concerning the district's needs. Mr. Crodick said he was not interested in increasing the Fund Balance but investing back into the district to keep staff in place to reduce class sizes, fixing roofs and decrease bus ride times. Mrs. Rose said with funds in the Fund Balance, the problems could be fixed.

Mrs. York explained the PRC codes and how it provides details on where the money is allocated. Dr. Dobney asked if the funding formula was used to calculate the local current expense funds. Ms. York said yes and explained that the 1.8% CPI for 2019 was used. Superintendent Stefanik inquired about the 2% floor the Commissioners agreed upon. The current amount is \$11,447,202.

The district has not received an update from the State on the status of fines and forfeitures funds. The Board prefers the new budget format, which is easier to read. Mrs. York said she

must also report the budget in a purpose code format.

Mrs. York and Superintendent Stefanik explained how the Interim Budget Resolution would allow the district to operate until the State budget is approved. The draft budget will be presented to the County as informational, until the district receives more information from the State regarding budget adoption. If no action is taken by the State, the district will be operating under the funding levels of the 2018-2019 school year.

Will Crodick asked the motion be amended to change the budget number to \$1.25 million, add a narrative concerning the 2% increase (\$11,478,196.) and request a meeting with County Commissioners.

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**E. Interim Budget Resolution FY 20-21 (Action)**

Motion made by: Will Crodick

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**F. Capital Outlay Budget for 20-21 (Action)**

The Capital Outlay Budget was approved at 1.4 million dollars and will be submitted to the County Commissioners without the \$400,000 reduction.

Matt Mullins, Director of Building and Grounds, along with Sandy Reynolds, Chief Information Officer, presented the Capital Outlay Budget. The Board discussed the cuts and additional funds needed to repair the track at CCHS.

After much discussion, the Board voted and agreed to submit the original Capital Outlay Budget of \$1.4 million to the County Commissioners, without any reductions.

Mr. Crodick asked if cuts are made, that projects are prioritized. The Board discussed playground costs/funding, the playground at CES and special needs students. Chariman Etheridge said where CES is located, there is wonderful facility. The Board also discussed although it may be less expensive to have the equipment installed by the district's Maintenance Department, it could affect the warranty.

Motion made by: Karen Etheridge

Motion seconded by: Janet Rose

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**G. Superintendent Search (Action)**

A timeline for the Superintendent Search was provided by the district's HR Director, Anne Mackin. Janet Rose asked that the timeline be adjusted in order to have the new Superintendent in place by July 31st. The Board discussed and approved the combining of the process to adjust the timeline.

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dwan Craft

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

**H. Prom & Graduation Ceremony for 2020- Discussion**

Will Crodick made a motion for the district to hold the CCHS graduation ceremony on June 5th. Renee Dowdy added that the district was working on plans for two ceremonies, JPK on May 22nd and CCHS on June 5th. Principals Denise Fallon and Dr. Brian Matney joined the conversation and discussed the types of graduation ceremonies that could be held while following the COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines. Both principals spoke about the input they received from staff, parents and students. The Board discussed the various opening phases mandated by the State and if the opportunity would be available to provide the seniors with a ceremony as close to normal as possible. The recommendation was made to cancel prom in order to prioritize and plan for graduations and other pressing issues.

Principals will move forward with planning the ceremonies.

#### **I. Land Search Update**

Superintendent Stefanik said the Board is in the process of confirming a contract with a architectural firm. The district's attorney will use a template to start the contract process. Mrs. Rose asked that the presented summary or bullet points regarding the soil sample be added to the April 9, 2020 meeting minutes. Chairman Etheridge commented that the Board was researching two sites and stated that Site A would be donated, storm water design and engineering costs paid by the developer, apartments reserved for teachers, a pool would be available for the swim team and the site is centrally located to relieve SES and MES. She said she was not sure of Site B because of a pit near the property, unsafe highway condition . The Board will be making a decision soon on the purchase of the properties after checking with various professionals in the fields. Superintendent Stefanik clarified that the pool would be part of the housing development site, not just for the district's swim team. Will Crodick spoke about the water tables at Site A 3-10 ft and Site B 3-5ft. He asked for but was not able to get sea level evaluation data on the sites and not eager to partner with HOA for pool use. Janet Rose said she would like the district to have its own pool but with the budget situation that is not likely. Mrs. Rose also has concerns about the dewatering effect of mine near Site B. Will Crodick said that when he asked about adverse effects of the mine to other properties, the company who preformed the soil sample could not give him that information. Dr. Dobney added that the cracking of the terrazzo floor at MMS was repaired and could not determined if it was caused by settling. Dr. Dobney added that one site does not have a traffic light and there are traffic concerns. The Board discussed the easement issue for Site B which may require the purchase of additional land or the use of eminent domain.

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

All were in favor of the remaining items listed in the Consent Agenda. Items 3, 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 were removed during the amending of the Agenda - with the record showing Dr. Dobney voting no.

Motion made by: Dwan Craft

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Unanimously Approved

1. Personnel Report Dated May 7, 2020
2. Teacher Contract Recommendations
3. Administrator Contract Renewal
4. Surplus Item - Used, Dismantled Greenhouse at CCHS
5. Budget Amendments Dated April 9, 2020
6. COVID- 19 Policy Updates from NCSBA
7. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session - April 9, 2020

- 8. Board Meeting Minutes for April 9, 2020
- 9. Board Meeting Minutes for Closed Session -April 21, 2020
- 10. Board Meeting Minutes for Special Meeting- April 21, 2020

**K. Information Items**

**L. Board Member and Superintendent Comments**

**M. Adjourn Meeting (Action)**

Motion made by: Janet Rose

Motion seconded by: Dr. Bill Dobney

Voting:

Karen Etheridge - Vote Not Recorded

Dwan Craft - Vote Not Recorded

Dr. Bill Dobney - Vote Not Recorded

Will Crodick - Vote Not Recorded

Janet Rose - Vote Not Recorded

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Chairperson

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Secretary