

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, October 8, 2024 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Linda Byrd

Ms. Victoria Lehman

Mrs. Joyce Long

Ms. Jennifer Sims

Mrs. Ebony Talley-Brame (absent)

Also in Attendance

Board Attorney, Maura O’Keefe (via zoom)

Chief Human Resource Officer, Dr. Keedra Whitaker

Chief Communication and Engagement Officer, Heather Mallard

Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Dennis Carrington

Interim Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Marcus Jones

1.0 Opening of Meeting

The Warren County Board of Education met for their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 at 6:02 p.m. at Warren County Middle School located at 118 Campus Drive, Warrenton, North Carolina.

1.1 Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Lehman announced the establishment of a quorum and called the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting to order.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Ms. Lehman asked for a moment of silence.

2.0 Board Chair Announcements

2.1 Board Chair’s Comments

Ms. Lehman stated, “Good evening everyone. Hispanic heritage month runs through October 15. Northside Elementary School will be having a special program on October 18th. On October 25 WCMS will be having a district multicultural night starting at 5pm. October is also bully prevention and National Principal’s month. October is also the time when seniors can apply to many different colleges absolutely free during college application week.”

2.2 Other Board Member’s Comments

Ms. Sims stated, “Good evening, congratulations to the WCMS football team on winning the homecoming game and all homecoming court candidates.

Next Wednesday at 530pm the warriors will be recognized.

WCHS took home the Wells Fargo Conference Cup for this year. This cup is a symbol of the overall sports excellence among high schools in the Tar-Roanoke Athletic Conference. Mr. Hunt sends a special thanks to the Board of Education, all the student athletes, coaches, parents, central office staff, our school administration, teachers, and support staff at both WCHS and WECHS. We are off to a great start

this year in our quest to repeat as the Wells Fargo Cup champion. Things are changing for the better in Warren County.”

3.0 Superintendent’s Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Dr. Montague-Davis stated, “Good evening everyone,

Reopened 7th Grade Wing of Warren County Middle School

- Our maintenance staff completed critical repairs on the 7th grade wing **on time**
- Reopened that area last week
- Also Reducing class sizes in 7th grade ELA and Math
- Still working on plans for additional projects to address the other issues with the roof

Community Listening Meetings

- Have 2 community listening sessions in October
- Everyone is invited
- Strongly encourage everyone with a middle or high school student to attend one of the meetings
- Providing an Academic Update
 - Where are we academically?
 - Where are we going?
 - What do we need from families and our community?
- Talk about our cell phone management program, which we’ll start at our middle and high schools at the beginning of the second semester in January
- Meetings:
 - Monday, October 21 at Warren County High School
 - Wednesday, October 23 at Warren County Middle School
 - Both meetings will be from 6-7:30

Upcoming Special Dates

- Hispanic Heritage Month runs through October 15
 - Northside has a special program celebrating Hispanic Heritage month on October 18
- October is:
 - Bullying Prevention Month
 - National Principals Month
- October 14-18 is National School Lunch Week
- October 21-27th is College Application Week
 - You can apply for most colleges in the NC System for free!
 - Seniors - get those essays and other application information ready now!
- Friday, October 25th is the District’s Multicultural Night, celebrating our international teachers
 - Learn about the home countries of our international teachers
 - traditional foods for everyone to try
 - songs
 - dances
 - Traditional clothing
 - Presentations about their home countries

Radio Show

- “Learn More with Warren County Schools,”

- LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM
- Thursday from noon until 12:30
- This week's topic: School Lunch Week and the exceptional work of our Child Nutrition Team
- Ways to catch it
 - Listen live on the radio
 - stream it online from the radio station's website, or
 - watch us live on the Warren County Schools Facebook page.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

4.1 Motion to Approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

5.0 Approval of Consent Agenda

All items under the consent agenda are approved by one motion.

5.1 Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Ms. Lehman call for a motion to approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

5.2 Minutes for August 1, 2024 Recessed Board Meeting, August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, and August 27, 2024 Work Session/Business Board Meetings.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the minutes from the August 1, 2024 Recessed Board Meeting, August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, and August 27, 2024 Work Session/Business Board Meetings.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There was one. His name was Reinaldo Espinoza.

7.0 Discussion Items

7.1 Managing Cellphone Access During the School Day

Dr. Carrington and Ms. Mallard presented to the Board information on managing cellphone access during the school day. This was for informational purposes only.

7.2 Policy# 4318 WCS Wireless Communication Policy

Dr. Whitaker presented to the Board information on the Warren County Schools wireless communication policy#4318. This was for informational purposes only.

7.3 Corner Clean Contract

Dr. Carrington presented to the Board the Corner Clean contract. It was stated “Corner clean provides janitorial services to Central Services. In compliance with Policy Code 6420: Contracts with the Board; board approval is required for contracts and change orders that would result in more than \$30,000 being paid to the same vendor during the same fiscal year or any consecutive 12-month period.”

7.4 True IP Contract

Mr. Russ Piland, Director of Technology presented to the Board the True IP contract. It was stated, “The district utilizes True IP Solutions as our provider for Voice Over IP (VOIP) phone services. Due to an increase in the number of phones throughout the district, the total invoice amount now exceeds the superintendent’s spending authority. This action item seeks Board of Education approval for the invoice to cover the expanded phone infrastructure. \$36,328.31”

7.5 Spring Policy Updates

Dr. Whitaker presented to the Board information on the Spring Policy Updates. The Spring 2024 Policy Custom Updates from the North Carolina School Board Association were reviewed by the Board of Education’s Policy Committee and Senior Cabinet on September 10, 2024. The Spring 2024 Policy Custom Updates were also presented as a discussion item during the September 24, 2024 Board of Education work session.

8.0 Action Items

8.1 Corner Clean Contract

Dr. Dennis Carrington presented to the board for approval the Corner Clean Contract.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Corner Clean Contract contingent upon contracts final review by Board Attorney and Superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

8.2 True IP Contract

Mr. Russ Piland, Director of Technology presented to the board for the True IP contract.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the True IP Contract contingent upon final review by Board Attorney and Superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

8.3 Spring Policy Updates

Dr. Whitaker presented to the board for approval the Spring Policy Updates.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the Spring Policy Updates minus Policy #3620.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

9.0 Convene in Closed Session

9.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:17 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to convene in closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to convene in closed session to prevent the disclosure of confidential information pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1), (a)(5) and (a)(6), G.S. 115C-319, and to consult with the Board attorney and preserve the attorney-client privilege, pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3).

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

10.0 Reconvene in Open Session

10.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 8:34 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

11.0 Action on Closed Session Item

11.1 Approval Personnel Report

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the personnel report as amended during closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the personnel report as amended during closed session.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Board Chair Lehman made the following statement: "The Board has resolved a dispute with SMJ Communications, Inc., for payment of \$7,000.00 and nonmonetary terms."

12.0 Adjournment

12.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 8:35p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to adjourn the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary