

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, September 10, 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, September 10, 2024 at 6:03 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 September 10, 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. We would like to thank everyone that attended the Interim Superintendent’s meet and greet that the Board of Education sponsored. It was a merry time. The theme was “You are never fully dressed without a smile.” A special thank you to Dr. Montague Davis’s husband that came out, county commissioners, old colleagues and etc.”

2.2 Other Board Member’s Comments

Ms. Sims stated, “Good evening, this is homecoming week and we are looking forward to having a great homecoming. We are still looking for volunteers to help with tailgating, parking and etc. Thank you to all that have requested spots. Thank you to all that are participating in the activities. So we are looking forward to the parade and the meet and greet and then the game against North Edgecombe at 2pm Saturday. The parade will travel down US 1 in Norlina. It will start promptly at 4:30pm.”

Ms. Long stated, “Good evening to everyone, I enjoyed the meet and greet for the Interim Superintendent. It was a great turnout. Also I would like to ask the community that if you have any donations we would greatly appreciate you support. Also if you would like to volunteer in the schools please check with the principals for the proper process.”

3.0 Superintendent’s Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Dr. Montague-Davis stated, “Good evening everyone, WCMS Receives Donated School Supplies

- Thanks to the Governor’s School Supply Drive
- This afternoon, Warren County Middle received a large donation of school supplies
- Tammy Martin, the Director of Communications for the North Carolina Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, personally delivered the donations

National Arts in Education Week

- This week is National Arts in Education Week
 - We just received a grant from the NC Arts Council for nearly 23-thousand dollars
 - Last year, the district used money from the same grant for summer programs and special arts programming
 - Summer Camp ROAR special activities
 - Creative dance classes
 - The art of storytelling
 - West African Drummers
 - Special Arts Programming during the school 2023-24 year
 - Heritage Quilters programs at our elementary schools
 - taught students about the history of quilting
 - How enslaved people secretly communicated important information to each other through quilting
 - And taught students how to quilt
- We’re currently scheduling arts programs for this school year
- Meet and Greet Shout Outs
- Thank the board for the beautiful reception yesterday
- Thank everyone who attended
- Upcoming Special Dates
- Tomorrow is 9/11, which is also known as Patriot’s Day.
- Next week kicks off Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 through October 15

Marching Band Invited to Howard University!

- Our Dynamic Marching Machine honored to receive a personal invitation to participate in Howard University’s 100th Anniversary Homecoming Parade
 - Saturday, October 19 in Washington, DC
 - Recognize Mr. Jayson Pender, Director of Bands
 - Ask him to introduce others he brought with him
 - Ask him how many they’re planning to take to Howard?
 - Ask him about fundraisers to help cover the costs of the trip?
- Homecoming

- Welcome home to everyone who is already back in town or coming back this weekend for Homecoming!
- Warren County High School is celebrating all week with Spirit Week
- Things ramp up on Friday!
- Pep Rally Friday afternoon for students only
- Homecoming Parade Friday at 4:30 in Norlina
- Saturday is game day!
 - Tailgating from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 - Kickoff for the game is 2:00 p.m.
 - Playing against North Edgecombe
 - At halftime, they'll present the Homecoming Royal Court and name the King and Queen
- Back to School Powwow
- Next Tuesday, September 17 is the Haliwa-Saponi (HOLL-ih-wah suh-PONE-ee) Back to School Powwow
- Everyone is invited
- At Doe Spun in Hollister from 6-8 p.m.
- Opportunity to learn about our local Haliwa-Saponi (HOLL-ih-wah suh-PONE-ee) Tribe, their culture and customs, eat some traditional foods like Fry Bread, and see beautiful traditional dancing with a drum circle and singers

Teacher Workday / Wellness Day - Fri, Sept. 20

- Next Friday, September 20 is a Teacher Workday for all schools
 - It's a mandatory half-day of professional development for staff in the morning
 - The afternoon is a wellness half-day
 - Radio Show
 - "Learn More with Warren County Schools," will be
 - LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM
 - Thursday from noon until 12:30.
 - This week's topic: Homecoming!
 - Guests:
 - Mr. Jayson Pender, Director of Bands
 - Members of the Dynamic Machine
 - Ms. Pamela Jordan, WCHS Senior Class Advisor
 - WCHS student
 - Consherto (con-SHARE-toe) Williams, Alumni Association
 - 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.
- This concludes my comments.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

4.1 Motion to Approve the September 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the September 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the September 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

5.0 Public Comments

5.1 Call for Public Comments

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

6.0 Discussion Items

6.1 2023-2024 Performance Data

Ms. Debra Clayton, Director of Testing and Accountability presented to the Board the 2023-2024 Performance Data. This was for informational purposes only.

6.2 Elevate K-12

Mr. Jones and Dr. Whitaker presented to the Board information on the amendment for Elevate K-12 to include Warren County Middle School as a part of its service agreement. This was for informational purposes only.

6.3 Participate Contract 2024-2025

Dr. Whitaker presented to the Board the Participate Learning contract. It was stated Participate Learning provides international educational programs and services to schools to increase student knowledge of languages and cultures. This includes global schools, dual language immersion programs, and exchange visitor teacher programs. Due to the shortage of teachers across the state of North Carolina and United States, the district utilizes this vendor to operate the Dual Language Program at Northside Elementary and to help fill critical teacher vacancies at Northside Elementary.

6.4 Siemens Contract

Dr. Carrington presented to the Board the Siemens contract for discussion. This was for informational purposes only.

6.5 Textbook Acquisition Services

Mr. Jones presented to the Board information on the Textbook Acquisition services for our students at the Early College.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Textbook Acquisition Services

Mr. Marcus Jones presented to the board for approval the textbook acquisition services. It was stated, "The Academic Team is requesting board approval to purchase college textbooks and codes from Textbook Acquisition Services for our students at the Early College."

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the textbook acquisition services for Warren Early College High School contingent upon contracts final review by Board Attorney and Superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.2 Participate Contract 2024-2025

Dr. Keedra Whitaker presented to the board for approval information on the 2024-2025 Participate Learning contract. It was stated, "Participate Learning provides international

educational programs and services to schools to increase student knowledge of languages and cultures. This includes global schools, dual language immersion programs, and exchange visitor teacher programs. Due to the shortage of teachers across the state of North Carolina and United States, the district utilizes this vendor to operate the Dual Language Program at Northside Elementary and to help fill critical teacher vacancies at Northside Elementary.”

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the 2024-2025 Participate Learning Contract contingent upon final review by Board Attorney and Superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.3 **Siemens Contract**

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval the Siemens Contract.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Byrd and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Siemens contract contingent upon final review by Board Attorney and Superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.4 **Elevate K-12**

Mr. Jones and Dr. Whitaker presented to the board for approval the Elevate K-12 amendment to include Warren County Middle School as a part of the agreement.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Elevate K-12 amendment to include Warren County Middle School as a part of the agreement.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Before convening into closed session, The Assistant Band Director came to talk about WCHS band being invited to the Howard University 100th band anniversary. The band booster has done fundraisers with tidal wave in Henderson; where if someone purchase a voucher they will get carwashes up to a year. They have done popcorn fundraiser, the students are doing the fill my sheet fundraiser to cover the trip. The total cost of the trip will include the food, hotel, museum tickets and etc. The raised funds will also offset some of the cost for those that has multiple children within one family.

Also if you or if you know someone interested in sponsoring a child, have them contact Mr. Pender at WCHS. The total cost per student is \$160 and the trip is for 7-12 grade students. Thank you for your time and consideration.

8.0 **Convene in Closed Session**

8.1 **Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

At 6:53 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. Byrd to convene in closed session pursuant to N.C. General Statutes 14-318.11(a)(1), (a)(5), and (a)(6), to prevent the disclosure of confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-321, and to consult with the Board attorney and preserve the attorney-

client privilege, pursuant to 143-318.11(a)(3).

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

9.0 Reconvene in Open Session

9.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 7:49 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

10.0 Action on Closed Session Item

10.1 Approval Personnel Report

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

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to approve chief contracts from July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024, with salary increases recommended by the interim superintendent as stated in the personnel report, and that we rescind any prior contract offers that extend beyond June 30, 2024, to the extent offered or approved by the Board, to comply with applicable law.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the remainder of the personnel report as presented in closed session, including salary adjustments.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

11.0 Adjournment

11.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 7:51p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the September 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Byrd and seconded by Ms. Sims to adjourn the September 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary