

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Linda Byrd (absent)

Ms. Victoria Lehman

Mrs. Joyce Long

Ms. Jennifer Sims

Mrs. Ebony Talley-Brame

Also in Attendance

Superintendent, Mr. Keith Sutton

Board Attorney, Maura O'Keefe

Chief Human Resource Officer, Dr. Keedra Whitaker

Chief Communication and Engagement Officer, Heather Mallard

Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Dennis Carrington

Chief Academic Officer, Dr. Yakisha Clemons

1.0 Public Hearing

1.1 Call for Public Hearing Comments on the 2024-2025 Proposed Superintendent's Budget

Ms. Lehman called for Public Hearing comments speakers. There was one individual that signed up to speak. The speaker was Shavon Russell Jones.

As there was no further business or discussion, at 6:08pm Ms. Lehman adjourned the Public Hearing and the Regular Board Meeting immediately began.

2.0 Opening of Meeting

The Warren County Board of Education met for their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 at 6:08 p.m. at Warren County Middle School located at 118 Campus Drive, Warrenton, North Carolina.

2.1 Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Lehman announced the establishment of a quorum and called the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting to order.

2.2 Moment of Silence

Ms. Lehman asked for a moment of silence.

3.0 Board Chair Announcements

3.1 Board Chair's Comments

There were none.

3.2 Other Board Member's Comments

Ms. Sims stated, "Good evening everyone. I wanted to say that we appreciated

meeting with staff and serving ice cream with all the schools last week. We appreciated you all and look forward to doing more of this.”

Ms. Talley Brame echoed the same thing and all gave a shout out to all the nurses.

4.0 Superintendent’s Updates

4.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Mr. Sutton stated, “Good evening everyone, Last week was Teacher Appreciation week. We’re so thankful for our teachers dedicated to helping prepare children for the future. They do everything from teaching core subjects to providing an extra snack when someone needs it, giving hugs when a student needs to feel some support, meeting and partnering with families to help their student succeed, collaborating with other teachers, going to professional development to make sure they’re using the best practices for working with their students, and so much more. We appreciate you teachers, and we salute you!

Also School Nurse’s Day was Wednesday of last week. We’ve got some of the best school nurses around! They help students and their families manage chronic medical conditions and help our students with their medical needs. It takes a special person to be a nurse. And we think you have to be even more special to be a school nurse! Thank you to all of our school nurses!

Since our last board meeting, we also celebrated Principal’s Appreciation Day. These are the men and women responsible for everything that goes on in our schools. Think about that for a minute. From making sure the door gets unlocked in the morning, the building is ready for students to arrive, staff working schedules, finances, communicating with families... and that’s before students and staff even arrive at school! We’ve got great principals working to make big things happen here in Warren County! We’re thankful for each of you!

This Friday, we officially kick off our graduations. 22 scholars will graduate from Warren Early College High School Friday at 6:00 PM in the Warren County Middle School gymnasium. The graduation is open to the public. No tickets are needed. I’m proud to announce that all 22 of them are graduating with their high school diploma and their college associate's degree! We have six scholars finishing their fifth, super-senior year and 16 scholars who earned both in just four years. I’m also happy to share that 100% of the graduating class has been accepted to a college or university! Speaking of which, these students participated in the VGCC graduation last week, so it’s an exciting time for these young adults.

Not far behind, Warren County High School is holding its graduation Saturday, May 25th at 10 a.m. in the high school gym. Tickets are required to attend this graduation. We’ll tell you more about their graduating class at our next meeting.

This is a busy time of year for all of our schools! Every school has end of year activities and celebrations planned, so check with your local school for dates and times. We love being able to celebrate all of our students and their hard

work this school year.

Before the school year has ended, we're already looking forward to next school year. Do you have a 3, 4, or 5-year old? Now is the time to get them registered for kindergarten or pre-k. All you have to do is go to the elementary school closest to your home and they'll help you enroll your child. For kindergarten, your child must be 5-years-old before August 31. For pre-k, they have to be 4 by August 31. We have a list of the documents you'll need on our website. Just go to w-w-w - dot - warren - k - 12 - n - c - dot - org - slash - enroll. (www.warrenk12nc.org/enroll)

Our radio show, Learn More with Warren County Schools, will be LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM next Thursday from noon until 12:30. We hope you can listen in 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.

5.0 Approval of the Agenda

5.1 Motion to Approve the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There were three individuals that spoke. They were Reinaldo Espinoza, Shavon Russell Jones and Imani E. Jones.

7.0 Action Items

7.1 Custodial Supplies

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval the information on the purchase of custodial supplies for Warren County Schools. It was stated, "Restart Applications. It was stated, "In an effort to improve the cleaning and maintenance of our facilities, we have completed an assessment of the necessary equipment and supplies needed in each building. Additional cleaning equipment and materials are needed to support these needs. This list includes items such as buffers, scrubbers, water extraction machines and other items to properly clean and maintain floors throughout the schools. Capital funding is available for this purchase."

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the purchase of the custodial supplies per purchasing contract approval by attorney and superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.2 EC Service Amendment Agreement

Mrs. Blythem De Sare, Director of Exceptional Children, presented to the board for approval, an amendment agreement for exceptional children speech services. It was stated, “Additional funds of \$12,500 is needed to cover speech services for the 2023-2024 School year; increasing contract amount.”

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the EC service amendment agreement for speech services as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.3 2024-2025 Elementary and Secondary Instructional Calendars

Mrs. Debra Clayton, Director of Testing and Accountability, provided a final overview of drafts of the 2025- 2026 Elementary and Secondary Instructional calendars. The proposed 2025-2026 instructional calendars contain at least 1025 instructional hours. They also meet all other requirements of the state calendar law.

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the 2024-2025 Elementary and Secondary Instructional calendars as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 3-1 (Sims voting no)

7.4 2024-2025 Proposed Superintendent's Budget

Mr. Jeremy Teetor, School Operations Specialists, presented to the board for approval the Superintendent's Proposed 2024-2025 Budget. The proposed budget is estimated at nearly \$65 million. The proposed budget seeks approximately \$5.3 million from Warren County Commissioners for operating costs and approximately \$500,000 in capital funding support to address facility needs. This funding would help to cover the cost of some major repairs and deep cleaning of our schools and make significant improvements to physical education and athletic facilities.

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the 2024-2025 Proposed Superintendents' budget as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.5 Fall Policy 2023 Updates (First Reading)

Dr. Whitaker presented to the Fall Policy 2023 Updates to the Board for first reading approval. It was stated, “The Fall 2023 Policy Custom Updates from the North Carolina School Board Association were reviewed by the Warren County Schools Board of Education Policy Committee and Executive Cabinet and are being recommended for approval on first reading.”

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the first reading of the Fall Policy 2023 Updates as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

7.6 HVAC Unit (WCHS)

Dr. Carrington presented to the Board for approval information on the HVAC unit at WCHS. It was stated, “This is to remove the existing condensing unit from the roof and install new 50 ton Trane unit on roof.”

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the purchase of the new HVAC unit at WCHS pending approval of the purchasing contract by the attorney and the superintendent.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

8.0 Convene in Closed Session

8.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:18 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to convene in closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame 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 10:34 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

To approve the personnel report as presented during closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the personnel report as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

11.0 Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 10:35p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to adjourn the May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary