

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING
Tuesday, October 22, 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

Also in Attendance

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Carol Montague Davis

Board Attorney, Maya Weinstein

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 Work Session/Business Meeting on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 6:04 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 22, 2024 Work Session/Business 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, I would like to say congratulations to our Board Attorney, Maura O'Keefe for having a baby girl. In her absence we welcome Maya Weinstein. Congratulations again Maura.

Also during my walk in the middle of the day down college street. I saw all these little kids from MBES going to the library for a field trip. I was thrilled to see this. So, I personally encourage any kind of activities like this. Kudos to MBES. Lastly, I would like to inform every that Warren County will be having our Harvest Night this Saturday at 9 o'clock on the courthouse square.

2.2 Other Board Member's Comments

Ms. Sims stated that "I would like to say a big congratulations to the WCHS cross country team. They have won the conference team three years in a row. They have had a very successful year. So, again congratulation to the team, Coach McCrae, and the parents.

3.0 Superintendent's Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Dr. Montague-Davis stated, "Good evening everyone!"

Community Listening Meetings

- Had our first one last night at WCHS
- Another one tomorrow night, Wednesday Oct. 23
- Warren County Middle School multipurpose room at 6 p.m.
- From 5-6 p.m., you can come and get help setting up your parent portal in Infinite Campus (previously used PowerSchool)
- 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
- We're also streaming the meetings live on our Warren County Schools Facebook page

Marching Band Trip to Washington, DC

- Our Dynamic Marching Machine honored to participate in Howard University's 100th Anniversary Homecoming Parade
- Saturday, October 19 in Washington, DC
- Students also explored:
 - Washington D.C.
 - The campus of Howard University
 - National Museum of African American History & Culture
- Recognize:
 - Mr. Jayson Pender, Director of Bands
 - Ms. Cherita Smith, Assistant Director and music teacher at WCMS
 - Students from WCHS, WECHS, and WCMS who participated

Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations

- Northside Elementary put on a special program last Friday celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month
 - Two of our Spanish Immersion students emceed the event and showed their fluency in Spanish
- Warren Early College will have its Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration this Thursday, October 24, from 8:30-10:30. Everyone is welcome.

Cross Country Champs 3peat!

- WCHS Cross Country Team is the regular season AND conference champs FOR THE THIRD YEAR IN A ROW!
- The team had 6 girls named all-conference
- 4 boys named all-conference
- Back-to-back female runner of the year: Sophomore Kenley Sheats
- Three-time Coach of the Year: Coach Toriano Mcrae

Lady Eagles Volleyball Playoffs

- First round of the playoffs
- Game started at 5 tonight at Eno River Academy

Warrenton Rotary Club

- Last Tuesday, I spoke to the Warrenton Rotary Club
- They want to partner with us on our literacy initiatives

National Principals Month

As we celebrate National Principals Month, I'd like to recognize the

outstanding leadership of our six principals.

- Liandra Davis | Mariam Boyd Elementary
- Dr. Kenya Grant | Northside Elementary
- Sophelia McMannen | Vaughan Elementary
- Michelle Dunbar | Warren County Middle
- Dr. Cynthia Simons | Warren County High
- Shena Judkins | Warren Early College

Each of you plays an essential role in shaping the future of our students, supporting our teachers, and fostering a positive, inclusive environment. Your dedication and hard work have not gone unnoticed, and on behalf of our district and community, we are incredibly grateful.

In appreciation of all you do, I have a small token of gratitude for each of you. Thank you for your commitment to excellence and for being champions of children with kindness. Let's give them a round of applause!

Upcoming Special Dates

- October is:
 - Bullying Prevention Month
 - National Principals Month
- This week is College Application Week
 - You can apply for most colleges in NC for free!
 - Ends Sunday night
- 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
- Next Thursday, October 30th is the annual Careers on Wheels event at Warren County High School
 - Through partnerships with local businesses and industries, WCHS and WCMS students get to see and learn about a wide range of careers that involve cars, trucks, tractors, ATVs... anything on wheels!

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: Our Teacher of the Year, Beginning Teacher of the Year, and Principal of the Year
- 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 Special Recognitions

4.1 National Principals Month

October is National Principals Month! It's time to celebrate and honor the incredible

work our principals' do every day, transforming our schools and impacting lives. Let's come together to express our gratitude and showcase the difference they make. Each one of our principals' (listed below) was recognized and gifted a trophy, flowers and a monetary gift.

- Liandra Davis | Mariam Boyd Elementary
- Dr. Kenya Grant | Northside Elementary (Crystal Boyd accepted this in Grants absence)
- Sophelia McMannen | Vaughan Elementary
- Michelle Dunbar | Warren County Middle
- Dr. Cynthia Simons | Warren County High
- Shena Judkins | Warren Early College

4.2 School Board Bell Recognition

Dr. Montague Davis recognized the Board of Education for earning the Bell's Award from the North Carolina School Board's Association. It was stated, "Congratulations, I am very pleased to present the Warren County Schools board with the Bell's Award for Whole-Board Recognition. This is an honor that is given to school boards when every member of the board has earned training credit during the academic year. The Bell Award is given at two levels. A Gold Bell Award is given when all members of the board have earned 12 or more hours of training between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. A Silver Bell Award is given when all members of the board have earned some training during that same time period. I recognize that board service is a demanding role that requires time away from family and friends; however, this work enables every student to enjoy the educational opportunities provided by the Warren County Schools district. Your work ensures a secure North Carolina for years to come. Thank you for your service!"

5.0 Approval of the Agenda

5.1 Motion to Approve the October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to amend the October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda to add the Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY), Principal of the Year (POY), and Teacher of the Year (TOY) recognitions to the agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to amend the October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting to add the Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY), Principal of the Year (POY), and Teacher of the Year (TOY) recognitions to the agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the amended October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

5.2 Beginning Teacher of the Year (BTOY), Principal of the Year (POY), Teacher of the Year (TOY)

Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Jacqueline Hargrove recognized the BTOY candidates and winner: Jaquilla Jones- PreK Teacher at NES; Heather Sharp-EC Teacher at MBES; Linda Lynch-EC Teacher at

VES; Jennifer Davis-EC Teacher at WCHS, and Julie Eaton- Teacher at WECHS. The new 2024 BTOY was Heather Sharp- EC Teacher at MBES.

Whitaker and Hargrove then recognized that the new POY was Mrs. Sophelia McMannen, Principal of VES.

They then recognized and named the TOY candidates and winner: Raquel Noguerras- 1st grade Teacher at MBES; Yolany Carias- Spanish Immersion Teacher at NES; Esmena Forrest- 3rd grade Teacher at VES; Earlene Clanton- Social Studies Teacher at WCMS; Wakisha Turrentine- CTE Business Teacher at WCHS; and Lisa Bender- English Teacher at WECHS. The new 2024 TOY was Wakisha Turrentine- CTE Business Teacher at WCHS.

Each candidate received a trophy, flowers and a monetary gift.

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There were none.

7.0 Discussion Items

7.1 2024-2025 Preliminary District Improvement Plan

Mr. Marcus Jones, Dr. Keedra Whitaker, Ms. Heather Mallard and Dr. Montague Davis presented to the board for informational purposes only the 2024-2025 Preliminary District Improvement Plan. It was stated, “The State Board of Education’s designation of low-performing schools and low-performing LEA’s (on Oct. 3) triggers a 30-day timeline under the revised statutes for the Superintendent to develop a plan for school improvement that must be made available to the public, presented to the local Board of Education, and eventually submitted to the State Board for review and feedback. A specific public notice must also be provided to the parents of students at the low-performing schools, along with an explanation of school performance grades and growth scores.

Staff is submitting for review a preliminary plan for improving both the school performance grade and school growth score of each low-performing school in the unit including how the superintendent and central office administrators will work with each low-performing school and monitor the low-performing school's progress and how current local school administrative unit policy may be changed to improve student achievement throughout the local school administrative unit.

Within 30 days of its receipt of the preliminary plan, the local board shall vote to approve, modify, or reject this plan. This item is being presented for information and discussion at tonight’s meeting. This item will return at an upcoming meeting in November as an action item.”

8.0 Adjournment

8.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 6:55p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to adjourn the October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary