

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, December 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

Also in Attendance

Attorney Maya Weinstein (in the absence of Board Attorney, Maura O’Keefe)

Chief Human Resource Officer, Dr. Keedra Whitaker (via zoom)

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, December 10, 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 December 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. I encourage all students to do their best on the upcoming exams.

Also, this is the last Board of Education meeting for this year.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that the Warrenton Christmas parade is going to be on December 14th at 3pm.

2.2 Other Board Member’s Comments

Ms. Sims stated, “Good evening everyone. Our Eagles football team advanced to the third round of the 1A state playoffs. Unfortunately, they were knocked out in the third round by Tarboro, who is the #1 seed. We are so proud of our Eagles, the coaches, the Dynamic Marching Machine, our cheerleaders, and our Warren County family who showed out every week to support our students!

Now we’ve officially transitioned to basketball season and we’re excited about our great start so far! We hope to see you in the Nest for some or all of our home games. We also want to shout out to our Middle School Warriors who have also started their

basketball season. Our student-athletes are doing big things!

I also would like to inform you that we have almost completed Phase I renovations on the concession stand at the WCHS gymnasium. So we thank you to Devaldia Construction and Chris Privett who is a WCHS alumni. So we invite you all to come out and watch the game.

Ms. Talley Brame stated that we had a great curriculum meeting earlier today. So I give shout outs to all principals who presented great School Improvement Plans. I also say thank to everyone for their hard work and dedication. I wish each of you a Happy Holiday.

Ms. Byrd and Ms. Long wished everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

3.0 Superintendent's Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Dr. Montague-Davis stated, "Good evening everyone,
District Science Fair

- The district science fair will be next Friday, December 13
- This year, the science fair will be different from previous years
- It'll be after school, from 4-6 p.m. at Warren County High School
- This year, only the first place winners from each school's science fair advance to the district fair
- We look forward to seeing all the interesting experiments and presentations
- Everyone is invited to attend the science fair to see all of the entries and support our student scientists

Superintendent's Student Champion Council

This week, we held our first Superintendent's Student Champion Council meeting. We had 14 students meet with our Interim Superintendent, Dr. MD, and members of her Senior Cabinet. Every school was represented. It was a great opportunity for Dr. MD to talk directly with students about what they like at their schools, what they'd like to improve and establish a connection with them so we can focus district decisions, policies, and resources on what's best for students.

- Next week, we'll have similar meetings with the superintendent's Parent Champion Council and Teacher Champion Council. Dr. MD is committed to hearing from our customers so we can provide the best possible service to everyone in Warren County.

Activity Buses

Here's a celebration to benefit all Warren County students. We finally got new activity buses delivered today. This will provide more reliable and comfortable transportation for students going on field trips and going to competitions. Our transportation team and Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Carrington, have been working for a while now to make this happen, so this is a big moment. We hope you enjoy our new activity buses and we all work together to take care of them and keep them nice.

4.0 Approval of the Agenda

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

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

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the December 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

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 December 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the December 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

5.2 Minutes for October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the minutes from the October 8, 2024 Regular Board Meeting and October 22, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.0 Special Recognitions

6.1 Academic Growth Awards (23-24 SY)

Dr. Montague Davis recognized the Academic Growth of two Warren County Schools. It was stated, "Greetings from the Department of Public Instruction. We are pleased to offer our congratulations to you and your entire district for your schools' performance during the 2023-24 school year. Enclosed you will find growth award certificates earned by the hard work of your students, educators and administrators. We are presenting awards for achieving and exceeding expected academic growth under North Carolina's accountability system. These awards showcase the dedication to academic achievement in your school system of both students and educators. So, we are pleased to share the appreciation and congratulations from the entire Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education with all of the Warren County Schools district."

Congratulations to Mrs. Shena Judkins, Principal of WECHS and Dr. Cynthia Simons, Principal of WCHS. For the 2023-24 School Year, WECHS earned the Exceeded Academic Growth Award and for the 2023-24 School Year and WCHS earned the Academic Growth Award.

7.0 Public Comments

7.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There were two. They were Dwayne Hicks and Reinaldo Espinoza.

8.0 Discussion Items

8.1 Superintendent's 90 Day Review

Dr. Montague Davis presented to the Board the Superintendent's 90 Day Review plan. This was for informational purposes only.

8.2 Financial Audit

As there was no financial audit to present at this meeting, Ms. Lehman called for a motion to remove this item from the agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to remove this item from the agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

8.3 Serve Pro Contract Amendment

Dr. Carrington presented to the Board information on the amended contract for Serve Pro. It was stated, "Following the completion of remediation services, the final invoice exceeded the amount initially specified in the original contract. This action item seeks approval for the amended contract with Serve Pro to reflect the adjusted costs."

This item is being presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion is completed.

8.4 2024-2025 Soliant Health Virtual Special Education Services and Case Management Contract

Mrs. Blythem DeSare, Director of the Exceptional Children and AIG presented to the Board information on a 2024-25 Soliant Health Services contract. It was stated, "This would be a new contract for a virtual EC teacher for the extended curriculum classroom at the Warren County High school".

This item is being presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion is completed.

8.5 Fall Policy Updates 2024

Dr. Keedra Whitaker presented to the Board as a first read the Fall Policy Updates for 2024. It was stated, "The Fall 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 November 25, 2024. The Fall 2024 Policy Custom Updates are being presented as information to provide stakeholders and the community an opportunity to review and to acquire feedback".

8.6 Elevate K-12

Mr. Jones presented to the Board information on purchasing the Elevate K-12 program form WCMS. It was stated, "The WCS Academic Team is seeking board approval to extend its partnership with Elevate K-12 at Warren County Middle School. The primary purpose of this extension is to address overcrowded classrooms and support the recruitment of qualified educators for hard-to-fill positions in sixth-grade math".

This item is being presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion is completed.

9.0 Action Items

9.1 2024-2025 Soliant Health virtual Special Education Services and Case Management Contract

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the 2024-2025 Soliant Health Virtual Special Education Services and Case Management Contract as previously presented and discussed

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the 2024-2025 Soliant Health Virtual Special Education Services and Case Management Contract as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

9.2 Serve Pro Contract Amendment

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the Serve Pro Contract as previously presented and discussed

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the Serve Pro Contract as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

9.3 Elevate K-12

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the purchasing of the Elevate K-12 program for WCMS as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the purchasing of the Elevate K-12 program for WCMS as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

10.0 Convene in Closed Session

10.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:22 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to convene in closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame 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, 5-0

11.0 Reconvene in Open Session

11.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 8:35 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

12.0 Action on Closed Session Item

12.1 Approval Personnel Report

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

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

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

13.0 Adjournment

13.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 8:37p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the December 10, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

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

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary