

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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

Chief Communication and Engagement Officer, Heather Mallard

Chief Operations Officer, Dr. Dennis Carrington

Interim Chief Academic Officer, Mr. Marcus Jones

Assistant Finance Officer, Mr. Nathan Squire

1.0 Opening of Meeting

The Warren County Board of Education met for their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, January 14, 2025 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 January 14, 2025 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

There were none.

2.2 Other Board Member’s Comments

Ms. Sims and Ms. Long both welcomed everyone back from the holiday break and stated we are looking forward to a great second semester.

3.0 Superintendent’s Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

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

School Closings

- Thank families, students, and staff for their understanding and patience
- The safety of all our students and staff is always our top priority
- Thank:

- Department of Transportation for working to treat and clear our roads as best they can
- Warren County and the Town of Warrenton for their assistance... Especially Robert Davie, Warrenton Town Administrator and Chris Tucker, Warren County Emergency Services Director
- Our Warren County Schools transportation, maintenance, and custodial staff, and administrators for working throughout this winter weather event to evaluate the roads and areas around our schools and to do what we can to get our schools ready to re-open when the roads are safe.
- A special shoutout to our Transportation Director, RC Creech and our Maintenance Director, Don Mizelle and our Chief Operating Officer, Dr. Dennis Carrington. These gentlemen have been invaluable in helping us decide if the roads are safe enough for buses, teenage drivers, and our staff who drive in from all around.
- Closing, Delaying, or Releasing schools early is not a decision we make lightly
- We work closely with Warren County Emergency Management Services and the National Weather Service to get the best predictions possible for weather impacts and road conditions
- While some roads may be clear, we have other parts of the county, especially shaded secondary roads that still have a lot of ice, snow, and slush on them
- Warmer temperatures during the day help a lot, but with temperatures so low at night, all that melted slush refreezes into a sheet of ice again overnight – and that’s been a continuous cycle in some areas.
- Again, thank you all for your understanding and patience
- We’re working hard to get students back in school as soon as safely possible

Joint Meeting with Board of Commissioners

- 11 a.m. tomorrow at the Armory
- We’ll brief commissioners on our preliminary budget discussions

First District-Wide Professional Development Day of the New Year

- Held our first districtwide professional development day of the new year on January 3rd.
- Energize in 2025!
- Brought all employees together to participate in focused, high-impact training sessions designed to support our district priorities and help employees grow in their roles
- Topics ranged from effective teaching practices to financial procedures to customer service with kindness

Martin Luther King Junior Holiday

- Monday, January 20th is a holiday for all students and staff in honor of Martin Luther King, Junior.
- Tuesday, January 21st is a mandatory teacher workday for our middle and elementary schools.
 - Next Tuesday is a regular school day for our high schools

Radio Show

- “Learn More with Warren County Schools,”
- LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM
- Thursday from noon until 12:30
- 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 January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the January 14, 2025 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 January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

5.2 Minutes for November 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the minutes from the November 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.0 Public Comments

6.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There were two. They were Mary Downey and Reinaldo Espinoza.

Before moving to the discussion items portion of the agenda, Dr. Montague Davis and Ms. Lehman recognized the 1st place science fair winner from Mariam Board Elementary School. Her name was Brea Pulley. Ms. Lehman also recognized her little brother for being the narrator of MBES holiday play “The Night before Christmas”.

7.0 Discussion Items

7.1 2024 Budget Audit update

Shannon Dennison, partner with the firm Anderson Smith & Wike presented the FY2024 audit report to the board. This was for informational purposes only.

7.2 2025-2026 Budget Calendar

Mr. Squire presented to the Board the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar. This item was presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion was completed.

7.3 Construction Manager at Risk

Dr. Carrington presented to the Board information on LeChase/SGS, the chosen Construction Manager at Risk Company for the New Elementary School project. This item was being presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion was completed.

7.4 Smart Pouch Updates

Dr. Carrington provided an update on the Smart Pouch Launch. This was for informational purposes only.

7.5 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 (NCSBA) were reviewed by the Board of Education’s Policy Committee and Senior Cabinet on November 25, 2024. The Fall 2024 Policy Custom Updates were presented as information on December 10, 2024 to provide stakeholders and the community an opportunity to review and to acquire feedback.

The Policy Committee and Senior Cabinet reviewed the Fall 2024 Policy Custom Updates from NCSBA for a second read on January 13, 2025. The Fall 2024 Policy Custom Updates are being presented as discussion to provide stakeholders and the community an opportunity to receive final Fall 2024 updates inclusive of feedback from board members, legal, staff and stakeholders”. This item was being presented as a discussion item first on the agenda, then for approval later on the agenda, once the discussion portion was completed.

8.0 Action Items

8.1 2025-2026 Budget Calendar

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the 2025-2026 Budget Calendar as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

8.2 Construction Manager at Risk

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve negotiation with the chosen Construction Manager at Risk Company, LeChase/SGS as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve negotiations with the chosen Constructions Manager at Risk Company, LeChase/SGS as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

8.3 Fall Policy Updates 2024

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the 2024 Fall Policy Updates with the exception of Policy #5150 Reporting to External Agencies.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the 2024 Fall Policy Updates with the exception of Policy #5150 Reporting to

External Agencies.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

9.0 Convene in Closed Session

9.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:16 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, 5-0

10.0 Reconvene in Open Session

10.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 8:28 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 presented during closed session.

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

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

12.0 Adjournment

12.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 8:30p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to adjourn the January 14, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary