

**MINUTES**  
**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, April 23, 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**

Superintendent, Mr. Keith Sutton

Board Attorney, Maura O'Keefe (absent)

Attorney, David Noland (in Maura's absence)

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 Opening of Meeting**

The Warren County Board of Education met for their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 23, 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 April 23, 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**

Board Chair Lehman stated, "Good evening. The town of Warrenton will be hosting its first bluebird fest. Warrenton is now considered the eastern bluebird capital of the world. The festival will take place Saturday, April 27, 2024 from 10 to 4 on the court house square."

**2.2 Other Board Member's Comments**

There were none.

**3.0 Superintendent's Updates**

**3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board**

Mr. Sutton stated, "Good evening everyone, "We've made it known that we love the arts in Warren County Schools and we've put a lot of focus on

rebuilding strong arts programs over the past couple of years. That was evident this past Friday night for our District Arts Night Celebration. It featured performances by:

- The Warren County Middle School Step Team, “Dub C’s Finest”
- Warren County High School’s “Platinum Ice” Dance Team
- Warren County Schools Mass Choir - featuring students from throughout the district
- Warren County Middle School Concert Band
- Warren County High School “Symphonic Eagle Winds”
- And M3lodic Flow kept everyone entertained between student performances.

Special thanks to our Fine Arts Teachers, including the organizers - Mr. Jayson Pender and Ms. Cherita Smith.

Last week, it may have looked like some of the Warren County’s Sheriff’s Office patrol cars were graffitied. But it was just a fun partnership between our elementary schools and the Sheriff’s Office. In honor of Autism Awareness Month, the Sheriff’s Office made students feel special by allowing them to paint a patrol car with their colorful hand prints. The Sheriff’s Office went to all three elementary schools and the kids loved getting to touch and paint the patrol car! It was also a great opportunity for students to have positive interactions with law enforcement officers. I want to reassure everyone that it was washable paint, so it’s not a permanent redesign for the Sheriff’s Office.

Warren County High School junior Danté White was surprised last week with a high-performance gaming computer. Danté was one of just 12 students selected from 3,000 across the state to receive a free computer from the NC Varsity Esports and STEM League - or VESL (pronounced VESS-ul). VESL is the first public school esports league in North Carolina. Schools compete for state championships as a varsity high school team in a variety of different video game titles like NBA2k, Madden, Brawlhalla, Fortnite, and Call of Duty just to name a few. This league is for students who want to use their passion for gaming in a fun and competitive way. In addition to learning life skills, VESL opens doors to possible Esport experiences at the collegiate level and beyond. It’s absolutely free for students to participate and they can do it from school or home. We look forward to growing our new Warren County Schools Esports team. If students want more information about the league or joining the team, they should contact Mr. Evans in the Spark Lab at Warren County High School.

Speaking of Warren County High School, Vance Granville Community College leaders were there last week with a big announcement...

All students who graduate from Warren County High School have been accepted into Vance Granville if they want to attend. VGCC told seniors that they don’t even have to apply. There are staff ready to help get our seniors enrolled hassle free. We appreciate the partnership and support from Vance Granville Community College.

More than 50 Warren Early College High School scholars had some extra fun learning a couple of weeks ago. They took a field trip to Nags Head to study the ecology of the beach. This was the first time some of our students had ever seen the ocean. They did a scavenger hunt looking for different plant life and

animals native to the area. They learned in biology that is called local flora and fauna. They also ate out at a restaurant during the trip. The field trip was made possible by a NC Go Grant.

While it's only April, the high school year is in the final home stretch and students are already getting prepared for graduation. Mark your calendars now. Warren Early College High School will hold its graduation on Friday, May 17 at 6:00 PM in the Warren County Middle School gymnasium.

The graduation ceremony for Warren County High School is Saturday, May 25th at 10 a.m. in the high school gym.

And this week is senior week. Warren County High is having its Senior Awards Day Program tomorrow morning at 9.

Thursday is the CTE Career Expo and Job Fair at Warren County High, starting at 11 a.m. And the best way to end the week is with the junior/senior prom! It's this Saturday night in the Warrenton Armory Civic Center. We know all of our students will be looking fly. We hope they all have a fun - and most importantly - safe evening.

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](http://www.warrenk12nc.org/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 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.

#### **4.0 Approval of the Agenda**

##### **4.1 Motion to Approve the April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

#### **5.0 Approval of the Consent Agenda**

##### **5.1 Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda**

All items under the consent agenda are approved by one motion.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the consent agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

**5.2 Minutes for the March 12, 2024 Regular Board Meeting, March 26, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting, and April 9, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**

All items under the consent agenda are approved by one motion.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the consent agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

**6.0 Public Comments**

**6.1 Call for Public Comments**

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

**7.0 Information Items**

**7.1 2024-2025 Elementary and Secondary Instructional Calendars**

Mrs. Debra Clayton, Director of Testing provided for informational purposes only an 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 calendar law.

**7.2 Review of the Superintendent's Proposed Budget, 2024-2025**

Mr. Jeremy Teetor, School Operations Specialist provided for informational purposes only the Superintendent's Proposed 2024-2025 Operating Budget.

**8.0 Action Items**

**8.1 Eyrie Success Contract Amendment**

Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Jacqueline Hargrove, BT/Professional Development Coordinator presented to the Board for approval an amendment to the Eyrie Success Contract. It was stated, "The purpose of this contract will be to extend consulting services and support to the Cabinet and Senior Level Leadership (Human Resources, Academics and Finance), in the areas of strategic planning, innovation, recruitment, retention, additional capacity and leveraging human capital. Eyrie Success will use internal resources to execute support through consultation. This also includes innovative grant management, implementation, and administrative services in collaboration with Senior Level Leadership."

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the Eyrie Success Contract amendment.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

**8.2 CDWG Equipment Purchase for CTE**

Mr. Derrick Fogg, Director of CTE presented to the Board for approval, information on the purchasing of new CTE equipment from CDWG. It was stated, "This purchase is for the upgrading of the Adobe Lab in Warren County High with new Desktop Computers and Monitors."

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms.

Talley Brame to approve the CDWG computer equipment purchase for CTE.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

### **8.3 Social Media Litigation**

Mrs. Janet Ward Black, Ward Black Law Firm presented to the Board for approval information regarding potential litigation against social media companies.

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Byrd and seconded by Ms. Long to approve Warren County School Board to join the social media litigation.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

A motion was then made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve retaining the litigation firm of Ward Black Law Firm. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

## **9.0 Convene in Closed Session**

### **9.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session**

At 7:55 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, 5-0

## **10.0 Reconvene in Open Session**

### **10.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session**

At 9:15 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

## **11.0 Action on Closed Session Item(s)**

### **11.1 Approval Personnel Report**

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

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the personnel report 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 9:16 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to adjourn the April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

**Result:** Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on:

SEAL

---

Board Chair

---

Secretary