

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, January 28, 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 (absent)

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 28, 2025 at 6:06 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 28, 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 stated, “Good evening everyone. I would like to share some information about the WCHS Basketball team.

- We had a great weekend in the Nest!
- Our JV Men, Varsity Women, and Varsity Men all won Friday night against W Weldon.
- Then we had the County Line Clash on Saturday versus Vance County
- I’ve never seen the nest so packed!
- We went two-for-three. Our Lady Eagles fell, but our JV and Varsity Men’s teams both got the W.
- This week, we have 3 games on the road:
 - Tonight versus North Edgecombe in Tarboro

- Thursday versus KIPP Pride in Halifax
 - Friday versus Southeast Halifax in Halifax
 - Game times are usually 4:30, 6:00, and 7:30
- WCMS Basketball
- Our Warren County Middle School Warriors are also in action this week
 - Thursday, here at home
 - Eighth grade recognition night
 - Ladies tip off at 4:30, followed by guys' game

Ms. Long informed every one of the Battle of the Bands Scheduled.

- Mark your calendars now and save the date!
- The Warren County High School Drumline Competition & Battle of the Bands will be on April 26th, 2025,
- You don't want to miss this!
- They'll have more drumlines, more bands, and more fun than last year's battle.
- Tickets are \$10
- Get them now before they sell out!
- Link to purchase tickets on the Warren County HS Division of Bands Facebook page 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,

Remote Learning Kudos

I want to commend our principals, teachers, students, and families for pivoting last week to remote learning during the winter weather.

- This is the first time we've gone remote since the COVID pandemic
- We'll have a short presentation later in the meeting, but I wanted to personally say how impressed I am with how well everyone transitioned to remote learning
- The state allows us to use up to 5 remote learning days a year for inclement weather, so we don't have to schedule makeup days for missing school

Honor Rolls

- Congratulations to all high school students on the honor roll for the second term.
 - Warren County High School is honoring students with an awards ceremony tomorrow
 - The Early College posted students' names on its website and social media channels
- Successful Town Hall Meeting
- This time last week, our Senior Leadership team and I were attending a Town Hall meeting, hosted by Voices of Warren County
 - Thank you for allowing us to share information with the community and explain how the district operates
 - Thank you to everyone who braved the incoming winter weather to attend in person
 - Thank you to Crystal Myrick for posting a video of the entire meeting on the Warrenist Facebook page
 - Thank you to the more than 5-point-six-thousand people who have watched the video!

Recognition Items

- Excited to recognize several groups in just a few minutes
- Other noteworthy things to remember...

- February is Black History Month and CTE Month (Career and Technical Education) - We'll celebrate those things next month
- Next week is also National School Counseling Week, February 3-7
- And Feb. 10-14 is Love the Bus Week and Bus Driver Appreciation Week

Radio Show

- “Learn More with Warren County Schools,”
- LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM
- This 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 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

5.0 Special Recognitions

5.1 Warren County Schools Athletes (Football players, Cross Country team, Volleyball team)

Dr. Carrington announced the names of the student-athletes recognized as All-Conference recipients.

Warren County High School Cross Country All Conference Recipients:

T'Kwon Davis
 Tony Henderson
 Jeremiahe Kearney
 Ke'Shaun Alston
 Olliyah Butler
 Beatriz Madera
 E'Nya Smith
 Destiny Freeman
 Kenley Sheats
 Kimaya Rudd

Warren County High School Volleyball:

Mariah Harris
 Amari Freeman
 Za'Kiyah Macklin

Warren County High School Football:

Javeon Fields
 Joel Bryant
 Demontay Hawkins
 Tyler Wharton

Mekhi Chavis
Amir Gamble

Warren County Middle School Volleyball Players:

Sarah Boyd
Samya Burchette
Jenise Davis
Brooklyn Frye
Serenity Harris
Ciara Howard
Zaih Kearney
Zada King
Neveah Lynch
Zy'Liah Lynch
Zuleima Madera
Lia Powell
Gabryela Romero
Serenity Vasquez
Avery Williams

5.2 2024 EVAAS Recipients

Dr. Whitaker and Ms. Hargrove recognized Warren County Schools 2024 EVAAS Recipients.

Louie Olita – Grade 4 Reading
Natoya Henry – Grade 5 Reading
Heasel Ordonez – Grade 3 Reading
Johanna Sierra – Grade 4 and Grade 5 Math

5.3 Science Fair District Winners

Mr. Jones and Mr. Harrell announced the names of the students recognized as district science fair winners.

Mariam Boyd Elementary School

Brea Pulley
Jaree Kearney

Northside Elementary School

Sam Cumming

Warren County Middle School

Ameera Steed
Kira Cunningham
Marianne Aguilar
Amaris Yancey
Kennedy Sulyans
Raegan Eastwood

Warren County High School

Miyanna Burgess
Joniya Goode
Namoni Williams

Warren Early College High School

Carmen Hayes
Dana Garcia Cazares
Ahmir Hill
Iyauna Harley
Shaira Saldo

5.4 Warren County Honor Band Students

Dr. Carrington announced the names of the students recognized as Honor Band students.

Warren County Middle

Laila Jones (Clarinet)
Takyra Williams (Clarinet)
Liyah Powell (Clarinet)
Micah Richardson (Alto Sax)
Aiden Richardson (Trombone)
Ka'Mari Chandler - (Tuba)
Sidney Downey (Percussion)
Kyran Green (Percussion)

Warren County High

Na'Keiva Harris (Flute)
Madison Fogg (Clarinet)
Alaysia Faison (Clarinet)
Emily Gregorio (Alto Sax)
Jayden Shearin (Trumpet)
I'Jene Andrews (Trumpet)
Devin Palmer (Trombone)
Alexis Taylor (Trombone)

Warren Early College High

Danielle Andrews (Alto Sax)
Summer Murphy (Trumpet)
Juan Reid (Percussion)

5.5 School Board Appreciation Month

Dr. Montague Davis recognized the Warren County Schools Board of Education in observance of School Board Appreciation Month.

January is School Board Appreciation Month in North Carolina. School board members play a vital role in our communities and schools throughout the state. They spend countless hours of their time and talents toward the advancement of public education. They are extraordinary people who tackle the enormous job of governing school districts, and their actions and decisions affect the present and future lives of our children.

Board members contribute hundreds of hours each year leading their districts. Whether it be crafting policies, hiring top-notch administrators, listening to staff and student concerns, or recognizing outstanding programs, board members always keep their eyes on the goal of student achievement. Many school board members are facing unprecedented challenges yet they continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure a bright future for every child.

Warren County Schools thanks our school board members for their hard work and commitment to

improving outcomes for students throughout the county. Their service ensures that decisions about local public schools are made by those most familiar with the needs of the community's children and families. School board members deserve recognition, appreciation, and thanks for their dedication to North Carolina's most precious commodity – our children!

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 Inclement Weather Remote Learning Plan

Mr. Jones presented to the Board the inclement weather remote learning plan. This was for informational purposes only.

7.2 2025-2026 School Calendar Discussion

Mrs. Clayton and Maya Weinstein, Board Attorney, discussed the possibility of transitioning from two academic calendars to one. Attorney Weinstein stated,

- Calendar law does not apply to restart schools or early colleges
- Narrow “good cause” exception for waiver
 - Statute specifically defines “good cause” – closed 8 days/year during any four of the last 10 years because of severe weather, energy shortages, power failures, or other emergency situations
 - The “good cause” exception only gives DPI authority to waive the requirement and set the opening date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19
 - DPI is not given authority by the legislature to do anything beyond this

This was for discussion only.

7.3 Board of Education Meeting Location

Dr. Whitaker presented information regarding the potential move of the Board of Education meeting location from WCMS to the Warren County Schools Auxiliary Building. This was for discussion only.

7.4 Review and Proposed Revisions for Policy 2300

Dr. Whitaker reviewed Policy 2300 with the Board of Education as requested. It was noted that a proposed change would require the Board's review and feedback as a discussion item.

8.0 Convene in Closed Session

8.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:12 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. Long 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, 4-0

9.0 Reconvene in Open Session

9.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 9:11 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

10.0 Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 9:12p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to adjourn the January 28, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary