

<p style="text-align: center;">MINUTES WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING Tuesday, March 25, 2025 6:00 p.m.</p>
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Roll Call

Board Members Present:

Ms. Linda Byrd

Ms. Victoria Lehman

Mrs. Joyce Long

Ms. Jennifer Sims

Mrs. Ebony Talley-Brame (via zoom)

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, March 25, 2025 at 6:04 p.m. at Warren County Auxiliary Building (formerly Warren New Tech High School) located at 219 US-158 BYP, Warrenton, NC 27589.

1.1 Meeting Call to Order

Ms. Lehman announced the establishment of a quorum and called the March 25, 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

Ms. Lehman stated, “Welcome everyone to the Warren County Auxiliary Building, which was the former New Tech High School and is the future Warren County Elementary School. This will be the new meeting location for all board meetings. We are looking forward to big things ahead.”

2.2 Other Board Member’s Comments

Ms. Sims gave the sports update. She stated the following:

WCMS baseball and softball

- Tomorrow at 4:30 at the Warren County Recreation Complex
- Taking on Vance County Middle
- Admission is \$7

WCHS Track

- Tomorrow at 3:30 in Gaston against Northampton

WCHS baseball and softball

- Thursday at 4:00 at home against Northwest Halifax

Ms. Byrd stated how glad she was to see so many people at the meeting in our new location.

3.0 Superintendent's Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

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

Reality of Money at WCMS

- We're excited to partner with the State Employees Credit Union for the Reality of Money hands-on learning experience at Warren County Middle School tomorrow.
- 7th and 8th grade students learn about real-world budgeting
- They're assigned a salary and then have to make financial decisions at various spending stations such as housing, transportation, and food.
- It's an eye-opening way to learn about needs versus wants and responsible money management
- Our 6th graders got a similar lesson earlier this month in partnership with Coastal Credit Union

Blood Drives

- **Mariam Boyd Elementary | Monday, March 31**
 - Can get up to \$30 to spend at Amazon
 - Through the Future Blood Donor program, if a student recruits someone to donate blood, the student gets a free gift
 - Got to Red-Cross-Blood-dot-org and use the sponsor code "Mariam Boyd" to sign up to donate or to volunteer to help with the blood drive
- **Warren County High School | Tuesday, April 15**
 - 8:30 - 1:30 in the media center
 - Sponsored by the Space Force JROTC
 - Can also get an Amazon gift card

Recognition Items

- Wrapping up Arts in Schools Month & Women's History Month
- Next month is...
 - Financial Literacy Month
 - Month of the Military Child
 - NC Child Abuse Prevention Month
 - World Autism Awareness Month
- Also coming up is National Assistant Principal Week, April 7-11

Radio Show

- "Learn More with Warren County Schools"
- This Thursday from noon until 12:30, talking about Battle of the Bands and Drumline Competition coming up on Saturday, April 26th at Warren County High School
- Ways to catch it
 - Listen live on the WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM
 - 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 March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to amend the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to amend the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting agenda to move Special Recognition #6.1.to #6.5 and #6.5 to #6.1.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Ms. Lehman then called for a motion to approve the amended agenda.

Motion: A motion was then made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the amended agenda to move Special Recognition #6.1.to #6.5 and #6.5 to #6.1.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

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 March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting consent agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

5.2 Minutes for February 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, February 25, 2025 Work Session/Business Meeting, and March 3, 2025 Special Called Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting, February 25, 2025 Work Session/Business Meeting, and March 3, 2025 Special Called Board Meetings.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

6.0 Special Recognitions

6.1 Arts in School Month

In celebrating Arts in School Month, the choir from Mariam Boyd Elementary School performed “Lean on Me” under the leadership of Music Facilitator, Mr. Pierce and Principal Davis. Some students from Warren County Middle School also did a monolog performance under the leadership on Ms. Gibbs, Theatre Arts Teacher.

The declaration below was also declared by Governor Josh Stein.

WHEREAS, March has been designated by the National Dance Education Organization as "Dance in Our Schools Month," by the National Association for Music Education as "Music in our Schools Month," by the National Theatre Association as "Theatre in Our Schools Month,"; and by the Council for Art Education as “Youth Art Month,” and WHEREAS, Arts Education in North Carolina schools includes four separate and distinct disciplines: dance, music, theatre arts, and visual

arts - each with its own body of knowledge and skills; and

WHEREAS, the arts have enriched our lives throughout human history: describing, defining, and deepening the human experience; and

WHEREAS, the arts are everywhere in our lives, adding depth and dimension to the environment we live in and shaping our experience daily; and

WHEREAS, all students participating in Arts Education courses benefit from the skills and processes developed through the arts and apply those skills in a variety of disciplines and settings no matter their career path; and WHEREAS, Arts Education leads to heightened skills in listening, understanding human experiences, creative problem solving, adapting to and respecting others' ways of thinking, communicating effectively, analyzing nonverbal communication, reading, self-expression, imagination, and creativity; and

WHEREAS, Arts Education ignites and engages learners, enhances social and emotional awareness, develops self-confidence, boosts self-reliance, and increase sympathy and compassion; and

WHEREAS, Arts Education is recognized by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as part of a well-rounded education;

NOW. THEREFORE, I, JOSH STEIN, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim March 2025, as "ARTS IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH" in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.

6.2 Warren County Emergency Services Recognition

We extended our sincere appreciation to Warren County Emergency Services—including the Fire Departments, Police Departments, and Emergency Management—for their swift and coordinated response to the dump truck fire on the campus of Mariam Boyd Elementary School on February 28, 2025. Their professionalism, dedication, and commitment to the safety of our students, staff, and community exemplify the highest standards of public service. We are deeply grateful for their continued partnership and unwavering support of our school system

6.3 Students Selected for NC Governor's School

Three high school students have been selected from more than 1,850 statewide nominees to attend the 2025 session of the North Carolina Governor's School:

Stephanie Green – Mathematics | Warren Early College High School

Araceli Recentes – Natural Science | Warren Early College High School

Seth Weinberg – Visual Arts | Warren County High School

The North Carolina Governor's School is a four-week summer residential program that integrates academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses for gifted and talented high school students. To be awarded this opportunity, students must be nominated by their school district and undergo a competitive selection process.

Congratulations to these students on this well-deserved honor! Thank you to School Counselors Ms. Teresa Taylor and Ms. Lenora Parks for their invaluable support throughout the nomination process.

6.4 Youth Legislative Assembly

The Youth Legislative Assembly (YLA) is a mock legislative session in which high school students voice their opinions and vote on issues concerning local, state, and national government.

The conference allows high school students to better understand the workings of local, state, and national government. Active participation in YLA increases students' confidence and ability to debate current issues. Any high school student in good standing at a public, private, charter, or home school in North Carolina is eligible to participate in YLA. Just complete the student application; you do not have to have a member of the NC General Assembly to sponsor you to participate in the

Youth Legislative Assembly.

Youth Legislative Assembly Students:

Juan Tavira, Demetrius McKinzie, Summer Murphy, Kmira Richardson, Evan Silver, Shaira Saldo, and Alonna Evans

6.5 National School Social Work Week (March 2-8, 2025)

We proudly celebrated School Social Workers Week (March 2-8, 2025) and recognized the vital role these dedicated professionals play in supporting the whole child. Our social workers are the bridge between home, school, and community, ensuring that students have the resources and support they need to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. Their tireless efforts in advocacy, crisis intervention, and emotional support make a lasting impact on students' lives. We thank them for being champions of equity, empathy, and student success.

School Social Workers Recognition: April Williams, Lakola Andrews, Tabitha Alston

7.0 Public Comments

7.1 Call for Public Comments

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There was one. His name was Reinaldo Espinoza.

8.0 Discussion Items

8.1 Construction Management at Risk Contract

Dr. Carrington presented to the board the Construction Management at Risk (CMaR) Contract with LeChase. 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.

8.2 Summer Testing Program (Mr. Marcus Jones & Mrs. Debra Clayton)

Mr. Jones and Mrs. Clayton presented to the board the Summer Testing Program. It was stated, "The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will allow districts to offer a summer school program for testing students who were not proficient on the End of Course (EOC) or End of Grade (EOG). The summer testing scores will not be included in growth for school accountability or for educator effectiveness; however, the higher score will be included in proficiency for school accountability purposes. NCDPI does not allow using the summer test score to change final course grades for any student. The 2024-2025 accountability year ends Monday, July 7, 2025; therefore, all scores must be uploaded to NCDPI by July 7, 2025."

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.

8.3 Budget Amendment #1

Mr. Teetor and Mr. Squire presented to the board the Budget Amendment #1. 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 Technology Update-ERATE

Mr. Piland presented to the board an update on ERATE. It was stated, "The Warren County Schools Technology Department is submitting applications for ERATE funding to support the district's technology infrastructure for the upcoming funding year."

ERATE provides discounts on eligible telecommunications and technology services to ensure schools and libraries have affordable access to modern communication tools.”
This was for informational purposes only.

9.0 Action Items

9.1 Construction Manager at Risk (CMaR)

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the chosen Construction Manager at Risk Contract with LeChase as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the chosen Constructions Manager at Risk Contract with LeChase as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

9.2 Summer Testing Program

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the Summer Testing Program as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the Summer Testing Program as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

9.3 Budget Amendment #1

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the Budget Amendment #1 as previously presented and discussed.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the Budget Amendment #1 as previously presented and discussed.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

10.0 Convene in Closed Session

10.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 7:31 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

11.0 Reconvene in Open Session

11.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 8:20 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. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the personnel report as presented during closed session.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

13.0 Adjournment

13.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 8:21p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to adjourn the March 25, 2025 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary