

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, August 13, 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

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

1.0 Opening of Meeting

The Warren County Board of Education met for their Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, August 13, 2024 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 August 13, 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, "We have a newly elected Superintendent, Dr. Carol Montague Davis (Dr. MD). She comes with a wealth of experience and leadership. Although she had retired, she never left Warren County. So we welcome her back and we look forward to her leadership. Also convocation will be held at WCMS on the 19th of August. I would also like to welcome back all students that started school yesterday. We went around to every class and every student now knows Dr. MD."

2.2 Other Board Member's Comments

Ms. Sims also welcomed all students, staff and Dr. MD back to WCS.

Ms. Byrd recited the words of Ms. Sims.

Ms. Long stated welcome back Dr. MD. We are so proud and blessed to have you back with us. I would also like to recognize the principals that are in the audience. Now hopefully we can get in some students.

Ms. Talley Brame stated, I would like to ditto what everyone has said. I am excited

and elated that Dr. MD is here. So I say that you are at home and you can make yourself at home. I know we are getting ready to have a successful year.

3.0 Superintendent's Updates

3.1 Superintendent Updates to the Board

Dr. Montague-Davis stated, "Good evening everyone, first off, I want to thank the Board for the trust you all have placed in me as your Interim Superintendent and the privilege you've afforded me to come back home and put my passion for public education to work here in Warren County Schools. For those of you who don't know me, I am Dr. Carol Montague-Davis. You can call me Dr. M-D, for short. I look forward to meeting everyone in the coming weeks and months. I've also enjoyed reconnecting with so many people that I've known for years... Family, friends, former colleagues like Chair Lehman, a lot of former students. I even reconnected with a former student teacher of mine yesterday afternoon, so it's proof that roots run deep and I've got some deep roots here in Warren County! And I'm so excited about planting even more. I know I've only been on the job for two days now, but it's been an action packed two days! Y'all sure didn't waste any time putting me to work!

Fifteen minutes after my swearing in yesterday morning, we were walking hallways greeting students, teachers, and other staff for the first day of school at Warren County High School and Warren Early College. I was joined by members of the Board of Education and my Senior Staff.

The first day went smoothly. The Early College had about 95% attendance yesterday, with 117 students showing up for the first day. There were 331 students at the high school, which is a little more than 80% attendance. So in total, the district served 448 high school students Monday.

We're excited to welcome back the rest of our students later this month.

Our new employees started working a couple of weeks ago, with their new employee orientation. Twelve of them were able to finish off the week by enjoying a full-day tour of Warren County. Every year, the Heritage Quilters organizes, hosts, and narrates a tour showcasing all of the unique communities in our county, highlighting historical and cultural points of interest. We're appreciate that partnership with the Heritage Quilters and all they do for our staff and students. I understand that there was even a documentary crew on this year's tour filming a documentary with them!

I also want to officially welcome back our staff who just started back last Monday to prepare for the beginning of the school year. Of course, Tropical Storm Debby changed our plans late last week. We thank our teachers, staff, students, and families who quickly pivoted so we could have all of our Open Houses on Wednesday, before the storm hit. Of course, I wasn't here yet, but I'm told that we had some of the best turnout we've seen in several years, so thank you again to everyone who was involved with or attended our open houses last week.

Now we're preparing to welcome back the rest of our staff this coming Monday. I'm really looking forward to our Convocation. It's the one time we can get all of our employees together in one place. We can see old friends, make new ones, and kick off the new school year with us all on the same page and energized for the important work of teaching and supporting our students.

We have to make sure that we're preparing each and every child for whatever path they want to pursue and all of those unexpected twists and turns along the way.

Of course, we can't wait to welcome all of our elementary and middle school students for their first day of school. It's going to be a great school year, and I'm just thrilled to be here and be a part of it!

We're resuming our bi-weekly radio show, Learn More with Warren County Schools, this Thursday. Ms. Mallard has asked me to be the first guest to kick off the school year. We'll be LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM Thursday from noon until 12:30. We hope you can listen 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 August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting agenda.

Motion: Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to amend the August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting to remove Action Item #6.6 EVOKE Design Contract from the agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Ms. Lehman then called for a motion to approve the amended August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the amended the August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting to remove Action Item #6.6 EVOKE Design Contract from the agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

5.0 Public Comments

5.1 Call for Public Comments

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

6.0 Action Items

6.1 Calendar Revision

Mrs. Debra Clayton, Director of Testing and Accountability presented to the board for approval calendars revisions the 24-25 school year calendars. It was stated, "Due to the heavy rainfall from Tropical Storm Debby which led to some water damage at Warren County Middle, the school will need to operate on the traditional calendar with the three elementary schools. The following calendar updates were made: *WCS Secondary Calendar renamed as 2024-2025 WCS High Schools Calendar o WCMS EOG Testing dates removed *WCS Elementary Calendar renamed as 2024-2025 WCS Traditional K-8

Schools Calendar.”

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the calendar revisions for Warren County Middle School’s calendar to align with the elementary school calendar with the start date for teachers being August 19, 2024 and for students August 26, 2024.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.2 Warren County High School (WCHS) Press Box

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval information on the WCHS press box. It was stated, “This action item entails the complete overhaul and renovation of the press box to ensure it meets all current code compliance standards.”

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the overhaul and renovation of the WCHS press box as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.3 New Activity Buses

Dr. Carrington and Mr. RC Creech, Director of Transportation presented to the board for approval the contract to lease two new activity buses.

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the contract to lease two new activity buses contingent on the adoption of the resolution by the Warren County Board of Commissioners.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.4 Tiny Mobile Robot

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval information purchasing a tiny mobile robot for WCHS, “This action item involves acquiring a compact mobile robot designed for painting athletic fields. This will greatly assist our coaches in ensuring the fields are consistently prepared for practices and games.”

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the purchase of the tiny mobile robot as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.5 Custodian Equipment

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval information on purchasing new custodial equipment for Warren County Schools from Progressive Business Solutions.

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the purchase of the custodian equipment from Progressive Business Solutions as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.6 ServePro of Roanoke Rapids

Dr. Carrington presented to the board for approval of the contract on ServePro of Roanoke Rapids. It was stated, “Due to the storm causing damage in two of our schools we had to call in a team that could go ahead and get the work down as soon as possible.”

Motion: After further discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the contract for ServePro as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.7 Edmentum Licenses

Mr. Jones presented to the board for approval information on purchasing new Edmentum Licenses for Warren County Schools. It stated, “Our academic department requests board approval to purchase renewal of Edmentum: Courseware, Exact Path, and Study Island to enhance our educational offerings and support student learning outcomes. As we strive to provide a high-quality education that meets the diverse needs of our students, it is essential to incorporate effective digital learning tools. Edmentum Courseware offers a comprehensive catalog of engaging courses that align with state standards, enabling personalized learning experiences. Exact Path provides individualized instruction in math and reading, allowing students to progress at their own pace. Study Island is an interactive platform that reinforces core concepts through practice and assessment, promoting mastery and retention.”

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the purchase of the Edmentum Licenses as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

6.8 Eyrie Success Addendum

Dr. Whitaker presented to the board for approval an addendum that was previously approved by the Board. It was stated, “This request will not exceed the amount of \$8,547.14 for on-site travel, grant support travel and/or standard hotel accommodations to support the TIP/TSL innovative grant management, implementation, administrative services and district consultation services in collaboration with Senior Level Leadership.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Sims to approve the addendum for Eyrie Success as presented.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

7.0 Convene in Closed Session

7.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 6:55 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. 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

8.0 Reconvene in Open Session

8.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 8:47 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

9.0 Action on Closed Session Item

9.1 Approval Personnel Report

To approve the personnel report as presented during the closed session.

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

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

10.0 Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 8:49pm., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to adjourn the August 13, 2024 Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on:

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary