

**MINUTES**  
**WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION/BUSINESS MEETING**  
**Tuesday, May 28, 2024, 6:00 p.m.**

**Roll Call**

Board Members Present:

Ms. Linda Byrd

Ms. Victoria Lehman

Mrs. Joyce Long

Ms. Jennifer Sims (absent)

Mrs. Ebony Talley-Brame (via zoom)

**Also in Attendance**

Superintendent, Mr. Keith Sutton

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

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, May 28, 2024 at 6:09 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 May 28, 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. We just recognized all retirees' today right before this meeting started; but I would also like to recognize all graduates, teachers, and students for all their hard work this school year. I wish everyone a wonderful summer season."

**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, "Summer Learning Programs Registration is still open for the school district's summer learning programs! All of our camps are at no cost to families. Breakfast, lunch, and transportation

are provided. Space is limited so please register your student now. We're offering programs for all school-age groups, with focuses on reading, math, arts, career and technical education, and transportation. High school students could even earn \*money\* just by actively participating in certain camps. We're holding an online Virtual Family Meeting about our summer learning programs tomorrow night, Wednesday, May 29 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. We have the link to join that virtual family meeting and information about all of our summer learning opportunities posted on each school's website and the district website, [www.warrenk12nc.org](http://www.warrenk12nc.org).

Once again, I want to congratulate the 129 new graduates of Warren County Schools. Saturday, we celebrated 107 students for their graduation from Warren County High School. Together, the Warren County High School class of 2024 earned nearly one-and-a-half million dollars in scholarships. (lead applause) We also have several students joining the military and others going straight into the workforce. Similarly, the week before we celebrated the 22 graduates of Warren Early College High School. All 22 of them graduated with their high school diploma and an associate's degree from Vance Granville Community College. And all 22 of them have been accepted to 4-year colleges or universities. We are so proud of every one of these young people and their accomplishments so far. I say so far because we are just as excited to see what they'll accomplish in the future. Congratulations to our Class of 2024!

While the high schools have wrapped up for the year, our middle and elementary schools are still going. We've still got EOGs, so there's no skating through these last couple of weeks. We want to make sure our K-8th graders finish strong. We also want to mention their upcoming promotion ceremonies.

- Northside 5th graders get promoted on the next to last day of school - Thursday, June 6th at 4 p.m.
- Mariam Boyd and Vaughan Elementary both have their promotion ceremonies on the last day of school - Friday, June 7th, both at 9 a.m...
- Warren County Middle School is holding its 8th-grade promotion ceremony that same evening - Friday, June 7th at 6 p.m.

Now is the time to register your 3, 4, or 5-year-old 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. ([www.warrenk12nc.org/enroll](http://www.warrenk12nc.org/enroll) )

I want to take a minute to recognize our outstanding child nutrition staff. Mariam Boyd, Northside, Vaughan, Warren County Middle, and Warren Early College all have a perfect 100 sanitation score! Warren County High School is close with a 99. If you've looked at sanitation grades at restaurants, you see how rare it is for them to earn such high scores. It's a testament to the hard work, professionalism, and high standards of our child nutrition team every day. Congratulations and keep up the excellent work!

Speaking of our child nutrition team, they're still planning to serve our children during the summer months. They'll provide FREE nutritious breakfasts and lunches to all children under the age of 18. You'll be able to eat in or pick up

meals every day Monday - Thursday at...

- Mariam Boyd and Warren County Middle starting June 17 - July 11
- Northside starting June 24 - August 9
- Warren County High starting June 10 - July 19

All feeding sites will be closed the week of July 4th.

Finally, our radio show, Learn More with Warren County Schools, will be LIVE on WARR 1520 AM and 105.3 FM next 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 May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting Agenda**

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to amend the May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda to add action item # 8.5 Summer Testing Schedule to the agenda

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Byrd and seconded by Ms. Long to amend the May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda to add action item# 8.5 Summer Testing Schedule to the agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

Ms. Lehman then called for a motion to approve the amended May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the amended May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

#### **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. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the consent agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

##### **5.2 Furniture Upfit and Modernization Project Approval**

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

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the consent agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

### **5.3 Minutes for April 23, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting, April 23, 2024 Swearing in Ceremony, and May 14, 2024 Regular Board Meeting**

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

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the consent agenda.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

## **6.0 Public Comments**

### **6.1 Call for Public Comments**

Ms. Lehman called for public comments. There was one speaker that signed up. His name was Reinaldo Espinosa.

## **7.0 Information Items**

### **7.1 Teacher and School Leader Incentive Grant - Reimagining Teaching Talent**

Mrs. Raushawna Price, Eyrie Success provided an overview to the board on the Teacher and School Leader Incentive (TSL) Grant. It was stated, “The Innovation Project (TIP), of which we are a member, was awarded over twenty-one million dollars through the Teacher and School Leader Incentive Program (TSL) Grant administered by the U.S. Department of Education. TSL funding will support TIP’s Reimagining Teaching Talent (RTT) program, a partnership which provides 79 schools across eight school districts the opportunity to work together in a networked improvement community (NIC). The NIC will focus on promoting equity in student access to educational resources and opportunities, supporting a diverse educator workforce, and ensuring educators’ professional growth to strengthen student learning. RTT will focus on the greatest school-related influencers on student achievement: the recruitment, development, and retention of teachers, teacher leaders, and principals. Educators will engage in a wide-range of wrap-around supports, including leadership academies, professional learning communities, and individual and peer coaching. Districts will also work to establish district-university partnerships with Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) to provide a direct pipeline of educators, create year-long, multi-stakeholder, and equity-driven recruitment and retention systems, and provide support to new educators who are trying to pass the Praxis Tests. TIP will partner with and support eight school districts in North Carolina: Asheboro City Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools, Lexington City Schools, Mount Airy City Schools, Scotland County Schools, Vance County Schools, and Warren County Schools.” Board members were also provided additional handouts.

## **8.0 Action Items**

### **8.1 Relay/Warren County Partnership**

Mr. Sutton along with two NCILEA department leaders from the NC Department of Public Instruction, and Dr. Clemons presented to the board for approval information on the Relay/Warren County Partnership. In March, 2023, State Superintendent, Catherine Truitt, recommended, and the State Board of Education approved the use of additional ESSER funds to expand the support given to schools with a low performing designation. A review of those schools who have persisted with this designation since 2015 revealed 22 districts that could possibly benefit from expanded DPI services. Warren County Schools was one of the 22 districts that qualified for these services. In April, DPI

contacted Superintendent Sutton and offered these services which we accepted and the partnership with Relay began. Over the past school year, Relay provided 12 days of coaching in schools that involved classroom observations, planning supports for teachers and/or grade levels/departments, and practicing of instructional leadership skills. They also provided 8 hours of virtual coaching per month (8, 1 hour Zoom meetings or 11, 45 minute Zoom meetings). Meetings were with the Superintendent, district leaders and school leaders and focused on development of instructional leadership skills. School leaders in Warren County Schools and around the state have benefited tremendously from the Relay partnership. At this time, state funding for these services has ended due to the expiration of ESSER funds. Warren County Schools and Relay are working to create a plan to continue supporting the district and the progress that has been made. Staff is requesting approval of the proposal to continue services with Relay.

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Byrd and seconded by Ms. Long to approve the Relay/Warren County Partnership purchase contingent on reviewing and approval of service contract by superintendent and board attorney.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

### **8.2 2024-2026 Local Application for Career and Technical Education**

Mr. Derrick Fogg, Director of CTE presented to the board for approval the 2024-2026 local application for Career and Technical Education.

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the 2024-2026 Local Application for CTE (Career and Technical Education).

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

### **8.3 Elevate K-12 Proposal**

Mr. Sutton and Dr. Whitaker presented to the board for approval the Elevate K-12 proposal. It was stated, "In an effort to address teaching shortages and staff vacancies, staff is proposing a partnership with Elevate K-12. Several districts around the state are turning to Elevate K-12 to provide remarkable teaching from a certified, experienced educator who is committed to student success. Elevate provides live online teaching from licensed North Carolina teachers. Unlike remote learning, students participate in LIVE classes together, in our classrooms, on our bell schedule. Partner districts provide on-the-ground support via Classroom Coaches, often paraprofessionals, long-term subs, or staff members. Warren County Schools is seeking to pilot this program at Warren County High School for the 2024-2025 School year. Staff is seeking approval of the Elevate K-12 Proposal, subject to a properly executed service contract approved by the board attorney and superintendent. Please see the links below on how it works..

Remarkable Live Teaching In Any Classroom

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LpCvrXfU1WI>

How Elevate Live Teaching Works

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4jjWwBgnTy4>

**Motion:** Following a discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve purchase of Elevate K-12 based on the purchase price not to exceed \$201,123 and contingent upon a service agreement approved by board attorney and superintendent.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

#### **8.4 iReady Reading Math Program**

Dr. Clemons presented to the board for approval the iReady Reading & Math Program. It was stated, “The Academic Services department is seeking board approval to renew the iReady Math and Reading program for the 2024-2025 school year. All curriculum and instructional resources are designed for K-8 students and aligned to the ELA and Math North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The iReady products and services include the following:

- i-Ready (diagnostic assessments for reading and math)
- i-Ready Classroom
- Teacher Toolbox
- Think Up! Teacher Manuals and Student Workbooks
- Ready Teacher Manuals and Student Workbooks
- i-Ready Partners Services
- Professional Development

**Motion:** After further discussion a motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the purchase of the iReady Reading & Math materials.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

#### **8.5 Summer Testing Schedule**

Mrs. Debra Clayton, Director of Testing and Accountability presented to the board for approval a request to amended Summer Testing schedule. It was stated, “We are requesting to add the days of May 29<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> for 10 English II students. 9 of the 10 students are within 3 pts of recommendation. If the students are allowed to retest and if all student are proficient then the proficiency rate could increase by at least 10 percent.”

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the amended Summer Testing Schedule by adding May 29<sup>th</sup> through May 31<sup>st</sup> for the 10 English II students.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

### **9.0 Convene in Closed Session**

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

At 8:21 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to convene in closed session.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long 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, 4-0

## **10.0 Reconvene in Open Session**

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

At 9:03 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

After reconvening to open session, Ms. Lehman made the following statements, “I’d like to modify our closed-session announcement, and add that the Board convened for the purpose of considering a confidential student matter, subject to 14-318.11(a)(1) and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act.

I’d also like to announce two settlements reached.

Petitioners agreed to release all claims against the District that were brought, or could have been brought, pursuant to IDEA and NC special education statutes, in exchange for nonmonetary terms and payment of up to \$17,500.00, A.W., by and through his parents N.W. v. Warren County Schools Board of Education, 23 EDC 04761.

Petitioners agreed to release all claims against the District that were brought, or could have been brought, pursuant to IDEA and NC special education statutes, in exchange for nonmonetary terms and payment of up to \$14,000.00, N.W., by and through his parents N.W. v. Warren County Schools Board of Education, 23 EDC 04500.

## **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. Long and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the personnel report presented during closed session.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

## **12.0 Adjournment**

### **12.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

As there was no further business, at 9:08 p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Byrd and seconded by Ms. Long to adjourn the May 28, 2024 Work Session/Business Meeting.

**Result:** Motion passed, 4-0

Approved on:

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Board Chair

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Secretary