

MINUTES
WARREN COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR BOARD MEETING
(RECONVENED)

Tuesday, July 18, 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

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

This is a continuation of the Board's decision at the Tuesday, July 16, 2024 meeting to recess the meeting until July 18 at 5 p.m., at WCMS.

1.0 Opening of Meeting

The Warren County Board of Education met for their reconvened Regular Board Meeting on Tuesday, July 18, 2024 at 5:08p.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 July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting to order.

1.2 Moment of Silence

Ms. Lehman asked for a moment of silence.

2.0 Approval of the Agenda

2.1 Motion to Approve the July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting Agenda

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Long and seconded by Ms. Talley Brame to approve the July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting Agenda.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

3.0 Convene in Closed Session

3.1 Motion to Convene in Closed Session

At 5:09 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. Sims 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, 5-0

4.0 Reconvene in Open Session

4.1 Announcement that Board is in Open Session

At 7:40 p.m., Ms. Lehman announced that the Board was back in open session.

5.0 Action on Closed Session Item(s)

5.1 Approval Personnel Report

Ms. Lehman called for a motion to approve the personnel report as amended during closed session.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Byrd to approve the personnel report as amended during closed session.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Ms. Lehman then called for a motion to accept the Superintendent's resignation agreement effective July 19, 2024, pursuant to the resignation agreement signed by the Superintendent and board chair today, July 18, 2024.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Talley Brame and seconded by Ms. Long to accept the Superintendent's resignation agreement effective July 19, 2024, pursuant to the resignation agreement signed by the Superintendent and board chair today, July 18, 2024.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Ms. Lehman then stated, "The Board wishes to thank Mr. Sutton for his service to the school system and the students of Warren County Schools. Mr. Sutton came on as superintendent as our school community was still reeling from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, and we appreciate his leadership as we continue working toward our mission of providing dynamic instruction to all students, and fostering a learning community where our students thrive academically, behaviorally, and emotional, and emerge from our school prepared to take on the world."

Mr. Sutton then stated the following, “Dear Employees, Staff, Faculty, Students, and Community,

I hope this message finds you all in good health and enjoying a very, warm summer. Today marks a bittersweet moment as I write to inform you that I will be stepping down from my position as Superintendent of Warren County Schools. It has been an absolute privilege and honor to serve in this role and work alongside such dedicated individuals like yourselves.

As I reflect on my time here, I am filled with a deep sense of gratitude for the unwavering support, passion, and commitment each one of you has shown. Together, we have achieved remarkable milestones and made significant progress in our mission of providing quality education and fostering a nurturing environment for our students.

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation to the entire team of Warren County Schools. Your hard work, dedication, and expertise have been invaluable in shaping the lives of our students and creating a positive impact within our community. It is through your collective efforts that we have been able to overcome challenges, implement innovative programs, and create a culture striving toward excellence.

To the teachers and faculty members, thank you for your tireless efforts in educating and inspiring our students. Your passion for teaching and your commitment to their growth and development is truly commendable. I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of your guidance and mentorship.

To the staff members, your behind-the-scenes contributions are the backbone of our organization. Your professionalism, efficiency, and unwavering support ensure that our operations run smoothly and that our students have the best possible learning environment.

To the students, you are the heart and soul of our educational community. It has been a privilege to witness your growth, resilience, and achievements. You are the reason we strive to create an inclusive, nurturing, and empowering environment, and I have no doubt that you will continue to shine bright in all your future endeavors.

To our community stakeholders, thank you for your unwavering support and partnership. Your involvement, guidance, and collaboration have been instrumental in creating a strong and thriving educational ecosystem. Together, we have built bridges, fostered relationships, and made a lasting impact on the lives of our students.

To the Board of Education, I owe you a special debt of gratitude. You gave me an opportunity to lead Warren County Schools as your superintendent. We formed a strong governance team and we have made amazing strides over the last 3 years. We have set the district on a path to improvement and transformation and together, we have “Reimagined Warren.”

While it is with a heavy heart that I bid farewell, I am confident that Warren County Schools will continue to flourish under new leadership. I have every faith in the capabilities and potential of each and every one of you to carry forward our shared vision and continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our students.

As I embark on a new chapter in my journey, I will always cherish the memories,

friendships, and experiences I have gained here. Please know that I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve as your Superintendent and for the incredible support I have received throughout my tenure.

In closing, I want to extend my sincerest best wishes to each and every one of you. May your paths be filled with success, fulfillment, and happiness. Together, let us continue to create a brighter future for our students and our community.

With heartfelt appreciation, Keith Sutton, Outgoing Superintendent”

6.0 Adjournment

6.1 Motion to Adjourn Meeting

As there was no further business, at 7:48p.m., Ms. Lehman called for a motion to adjourn the July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Sims and seconded by Ms. Long to adjourn the July 18, 2024 Reconvened Regular Board Meeting.

Result: Motion passed, 5-0

Approved on: **August 27, 2024**

SEAL

Board Chair

Secretary