

**Minutes**  
Anson County Board of Education  
Monday, September 30, 2024  
Regular Meeting 5:00 p.m.  
Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in a regular session on Monday, September 30, 2024. Board members present were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, George Truman, and Mike Turner. Others in attendance were Dr. Brian Ratliff (Superintendent), Dr. Josh McLaurin (Executive Administrator), and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk).

**Call to Order**

George Truman opened the meeting at 5:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Invocation**

Marilynn Bennett gave the Invocation.

**Adopt Agenda**

Mike Turner asked to move the personnel report to new business. The board voted to adopt the agenda with the revision in a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Carol Gibson. The motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

Frank Liles moved to approve the August 26, 2024, meeting minutes. Judy Little seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. The motion carried.

**Closed Session**

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into a closed session. Judy Little made a motion to go into closed session at 5:04 p.m. to consider a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6) and to discuss the acquisition of real estate or to discuss the price and other material terms of a contract or proposed contract for the acquisition of real property according to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

**Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 6:00 p.m. upon a motion by Frank Liles. Judy Little seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Upon a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Marilynn Bennett, the board voted to move the personnel report back to consent agenda. Motion carried.

**Public Comment**

There was no one present to speak during this section.

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Truman recognized Mr. JD Bricken (County Commissioner) for his interest in attending the board meeting.

Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Carol Ann Gibson, the board voted for Marilyn Bennett, Carol Ann Gibson, Beulah Pratt and Frank Liles to serve as voting delegates at the NC School Boards Association's Annual Meeting on Monday, November 18, 2024. Motion carried.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ratliff gave reports on State Representatives, Student Learning, School Growth Presentations, Operations, Middle School Construction, POY/TOY/BTOY/PPOY Recognition and School Safety.

### **School Growth Presentations**

Dr. Travis Steagall and Mr. Kevin Adams shared their school growth presentations for Peachland-Polkton Elementary School and Wadesboro Elementary School.

Dr. Ratliff shared a brief 2023-2024 district assessment/data overview and will share more details at a future meeting.

### **State Representatives**

Dr. Ratliff said he met with Representative Brody and is monitoring expanding facility improvement needs. He thanked Carol Ann Gibson for putting him in contact with Representative Willis, who is vested in the Teacher Assistant to Teacher grant program.

### **Operations**

Dr. Ratliff discussed closing schools and what goes into making those decisions.

### **Middle School Construction Update**

Dr. Ratliff shared that there have been some delays with the middle school construction project due to weather. He said many of the footings have been completed, and plumbing under the slab has been completed. Dr. Ratliff said he is staying on top of attending construction meetings. He also explained that the payment system has been rectified and is running smoothly.

### **New Middle School Access Road**

Dr. Ratliff said there is a real need for an access road, and he asked Mr. Stinson and Mr. Ross to give an update on this topic. Mr. Ross shared a communication with the board from the Department of Transportation (DOT). Mr. Ross said there is a need to create an access road connecting the new middle school and the parking lots at the high school. He said the DOT explained that there was some money, but not enough, to build the road. Mr. Ross said they are at a standstill due to funding. Mr. Stinson shared his perspective on what the road would look like. He explained students would be dropped off at AMS and then the access road would be used to drop off students at AHS without getting back on Anson High School Road. He said students would get to and from school without getting caught up in traffic. Mr. Turner asked about a turn lane on Anson High School Road. Dr. Ratliff said he would discuss that question at the next construction meeting.

**POY/TOY/BTOY/PPOY Recognition**

Dr. Ratliff said the Principal of the Year, Teachers of the Year, Beginning Teachers of the Year, and Paraprofessionals of the Year would be recognized at the October 28 meeting.

**School Safety**

Dr. Ratliff and Mr. Ross have had conversations with Dr. Ellis at the Center for School Safety. They will revisit safety topics, go back to procedures to ensure everything is carefully lined out, and go through training with different players in the community to help with response time. It was mentioned that they would look at other systems that could help with alerts and response times. Dr. Ratliff said he would look for ways to make the alert system happen without extra cost. He also said they want more simulations and tabletop situations where the response can be consistent across the board. He said they will review what they have and upgrade as they start pulling in ways to communicate better with the public.

Dr. Ratliff stated that October 22 will be the date for us to bring Dr. Adolph Brown back to Anson County Schools. He said Dr. Brown may meet with some of our grade levels but not all. He said there will also be a parent and community event on the evening of October 22. Dr. Ratliff said this is a necessary conversation, and we need the community to help get parents there. He said the student theme is character, choices, and consequences. He asked everyone to get involved and help the community get involved.

**Consent Items**

The board approved the following consent agenda items (Personnel Report, Budget Resolution, and Consolidated Title Plans) on a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Beulah Pratt. The motion carried.

**New Business**

Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Carol Ann Gibson, the board voted to move the November 18 board meeting to November 25 and the December 9 board meeting to December 16. Motion carried. Dr. Truman asked for a motion to swear in new or re-elected members at 2:45 p.m. on December 16 and begin the meeting at 3:30 p.m. Frank Liles made this motion, Beulah Pratt seconded it, and the board approved it. Motion carried.

**Adjournment**

Mike Turner moved to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Frank Liles seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

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Dr. George Truman, Chairman

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Dr. Brian Ratliff, Secretary