

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Board Workshop
Regular Meeting
Monday, January 27, 2020, 2:30 p.m.
Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2020. All members were present. Other in attendance were Michael Freeman (Superintendent), Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent), Holly Berry (Finance Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney) and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk).

I. Call to Order

Dr. George Truman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. Invocation

Mike Turner gave the Invocation.

III. Conflict of Interest Statement

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chair George Truman reminded Board Members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. There were no conflicts of interest communicated by the members. Chair Truman then requested that if, during the course of the meeting, members became aware of an actual or apparent conflict of interest that they bring the matter to his attention. He further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

IV. Adopt Agenda

Gay Lookabill made a motion to approve the amended agenda (added Open Meetings Law/Ethics to Superintendent Search section). Beulah Pratt seconded the motion and the agenda was unanimously adopted by the Board. Motion carried.

V. Approve Minutes

(Regular Meeting 12/16/19 and Special Meeting 01/07/20)

A motion was made by Carol Gibson to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 16, 2019 and the special meeting minutes of January 7, 2020. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

VI. Superintendent Search

- Richard A. Schwartz, Schwartz & Shaw, P.L.L.C
- Open Meetings Law/Ethics

Richard Schwartz shared a presentation on open meetings law, ethics and guidance on conducting a superintendent search.

VII. Closed Session

George Truman entertained a motion for the Board to go into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(6) and for the purpose of discussing the

acquisition of real estate pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(5). This motion was made by Lisa Davis, seconded by Marilyn Bennett and unanimously approved by the board. The Board went into closed session at 3:39 p.m.

The Board amended the original closed session motion to add 143-318.11(a)(7) to plan, conduct, or hear reports concerning investigations of alleged criminal misconduct. The motion was made by Lisa Davis, seconded by Gay Lookabill and approved by the board. Motion carried.

VIII. **Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 5:37 p.m. upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

IX. **Recognition**

The Board recognized the district spelling bee participants, champion and runner-up of the spelling bee. Those recognized were as follows: Joshua Greene (LES – Champion), Isabella Greene (AMS – Runner-Up), Isabella Zamora Saldana (AES), Essence Davis (MES), Megan Kiser (PPES), Noah Self (WES), Addison Johnson (WPS), Faheem Cadogan (AMS) and Emma Love (AMS).

X. **Public Comment**

There was no one to speak during this portion of the meeting.

XI. **Recess**

The board recessed at 6:10 p.m.

XII. **Reconvene Open Session**

The board reconvened open session at 6:25 p.m.

XIII. **Chair's Report**

Public Engagement: Several board members discussed schools they have recently visited and events and activities they have participated in at the schools and within the community.

Dr. Truman stated he received an email from Ed Dunlap from the NC School Boards Association for schools systems to send the WestEd Report to NCSBA by February 7. He further explained this request is in conjunction with the Leandro case that provides low wealth funding to our district. Mr. Freeman elaborated on the low wealth funding topic as requested by Dr. Truman. He explained that Anson County is a part of low wealth funding. Mr. Freeman said that low wealth funding is extremely important to Anson County; furthermore, he stated if we did not have low wealth funding, a number of our services would suffer.

Dr. Truman said there was concern from a board member about water in the high jump lane area. Mr. Freeman said he investigated the area and there is a tarp covering the area when it's not in use. He explained that because of the consistent rain, there is still a chance rainwater is on the tarp. Mr. Freeman mentioned he has plans to mound the dirt up higher if approval is granted from NCHSAA to help eliminate the water. He said if they aren't allowed to put more sand, he is looking at a cover that will push the rainwater away from

the area. He said there are no issues with the track or field. He said water is just puddling on top of the sand area. Dr. Truman asked if the field is draining properly. Mr. Freeman said as far as he knows there are no issues. Dr. Truman asked Mr. Freeman to ask Mr. Napier to ensure the field and track area are draining properly and Mr. Freeman agreed to the check with Mr. Napier on the request.

Dr. Truman said the board would like him to meet with Mr. Flake and Mr. Freeman to discuss the superintendent contract. Mr. Freeman explained he has been communicating with Mr. Flake and he will provide feedback.

Dr. Truman asked if the budget has passed and, if not, what are we operating on at the current time. Mrs. Berry said they are operating on a preliminary budget but it is all subject to change and is only preliminary.

Dr. Truman asked Mr. Freeman to contact Richard Schwartz to get names and information of search consultant contacts. Mr. Freeman said Richard could also get proposals sent on some of those contacts. Mr. Freeman stated he would work with Mr. Flake to gather the information and get dates scheduled to meet regarding the search process. He also mentioned that the board could review the proposals and choose or the board could have consultants come in to do a presentation. Mr. Freeman said he will establish dates and follow-up with the board.

Dr. Truman requested examples from previous superintendent search community surveys.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Freeman gave a report on Human Resources, Current Job Postings, Current Projects, Facility Construction Update and Instructional Programs.

Project Updates:

- Numerous meetings and site visits have occurred regarding the new Anson Middle School project. Soil samples were taken, an upcoming meeting on kitchen design in the child nutrition area is scheduled, meetings with the electrical group, safety and security with media and technology components have occurred.
- Maintenance has arranged for cleanup of the Ray Shelton field including removal of the lights.
- Waiting on recommendations for a project in the Science Center where we will get improved student restrooms. Waiting on another arrival of fossils and board members will be invited to a ribbon cutting ceremony. Fossils were donated by Mr. T. D. Burns.
- We are waiting on a grant to help renovate the Wadesboro Elementary Media Center.

Instructional Programs:

- Mr. Freeman said we have been with a company called Odysseyware for intersession programs, online tool for credit recovery and new course offerings. He explained we are converting to Apex Learning to replace Odysseyware. Mr. McLean said Apex Learning's prices were a better fit and a good deal for Anson County.

XIV. **Consent Items**

Upon a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Beulah Pratt, the following consent items were approved by the board: Personnel Report, Budget Amendments and Policy 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety. Motion carried.

XV. **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was made at 7:29 p.m. by Mike Turner, seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Dr. George Truman, Chairperson

Mr. Michael Freeman, Secretary