

**Minutes**  
**Anson County Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, January 31, 2022, 4:00 p.m.**  
**Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room**

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 31, 2022. Board members present in-person were Marilyn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Gay Lookabill, Beulah Pratt, George Truman and Mike Turner. Others in attendance were Howard McLean (Superintendent), Marty Godwin (Assistant Superintendent), Mike Flake (Board Attorney), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk), and Pete Swails (Technology). Principals were also present in the audience.

**Call to Order**

Carol Gibson opened the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Invocation**

Lisa Davis gave the Invocation.

**Conflict of Interest Statement**

In compliance with the requirements of Chapter 138A-15(e) of the State Government Ethics Act, Chair Carol Gibson 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 noted. Chair Gibson 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 her attention. She further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

**Adopt Agenda**

George Truman asked to add "Board Member Questions and Concerns" and Mike Turner asked to move all consent items to "New Business". Chair Gibson stated Dr. Truman's request will be placed before consent items. Mike Turner made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

**Approve Minutes**

**Regular Meeting 12/13/21**

**Special Meeting 01/10/22**

A motion was made by Frank Liles to approve the regular meeting minutes of December 13, 2021 and the special meeting minutes of January 10, 2022. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

**Closed Session**

A motion was made by Marilyn Bennett to go into closed session at 4:07 p.m. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

### **Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 5:28 p.m. upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

### **Recognition**

The board recognized Madilyn Heafner, Maddie Turner and Paris Steward for their artwork being chosen as honorable mention in the NC School Boards Association's Elementary Poster Contest that was held in November 2021.

Carri Decker and her staff at Anson Early College High School were recognized for achieving commendable graduation results for the Class of 2021.

### **Public Comment**

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

### **Chair's Report**

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

### **Superintendent's Report**

NCDPI (Dr. Hargrave, Dr. Neil, Mr. Cramer, Dr. Edmunds and Dr. Martin) gave a presentation of ways they are helping close the achievement gap in some of the schools. Dr. Hargrave said the goal is to listen and find ways to support where there are needs. He explained that after three years they would like to leave where the district no longer needs the support. He stated their job is help remove Anson County Schools from the low-performing list. He explained this doesn't cost a penny for them to be here but they are here to support. Lisa Davis asked which schools they are working with and Dr. Neil stated Wadesboro Elementary, Anson Middle, Anson High, Wadesboro Primary and Morven Elementary. Ms. Davis asked what it looks like when working with the schools and principals. Mr. Cramer stated they are looking at professional development with a focus on instruction at Anson Middle and Anson High School. He said they are unpacking the standards and teaching staff how to assess at the end. He explained the emphasis is also on where they are going, where they are now and then how to close the gap using formative assessment. Dr. Hargrave said they are not working with the elementary schools in this manner due to the LTRS training. He also stated they work with instructional coaches and they in turn work with everyone. Gay Lookabill asked when they started working in Anson County. Dr. Hargrave and others said in late summer of 2021. Ms. Lookabill said she understands it's a three year journey and asked if they are seeing progress. Dr. Hargrave stated they are seeing progress and the progress they want to see immediately is to dismiss the idea that they are coming to take over the schools. He said they want everyone to feel comfortable and to build a level of trust. Ms. Bennett asked them to explain the LTRS training. Dr. Edmunds said LTRS is the Foundation of the Science of Reading – how do students learn to read and how to address those concerns. She explained it provides teachers with the skills they need to master the fundamentals of reading instruction. They have three cohorts and the training is provided through an outside agency. She explained if they would like additional LTRS information, they can have someone provide that to the board. Dr. Edmunds also explained LTRS is for elementary schools. Mr. McLean stated Anson County was pushed ahead to Cohort 1 for LTRS training.

Mr. McLean gave reports on budget, personnel, instructional programs, operational programs, discipline and community use of facilities.

### **Board Member Questions and Concerns**

George Truman said he wants to know how much was spent and allocated to all the people in our system for 2021 from all fund sources. He stated as they look at evaluating all situations, they need to know who is getting what. He asked for this information by the next board meeting.

Dr. Truman said he would like to have Joy come in when we meet to share how the money can be spent and go over each area regarding what needs to be spent first. He said we need to be creative so we don't lose any funds and we need to start generating a plan on how we are going to manage the money we have when we start losing our lottery dollars. Dr. Truman stated we need to be thinking ahead of time to make sure we spend the money that runs out first.

Dr. Truman said the board members were to be polled when the January called meeting would be held. He said he tried to do the meeting by phone but wasn't able because he was muted. Dr. Truman stated he just wants to be sure we are polled on future called meeting dates. Mr. McLean said he conversed with his board chair about the meeting date. Ms. Davis said when there is a called meeting, it would be good to be able to adjust their schedules for those meetings. Mr. McLean said, in the future, he will send out date options.

Lisa Davis asked about time for teachers to make up the inclement weather days. Mr. McLean said they always work with individual staff on how to make up those days without possibly using leave days.

Gay Lookabill asked about the alternative behavior program that was to begin on January 6 and she asked how that was going. Mr. McLean stated it's up and running and he visited the school last week and they have 26 students that are assigned. He said according to the principal and Mr. Tillman, the program is making a difference. Ms. Lookabill also said she likes the discipline report that was shared with the board.

Lisa Davis commended Ms. Drake on the budget reports and thanked her for allowing them to be able to read them easily.

Mr. McLean stated the board will be polled about the topics they would like in board training.

### **Old Business**

#### Face Coverings Policy

Mr. Turner asked how everything was going in the schools. Mr. McLean stated he had to send a district communication last week due to not being pleased with a teacher not wearing a mask where he had to quarantine a little less than 100 students. Mike Turner asked if employees are aware of Section D in the policy. Mr. McLean stated employees are aware and haven't been given a copy of the policy.

Gay Lookabill asked if the numbers are coming down. Dr. Ratliff stated that the inclement weather days have helped get our numbers down and she said the masks are working. She stated their goal is to protect students and staff. She stated the district is doing well with Covid Dashboard numbers. She also reminded the board that our county is in the red.

Upon a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Frank Liles, the board approved to continue with the mandatory face coverings requirements for students and staff. Motion carried.

## **New Business**

### Personnel Report

Mr. Turner asked about the shortage of teachers at each school. Mr. Godwin stated he will get a specific count since he does not have that in front of him. After counting the shortage by school, Mr. Godwin confirmed around nine positions open without looking at his information. Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Lisa Davis, the board voted to approve the personnel report. Motion carried.

### 2022-2023 School Calendar

Mr. Turner asked why graduation is scheduled for a Tuesday night. Mr. McLean said they are trying something different instead of having it on a holiday weekend. Mr. Turner asked if we received input from stakeholders. Mr. McLean said the calendar has been vetted with parent and teacher advisory councils as well as from principals and district departments like testing, finance, human resources, Powerschool, etc. Mr. Stinson stated he hasn't received any negative feedback and said the date and time has been communicated in several ways. Mr. Turner made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 school calendar. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Motion carried.

### 2022-2023 Board Meeting Dates

Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Frank Liles, the 2022-2023 board meeting dates were approved by the board. Motion carried.

The board asked about the CTE Expo and Mr. McLean asked Mr. Stinson to explain that event. Mr. Stinson said it's a way to showcase the CTE Department and business partnerships. Dr. Truman asked about getting a list of the business partners so the board can thank them if they see them in public. Mr. Stinson called out a number of partners during the discussion with Dr. Truman.

Lisa Davis said she would like to see us hosting events in the county instead of going outside the county for events such as the prom. Mr. Stinson stated the venue was vetted before Covid and the event location has worked with us to secure the date until an in-person prom could be held. Mr. Stinson said they will certainly look at in-county options in the future.

## **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was given by Mike Turner at 6:38 p.m. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

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Carol Ann Gibson, Chairperson

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Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary