

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 28, 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, February 28, 2022. Board members present in-person were Marilynn 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 4:01 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Invocation

Frank Liles 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

Lisa Davis asked to add School of Choice for Kindergarten for the 2022-2023 school year. Lisa Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda with the changes. The motion was seconded by Mike Turner and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Regular Meeting 01/31/22

A motion was made by Frank Liles to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 31, 2022. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Frank Liles to go into closed session at 4:04 p.m. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 5:27 p.m. upon a motion by Marilynn Bennett, seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Recognition

The board recognized the following students for participating in the district-wide spelling bee: Gabriela Temich (Anson Middle), Zion Burns (Wadesboro Primary), Eythan Monk (Wadesboro Elementary), Z'Marion Leak (Morven Elementary), Hayden Lee (Lilesville Elementary), Maddie Turner – Runner-Up (Peachland-Polkton Elementary) and Joshua Greene – 1st Place (Anson Middle).

The board recognized the Anson Middle School Girls Basketball Team and the Anson Middle School Boys Basketball Team for advancing to the 2nd round of the Southeastern Middle School Basketball Conference Playoffs.

The board recognized the following students for athletic achievements during the winter athletic season:

Anson Middle School Wrestling

Deonte Nelson: placed runner-up in the 90 lb. weight class at Southeastern Middle School Conference Wrestling Tournament Championship.

Dock Hyatt: placed runner-up in the 145 lb. weight class at the Southeastern Middle School Conference Wrestling Tournament Championship.

Walker Stinson: placed runner-up in the 195 lb. weight class at the Southeastern Middle School Conference Wrestling Tournament Championship.

Jazon McNeil: placed 1st in the 106 lb. weight class at the Southeastern Middle School Conference Wrestling Tournament Championship.

Jackson Stinson: placed 1st in the 120 lb. weight class at the Southeastern Middle School Conference Wrestling Tournament Championship.

Anson High School Basketball

Dyimond Sturdivant: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Basketball.

Greg Covington: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Basketball.

Jayden Little: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Basketball.

Ryan Robinson: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Basketball.

Malayasia Gabriel: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Basketball.

Anson High School Wrestling

Decorian Gainey: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Wrestling.

Zach Wall: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors and for finishing in 6th place in the 152 lb. weight class at the NCHSAA State Tournament for Wrestling.

Emmanuel Chambers: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Wrestling.

Jarvis Marsh: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Wrestling.

Anson High School Indoor Track

Zeranna Little: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track.

Jaymya Brewer: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track.

Trenton Smith: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track.

Manev Patel: received 2A Rocky River Honorable Mention All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track.

Erin Lookabill: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track and for being a State Qualifier.

Rebecca Huntley: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track and for being a State Qualifier.

Gracie Stinson: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track, for being the 2A Rocky River Conference Champion in Shot Put and for finishing in 6th place in the Shot Put at the NCHSAA State Tournament.

Johntavious Booker: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track and for being the 2A Rocky River Conference Champion in the 55 Meter Hurdles.

Angelica Lugo: received 2A Rocky River All-Conference Honors for Indoor Track and for being the 2A Rocky River Conference Champion in the 55 Meter Hurdles, Triple Jump and Pole Vault and for being a State Qualifier.

Public Comment

Apostle Chambers was present to speak about an active grant they are seeking so they can build a community center. He stated their hopes are to see if it would be possible for the board to donate or let them purchase (at low cost) the remaining property behind old Faison School. He said this would allow them to build the community center for kids and to get them off the street. He said if they can acquire the property, it would be named JR Faison Community Center.

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.

Join Meeting with County Commissioners: Chair Gibson asked if the board would like to come up with some dates to meet with the commissioners in a joint meeting. Ms. Gibson asked the board members to send Mrs. Hyatt dates in March or early April they could meet with commissioners.

Superintendent's Report

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

Dr. Mary Ratliff was present to speak on Covid data that would help the board when voting on the Face Coverings later in the meeting.

Board Member Questions and Concerns

Ms. Lookabill asked about our policy on random drug testing. Mr. Godwin stated there is a random quarterly draw for anyone that drives an Anson County Schools vehicle with a CDL license. Mr. Ross spoke up and said our system goes above what the federal department requires. Mr. Godwin stated if anyone that drives a school-owned vehicle and has a wreck must be tested.

Consent

Upon a motion by Frank Liles, seconded by Gay Lookabill, the board approved the personnel report as presented. Motion carried.

Old Business

Face Coverings Policy

Dr. Truman made a motion to make masks optional for students and staff beginning March 7. The motion was seconded by Marilynn Bennett.

Lisa Davis said she thinks the board should begin the optional masking tonight and Mr. Turner agreed as well.

The motion passed with a 5-4 vote to make masks optional for students and staff beginning March 7. Those voting in favor of the motion were George Truman, Marilynn Bennett, Bobbie Little, Carol Gibson and Beulah Pratt. Those voting against the motion were Gay Lookabill, Lisa Davis, Mike Turner and Frank Liles.

New Business

School of Choice for Kindergarten for 2022-2023

Lisa Davis made a motion to allow school of choice for rising Kindergarten students beginning with the 2022-2023 school year to let them choose a school in our district that fits their needs best. Dr. Truman seconded the motion and added that they must provide their own transportation. Mr. McLean said he needs the authority that if one school gets full, we need to cut off enrollment. Bobbie Little, Carol Gibson and Marilynn Bennett recused themselves from the vote. Those in favor of the motion were George Truman, Gay Lookabill, Lisa Davis, Mike Turner, Beulah Pratt and Frank Liles. Motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was given by Gay Lookabill at 6:59 p.m. Marilynn Bennett seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Carol Ann Gibson, Chairperson

Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary