

Minutes

Anson County Board of Education

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 26, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 26, 2024. Board members present were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Dr. Bobbie Little, Judy Little, Beulah Pratt, Dr. George Truman, and Mike Turner. Others in attendance were Howard McLean (Superintendent), Dr. Josh McLaurin (Executive Administrator), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk), and Mike Flake (Board Attorney).

Call to Order

George Truman opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

Invocation

Mike Turner gave the Invocation.

Adopt Agenda

George Truman amended the agenda to add Superintendent Search to New Business. Upon a motion by Carol Gibson, seconded by Frank Liles, the board voted to adopt the agenda with the new added business item. Motion carried.

Approve Minutes

Regular Meeting 01/29/24

Carol Ann Gibson made a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 29, 2024. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. The motion carried.

Recognition

The board recognized and congratulated the district spelling participants listed below:

- Brynna Little, Lilesville Elementary School (1st Place Winner)
- Jeyceon Bennett, Wadesboro Primary School
- Chyna Blakney, Wadesboro Elementary School
- Brianna Furr, Peachland-Polkton Elementary School
- Ngan Nguyen, Morven Elementary School
- Cherish Chambers, Anson Middle School
- Leo Dong, Anson Middle School
- Calhoun Metcalf, Ansonville Elementary School

Closed Session

Chair Truman asked for a motion to go into a closed session. Mike Turner made a motion to go into closed session at 5:43 p.m. for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6) and for the purpose of discussing 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 pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11(a)(5). The motion was seconded by Carol Ann Gibson and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken during closed session.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 6:30 p.m. upon a motion by Frank Liles. The motion was seconded by Mike Turner and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Public Comment

Garrett Snuggs was present to speak on test score concerns and people in the community not being able to use the school facilities to train kids in athletics.

Fred Davis was present to speak about inner-city schools struggling and needing help, especially at Wadesboro Elementary School.

Chair's Report

Carol Ann Gibson said she recently attended a tea party at Wadesboro Primary School and a mother-and-son dance at Wadesboro Elementary School. Mr. Turner shared that he attended Math and Science Night at Ansonville Elementary School. Lisa Davis said the varsity basketball team will compete in the first round of the basketball playoffs on Tuesday.

Superintendent's Report

Mr. McLean gave reports on Budget, Human Resources, Current Job Postings, Curriculum, Operations and Community Use of Facilities.

Recruiting (Dr. McLaurin)

Dr. McLaurin gave a report on recruiting and shared a one-page document with the board highlighting recruiting efforts and information. Dr. Truman said the board's first priority is to recruit local teachers. He said we need to encourage young people to enter the education career path.

Mr. McLean announced his retirement effective May 31, 2024. Dr. Truman thanked Mr. McLean for his service to Anson County Schools on behalf of the Anson County Board of Education, Anson County School System, and the citizens of Anson County.

Consent Items

Bobbie Little asked a question about the personnel report. Dr. Truman asked for a motion and a second before discussion, and questions could occur. Mike Turner made a motion to approve the consent items, the motion was seconded by Lisa Davis. Bobbie Little said she has concerns with the personnel report. Carol Gibson asked if Dr. Little wanted to remove the report from the consent agenda. Dr. Little said yes. Dr. Truman said he would need a motion to amend the agenda. Frank Liles made a motion to amend the agenda to move a.01 personnel report to c.02 under new business. Judy Little seconded the motion to amend the agenda. Dr. Truman asked if we need to go into a closed session before the personnel report is addressed. The motion to amend the agenda was approved by the board. Dr. Truman opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Upon the initial motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Lisa Davis, the board approved the Consent Items with the exception of the personnel report (Budget Amendments, 2025-2026 School Calendar, 2025-2026 Board Meeting Dates, Sole Source Forms and 2023-2024 Summer Program Plan). Motion carried.

Educational Partners International Agreement

Carol Gibson moved that the agreement presented be tabled until the board receives the final agreement. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles. Lisa Davis stated that she is not in favor of the agreement as it is presented right now. Mike Turner and Carol Gibson agreed with Ms. Davis. The motion was approved with an 8-1 vote with Lisa Davis opposing the motion due to not being in favor of the agreement. Motion carried.

Superintendent Search

Dr. Little made a motion to accept the offer of assistance from the NC State Board of Education to Anson County Board of Education in the recruitment of an experienced interim superintendent. Lisa Davis seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Motion carried.

Closed Session

Upon a motion by Marilyn Bennett, seconded by Judy Little, the board voted to go into closed session at 7:07 p.m. to review matters related to personnel pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 143.318.11 (a)(6). Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

Reconvene Open Session

The Board returned to open session at 7:33 p.m. upon a motion by Frank Liles. The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Personnel Report

Upon a motion Lisa Davis, seconded by Frank Liles, the board approved the personnel report with a 7-2 vote. Judy Little and Bobbie Little opposed the motion. Motion carried.

Adjourn

Lisa Davis made a motion to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Marilyn Bennett seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Dr. George Truman, Chairman

Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary