

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 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, March 28, 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), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk), and Pete Swails (Technology). Principals were also present in the audience.

Call to Order

Carol Gibson opened the meeting at 4:00 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 move all consent items to new business. Beulah Pratt 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

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Mr. Liles stated on the motion of optional masks, he thought he voted for optional masks. Mr. Liles stated he also wanted to make note that he was not in favor of the motion for school choice for kindergarten. A motion was made by Frank Liles to approve the regular meeting minutes of February 28, 2022, with the noted comments. The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

Closed Session

A motion was made by Lisa Davis to go into closed session at 4:09 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mike Turner 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.

Public Comment

Michael McLeod was present to speak about open enrollment for kindergarten. He said he doesn't mind open enrollment or school of choice if everyone could take advantage of open enrollment. He stated it was mentioned that transportation must be provided by the family and he said when he was young, they had no car. He said he doesn't like the lack of opportunity for students that need it the most. Mr. McLeod said he is depending on all the board for everyone to do right by the children.

Superintendent's Report

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

Summer Program Plan (Sheri High)

Sheri High was present to speak on re-testing and what they allow for as far as remediation for students after the school year as ended. She stated students are given the opportunity to re-take end-of-grade tests for the second time. The result (if higher) will not figure into the overall school growth but it will help with overall proficiency and it is voluntary. She said she is required to submit a board approved plan to the state. Ms. High stated that transportation and meals would be provided.

Mr. McLean said the traditional summer school plan will be presented at the next board meeting.

Child Nutrition Grant (Anita Starling)

Anita Starling was present to speak about the no child hungry grant. Ms. Starling said she applied and received \$20,000 from the grant. She explained they will use the money for grab-and-go carts. Ms. Starling said they planned for \$1,200 for outreach and bags for the food and the meal cost is estimated at \$14,600. She also mentioned storage is another component and they will order shelving for space already available. Gay Lookabill asked if this grant is renewable. Ms. Starling said it is only for one year. Ms. Davis said for us to see how we can sustain the program during the budget meeting on April 12. Ms. Gibson asked when the program would start. Ms. Starling said the program will begin next school year. Ms. Lookabill asked if all schools were being served and Ms. Starling confirmed all schools were being supported.

Covid Update (Mary Ratliff)

Dr. Ratliff was present to give the board an update on the Covid Dashboard and how things are going in the district. She explained district numbers are down and our community is classified as low. She stated her recommendation is to continue with the optional masks.

Second Graduation

Mr. McLean discussed the request from our high school administration (that he plans to approve) regarding a second high school graduation. He stated Anson High School and Anson Early College would like to recommend a second graduation to be held on August 3, 2022. Mr. McLean explained many other districts in the state, specifically Cumberland County, use the second graduation for several purposes. Due to Covid and loss of learning, he stated we are seeing an increase in academic and attendance challenges. Anson High and Anson Early College see the benefit to offering a second graduation for several factors that include: higher accountability for academic success, allow for credit deficient students to take a summer school class or two and still graduate on time, to increase our graduation cohort rate and higher accountability for student attendance.

Old Business

Face Coverings Policy

Mike Turner made a motion to continue to keep masks optional for students and staff. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

New Business

Personnel Report

Upon a motion by George Truman, seconded by Mike Turner, the board approved the personnel report with the following conditions: extend Michael Vetter's through 2026, extend Marty Godwin's contract through 2023 but refrain from extending Jennifer Collard's and Mary Ratliff's contract beyond Mr. McLean's current contract at this time. Motion carried.

Field Trip Request (AHS JROTC)

A motion was made by George Truman, seconded by Mike Turner, to approve the Anson High School JROTC Field Trip. Motion carried.

2021-22 Summer Program Plan

A motion was made by Gay Lookabill, seconded by Beulah Pratt, to approve the 2021-2022 Summer Program Plan. Motion carried.

Contract to Audit Accounts

A motion was made by Frank Liles, seconded by Lisa Davis, to approve the contract to audit accounts as presented. Motion carried.

Policy 4150 (revised)

A motion was made by Mike Turner to approve the revised Policy 4150. The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis. Lisa Davis mentioned the district may have ways to help with students that need transportation on a case-by-case basis. Mr. McLean stated he will look into a way to help students that need assistance with transportation. Marilyn Bennett asked about the wording in the policy and asked for clarification on the following statement "except as otherwise required by law or board policy". Ms. Hyatt stated she will check with counsel that oversees our policy customization to get clarification on that wording. Frank Liles opposed the motion. Those voting in favor of the motion were Lisa Davis, Gay Lookabill, Mike Turner, Beulah Pratt and George Truman. Motion carried.

**At the February 28, 2022, board meeting, Marilyn Bennett, Carol Gibson and Bobbie Little recused themselves from the school of choice vote.*

Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Services Contract

Upon a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Frank Liles, the board approved the Lawn and Grounds Maintenance Services Contract as presented. Motion carried.

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was given by Frank Liles at 6:15 p.m. Beulah Pratt seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

Carol Ann Gibson, Chairperson

Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary