

## **Minutes**

Anson County Board of Education

Thursday, June 27, 2024

Regular Meeting 10:00 a.m.

Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room

The Anson County Board of Education met in a regular session on Thursday, June 27, 2024. Board members present were Marilyn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Dr. Bobbie Little, Judy Little, George Truman, and Mike Turner. Beulah Pratt was present via Go To Virtual Meeting. Others in attendance were Dr. Brian Ratliff (Superintendent), Dr. Josh McLaurin (Executive Administrator), Mike Flake (Board Attorney), and Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk).

### **Call to Order**

George Truman opened the meeting at 10:01 a.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

### **Invocation**

Lisa Davis gave the Invocation.

### **Adopt Agenda**

Randy Baker's update on the new middle school project was moved after the approval of the agenda. Upon a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Judy Little, the board voted to adopt the agenda with the revision as presented. Motion carried.

### **Randy Baker (New Anson Middle School Update)**

Randy Baker was present to share the following updates on the new middle school project.

- Clearing and demo of existing site and erosion control on phase 1.
- Mass grading has started.
- Fire and domestic taps completed.
- Building pad has been started.
- Wet soil will be dug out and replaced.
- Working on building pad and will continue to the gymnasium and 6th-grade wing.
- Continue building the main road, elevate the building pad to subgrade elevation, start working on storm and sewer lines, and mobilize the concrete contractor to start foundations.
- Will continue to give progressive updates each month.
- The finish date is currently around September 2025.

### **Approve Minutes**

Frank Liles moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of May 20, 2024. Mike Turner seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. The motion carried.

### **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 10:37 a.m. for the purpose of matters related to NCGS 143-318-11(a)(3), for matters 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 Marilyn Bennett and approved by the board. Motion carried.

### **Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 11:00 a.m. upon a motion by Frank Liles. Mike Turner seconded the motion, which was approved by the board and carried.

Marilynn Bennett moved, seconded by Frank Liles, that the board approve the agenda with the following amendments. The motion carried.

- Add c.01 New Construction Building Plaque
- Add c.02 Reallocation of Golden Leaf Funds

### **Recognition**

The board recognized the following employees who completed the Leadership Program for Principals sponsored by district administration:

- Carri Decker
- Michael Vetter
- Dr. Travis Steagall

### **Public Comment**

Erin Adams (teacher) was present to speak on the topic of students wearing hoodies on their heads in the classroom. She expressed her desire to the board to leave Policy 4316 as it is and allow the education professionals to handle this with their students individually. Dr. Little asked about forming a task force to allow discussions among teachers and other key stakeholders.

### **Chair's Report**

Dr. Truman shared with those in attendance that Randy Baker (Pinnacle Architecture) gave an update to the board during the opening of the meeting on the new middle school project.

Dr. Bobbie Little shared the NC School Board Association's 2023-2024 Issue Briefs. As a member of the legislative committee, she asked the board to give input on important topics, and this information would help the legislature form an agenda to address school issues. Dr. Little highlighted the briefs from 2023-2024 and will formulate 2024-2025 topics. She asked for input by July 15, as her legislative committee meeting is July 19. Dr. Truman shared his input and stated he would email Dr. Little the information as well.

### **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ratliff gave reports on Budget, Human Resources, Current Job Postings, Student Learning, Operations, and Community Use of Facilities.

Dr. Ratliff discussed forming advisory committees to help us understand our stakeholders' needs. He said the advisory capacities he would love to see formed are teaching professionals, superintendent student advisory, and support staff advisory.

### **Budget Performance Report**

Dr. Ratliff said we have done well in maximizing our local dollars, and he commended Joy Drake and her finance staff for a job well done.

**Human Resources**

Dr. Ratliff explained that three certified teaching positions need to be filled, and all core positions are filled with licensed teachers. He also shared that eight out of nine schools are completely staffed, and all schools will have Music and/or Art for the 2024-2025 school year.

**Student Learning**

Dr. Ratliff shared an update on summer program offerings. He said there has been activity with the Rotary Planetarium Camps, Occupational Course of Student Camp, Community Service Hours for graduation, re-testing/Read to Achieve Camps, and Career Accelerator Camp.

**Academic Performance**

Dr. Ratliff said there is not a lot of information that can be shared from testing but more details will be provided in the coming months. He stated he is encouraged by some of the preliminary data and how we have made some advancements and potential gains.

**AXIS Alternative Education**

Dr. Ratliff said they will continue to have conversations about AXIS. He explained he would be working on a vision for alternative education with Dr. Mary Ratliff and looking for other ways to meet the needs of our students. He said they are currently looking at staffing and the best fit for alternative education.

**Student Development Leadership**

Dr. Ratliff mentioned that student development leadership would be a part of school improvement planning, and he would like to consider embracing people who have never been included before. He said we need to look for capacities not from a positional standpoint but to find intentional ways to help students develop leadership potential.

**School Improvement Concept**

Dr. Ratliff said the school improvement concept is about people improvement, and that's not just student growth and learning; it's always about every player becoming inspirational and being inspired in their work. He said it should always be the mindset and responsibility to want to get better. He explained that the more we talk about our challenges and accountability, the better off we will be and what we need to do to get to the next step.

**Facility and Transportation Tours**

Dr. Ratliff explained that he would be touring the community and checking out school facilities with Mr. Napier soon.

**Capital Improvement Planning**

Dr. Ratliff said wish lists have been shared for capital improvements. He explained that our development needs to be clear and transparent so that stakeholders can see that we are always ready with a plan. He stated that facility tours are important to cast a vision and have a plan in place so that when opportunities arise, we do not miss them. Dr. Ratliff shared that capital improvement plans could be plans that show 5, 10, or even 30 years down the road. He said his recommendation is to work on capital improvement plans immediately.

## **Playgrounds**

Dr. Ratliff stated playgrounds have been a topic of discussion. He said if we plan to consider a budgetary move, we need a priority list so that we have equity across the board. Dr. Ratliff mentioned that inspections need to be done on a more regular basis. He said planning needs to take place, and we need to take a step back to see how we are going to fund those needs.

## **Running Meetings**

Dr. Ratliff suggested starting our closed sessions at 4:30 p.m., where they would be held from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Lisa Davis asked if we would consider moving the open session to 6:00 p.m. so that stakeholders can arrive in time if they are coming from work. Dr. Truman stated he feels one hour is enough for a closed session.

## **Community Use of Facilities**

Dr. Ratliff stated he would like to exclude this report from the agenda. He said we could still include it in the packet but not on the agenda. It was confirmed that this report would not be on the agenda but included in the board packet for information.

## **Consent Items**

Upon a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Carol Gibson, the board approved the following consent items: Personnel Report, Interim Budget Resolution, Budget Amendments to include the 2023-2024 Year End Budget Amendments, School Nutrition Bids 2024-2025 and the Morven Lease Agreement. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### Policy 2127 Board Member Technology Use

On a motion by Lisa Davis, seconded by Judy Little, the board approved Policy 2127 as presented. The motion carried.

### Policy 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations

On a motion by Mike Turner, seconded by Carol Ann Gibson, the board approved Policy 3620 by going with Option 3, which prohibits homeschooled students from participating in athletics in Anson County Schools. The motion carried with an 8-1 vote, with Lisa Davis voting against it.

### Policy 4316 Student Dress Code

The board tabled the discussion about hoodies being worn in school to allow time for future input and conversation with stakeholders. Dr. Ratliff recommended the opportunity to talk with the leadership team to have this discussion and provide feedback.

## **New Business**

### New Construction Building Plaque

Carol Ann Gibson moved to follow Policy 9300 for the commemorative plaque for our new Anson Middle School, recognizing the current board. Marilyn Bennett seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. The motion carried.

#### Reallocation of Golden Leaf Funds

Mike Turner made a motion to reallocate the Golden Leaf Funds to the new middle school. The motion was seconded by Carol Gibson and approved by the board. Motion carried.

#### Calendar Items

Employee Convocation: Dr. Ratliff said he may consider it a school community convocation, where invitations are sent to the community. He said more information would be shared in the future.

#### **Adjournment**

Mike Turner moved to adjourn at 12:59 p.m. Carol Gibson seconded the motion, which was approved by the board. There was no discussion, and the motion carried.

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Dr. George Truman, Chairman

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Dr. Brian Ratliff, Secretary

Pending <div> <b>PERSONNEL TO BE ADDED</b>              Board of Education Meeting - June 27, 2024           </div>					
<b>A.</b>	<b>CERTIFIED</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTRACT</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>A-1</b>	Cynthia Newton	LES	K-6 Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-2</b>	Laura Aney	AHS	EC Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-3</b>	Kelsey Harris	PPES	K-6 Teacher	1 Year	8/12/2024
<b>A-4</b>	Pablo Caballero	AHS	Spanish Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-5</b>	Neliza Caydoan	AHS	English Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-6</b>	Kelsey Allen	CO	School Psychologist	1 Year	6/3/2024
<b>A-7</b>	Nastassiya Thomas	MES	K-6 Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-8</b>	Colecia Gordon-Campbell	MES/LES	Music Teacher	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>A-9</b>	Elizabeth Dalrymple	ACEC	Social Studies Teacher (Part-Time)	1 Year	8/5/2024
<b>B.</b>	<b>CLASSIFIED</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>		<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>B-1</b>	Brittney Watson	CO	EC Administrative Assistant		6/17/2024
<b>C.</b>	<b>SUBSTITUTES — CLASSROOM</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>				
	<b>SUBSTITUTES — SCHOOL NUTRITION</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>				
<b>D.</b>	<b>TRANSFERS</b>				
	<b><u>ADMINISTRATION</u></b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
	<b><u>CERTIFIED</u></b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>D-1</b>	Vincent Esposito	PPES (K-6 Teacher)	AHS	CTE Teacher	8/12/2024
<b>D-2</b>	Kathryn Barbee	PPES (K-6 Teacher)	CO	AIG Teacher	8/12/2024
<b>D-3</b>	Amethra Crawford	MES	WES	K-6 Teacher	8/12/2024
<b>D-4</b>	Jiffy Cabarse	AMS	AHS	English Teacher	8/12/2024
<b>D-5</b>	Caleb Goodman	AHS (Health & PE Teacher)	AMS	Health & PE Teacher	8/5/2024
<b>D-6</b>	Terrin Harrington	AHS (Art Teacher)	LES/MES	Art Teacher	8/12/2024
	<b><u>CLASSIFIED</u></b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>FROM</b>	<b>TO</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>D-7</b>	Etta Lindsey	LES (Aide)	LES	School Health Assistant	8/12/2024
<b>D-8</b>	Caleb Goodman	AHS (Aide)	AMS	Health & PE Teacher	8/5/2024
<b>D-9</b>	Richard Tyson	AMS (Aide)	AMS	Short-Term Axis Aide	8/12/2024
<b>D-10</b>	Tracy Little	AHS (Aide)	AHS	Short-Term Axis Aide	8/12/2024
<b>D-11</b>	Charlie Montgomery	WES	AMS	Custodian	
<b>E.</b>	<b>RESIGNATIONS</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>		<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>E-1</b>	Courtney Morton	CO	EC Compliance		6/13/2024
<b>E-2</b>	Renata Mullins	AMS	Media Coordinator		6/7/2024
<b>E-3</b>	Nevaeh Lilly	LES	K-6 Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>E-4</b>	Haley Liles	PPES	K-6 Teacher		6/20/2024
<b>E-5</b>	LaShunda Spencer	WPS	K-6 Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>E-6</b>	Anthony Couser	AHS	English Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>E-7</b>	Sabrina Robinson	WES	K-6 Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>E-8</b>	Ashley Dazey	AHS	Spanish Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>E-9</b>	Caleb Henry	Bus Garage	Mechanic		6/4/2024
<b>E-10</b>	Timmy Watkins	AMS	Axis Teacher		6/7/2024
<b>F.</b>	<b>RETIREES</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>		<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>F-1</b>	Denise Stevens	AHS	CTE Director		9/1/2024
<b>F-2</b>	Patricia Sikes	AHS	Math Teacher		8/1/2024

<b>G.</b>	<b>DISMISSED</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>		<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>G-1</b>	Ashley Pratt	AMS	Custodian		5/16/2024
<b>G-2</b>	Andrea Lomax	AHS	EC Aide		5/16/2024
<b>H.</b>	<b>CHANGE IN STATUS</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>CHANGE</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>
<b>H-1</b>	Elliot Samuel	AMS	Health & PE Teacher	Non-Renewal	6/7/2024
<b>H-2</b>	Shirley Hardin	AMS	Science Teacher	Non-Renewal	6/7/2024
<b>H-3</b>	Latonia Wright	AHS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-4</b>	Brenda Bennett	AHS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-5</b>	Kimberly Bennett	AHS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-6</b>	Chatia Lilly	AMS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-7</b>	Phillip Waddell	AMS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-8</b>	Charles Lyons	AMS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-9</b>	Marion Quick	AMS	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-10</b>	Whydon Sellers	WES	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-11</b>	Tara Sturdivant	WES	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-12</b>	Guiana Webster	WES	Aide	ESSER Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-13</b>	Tia Little	WES	Social Worker	Grant Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-14</b>	Karen Freeman	LES	Social Worker	Grant Funds Expired	6/7/2024
<b>H-15</b>	Lakenya Cassidy-Ingram	AHS	Mental Health Counselor	Grant Funds Expired	6/30/2024
<b>H-16</b>	Gwendolyn Coker	AHS	Mental Health Counselor	Grant Funds Expired	6/30/2024
<b>H-17</b>	Ella Webster	WES	Parent Liaison	Grant Funds Expired	6/30/2024
<b>H-18</b>	Rodney Hyatt	AHS	Parent Liaison	Grant Funds Expired	6/30/2024
<b>H-19</b>	Pamela Jackson	AHS	Nurse (LPN)	Grant Funds Expired	5/31/2024
<b>I.</b>	<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>				
	<b>NAME</b>	<b>SCHOOL</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>TYPE OF CONTRACT</b>	<b>DATE EFFECTIVE</b>

This report satisfies the requirements of Public School Laws of NC General Statutes  
115 C - Articles 20, 21, 21A, 22, 23, and applicable Local and State Board of Education Regulations