

**Minutes**  
**Anson County Board of Education**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, December 12, 2022, 3:00 p.m.**  
**Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room**

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, December 12, 2022. Board members present in-person were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Carol Gibson, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Judy Little, 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).

**Call to Order**

Carol Gibson opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

**Reorganization of the Board (Mike Flake)**

Mike Flake opened the floor for nominations for chairperson and vice chairperson of the board.

Chairperson

Lisa Davis made a motion to nominate George Truman for chairperson. Carol Ann Gibson seconded the motion. Ms. Gibson made a motion to close nominations and Mike Turner seconded the motion to close nominations. The board voted unanimously for George Truman as chairperson of the board. Motion carried.

Vice Chairperson

Mike Turner made a motion to nominate Frank Liles for vice chairperson. Lisa Davis seconded the motion. Ms. Bennett made a motion to close nominations and Ms. Gibson seconded the motion to close nominations. The board voted unanimously for Frank Liles as vice chairperson of the board. Motion carried.

**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 George Truman reminded Board Members of their duty to avoid conflicts of interest and appearances of conflicts of interest under Chapter 138A. There were no conflicts presented. Chair Truman 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 his attention. He further explained it would then be the member's duty to abstain from participating in discussion and from voting on the matter.

**Adopt Agenda**

Mike Turner made a motion to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Lisa Davis and approved by the board. Motion carried.

## **Approve Minutes**

### **Regular Meeting 11/21/22**

A motion was made by Frank Liles to approve the regular meeting minutes of November 21, 2022. The motion was seconded by Beulah Pratt and approved by the board. Motion carried.

## **Closed Session**

A motion was made by Lisa Davis to go into closed session at 3:10 p.m. The motion was seconded by Carol Ann Gibson and approved by the board. Motion carried.

There was no action taken.

## **Reconvene Open Session**

The Board returned to open session at 4:36 p.m. upon a motion by Carol Gibson. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

## **Public Comment**

Joanne Shay was present to speak during the public comment section. She stated that she is thankful for teachers and administrators for the job they are doing. Ms. Shay said she is a substitute teacher for Anson County and has taught at most schools in grades K-12. She said many teachers are qualified and very engaged and they want students to learn but said we are losing a lot of teachers, administrators and students. She stated schools are in deplorable conditions and everyone is busting their tails to do their jobs. She challenged the board to show teachers engagement by getting into a classroom.

Kelly Sheppard was present to speak during the public comment section and stated that it would be beneficial to hire a third party seasoned construction manager for the new school project. Ms. Sheppard said everyone needs someone looking out for them and, in this situation, a project manager under temporary contract would help save money. She explained the manager would primarily look out for best interest, negotiate when needed, resolve issues, have skilled expertise, help with unbiased oversight through all phases of construction and explain different ends and outs, prevent and decrease change orders and keep the project on time and eliminate extra expenses. Dr. Truman stated the board does not respond to comments but told Ms. Sheppard they appreciate her coming to share her thoughts with them.

## **Chair's Report**

Carol Ann Gibson relayed a message from Marlene Richardson that all board members are invited to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 16, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. at the Lockhart Taylor Center in Wadesboro. Mr. McLean said he will have Mrs. Hyatt send out a reminder email to all board members.

Beulah Pratt stated Las Amigas had a Christmas Shop at Morven Elementary and it was exciting to see kids shop for their families.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Mr. McLean gave reports on the budget, current job postings and personnel.

### **North Carolina Instructional Leadership Academy (NCILA) – Jennifer Collard**

Mrs. Collard was present to share an update on the NC Instructional Leadership Academy Program. She stated they are half-way through the state sessions and have had a trainer come to the district to provide specific needs. She explained the model is intensive and each person only coaches 2-3 teachers at a time and they also do a micro clinic if they see something that needs to be addressed where they don't need to coach but a small number of folks. Mrs. Collard said with central office staff, they are mainly doing professional development and giving feedback to principals. She stated they are also taking on teachers to coach as well. Mrs. Collard said those teachers she has asked to coach have been very receptive. She explained they are not there to evaluate them – they are there to help them grow and it's a culture change. She said collaboration is necessary to share what they know and that will allow them to get stronger as a district. Mrs. Collard said the state coach is coming tomorrow to do walkthroughs and help support principals, curriculum staff and teachers. She said they are continuing to reassure teachers and not overwhelm them. Dr. Truman thanked Mrs. Collard for sharing the update. He stated they are proud of the improvements that have been made and they want that to continue. Mr. Jackson (Anson Middle School Principal) shared they have had good things happening. He mentioned his teachers are very receptive and he has some that don't want to be coached and it's pretty much that they are used to being isolated in the classroom and not accustomed to having someone come in to coach. Mr. Jackson said they have conversations about the data and reflect on that through discussions. He said some feel uncomfortable because they are doing things they have not done before. Ms. Bennett said she has a concern about feedback to teachers and that we are making sure teachers are given positive feedback in addition to the coaching. Mr. Jackson said they start out with positive and then talk about how to move forward. Mr. McLean said he will invite some teachers to come and speak about their experiences with NCILA in the future. Mrs. Davis asked if we are asking our educators for feedback and are we evaluating our coaches. She asked if we are looking at the coaching that is being given to ensure we are all on the same page. She also asked if we are seeking a second opinion. Mrs. Collard said they get coaching calls and she worked with her coach and she tells them what is strong with the plan but she is helping coach the coaches. Mrs. Collard said she has asked to be coached like a principal and it is part of the program. Mrs. Davis explained she wants to make certain we are looking at our process and that we have the right people working together. Mrs. Davis said it is important to build relationships and to have trust. Mrs. Collard said they are working on their calendars about not spending so much time in operations. Mrs. Collard said they start with lesson planning and aligning with the Standard Course of Study. She said they found out that is the foundation. Mr. Liles said a lot of time it's how you deliver and how you present the data to teachers and being careful how that is presented to teachers.

### **AMS Project Update**

Mr. McLean stated there is a pre-bid meeting with construction firms to answer questions on Monday, December 19, 2022 at 2:00 p.m. in the board meeting room. Mrs. Davis asked if the topic brought up by Mrs. Sheppard regarding a third party construction manager is something we need to think about and asked Mr. Flake for his feedback. Mr. Flake said that is something we can look at and ask Pinnacle.

## **Consent Items**

Chair Truman asked for a motion to approve the consent items. The motion was made by Lisa Davis to approve the consent items (Personnel Report). Frank Liles seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. Motion carried.

## **Old Business**

### SPCC Board of Trustees Appointment

Chair Truman asked for a nomination to fill the vacant SPCC Board of Trustees seat. Mike Turner nominated Colonel Blake Hildreth and Carol Ann Gibson nominated Michael Freeman. There were no other nominations presented. Dr. Truman asked for a vote for those in favor of voting for Colonel Blake Hildreth. Mike Turner and Lisa Davis voted for Colonel Hildreth. Board members that voted in favor of Michael Freeman were Beulah Pratt, Judy Little, Frank Liles, George Truman, Bobbie Little, Marilyn Bennett and Carol Gibson. Ms. Gibson stated a letter needs to be sent to South Piedmont Community College as soon as possible notifying them of the board's decision to nominate Michael Freeman for the vacant seat.

### **Atrium Telehealth Program**

Carol Ann Gibson said we need to be sure we don't lose the Atrium Telehealth Program. Mr. McLean asked Dr. Ratliff where parents come in on this communication. Dr. Ratliff stated parents are given an opportunity to opt in or opt out on services. Ms. Gibson stated she's not sure parents understand the process. Dr. Ratliff said they will do a better job at marketing the services of the telehealth program to parents. Ms. Gibson shared that it is her understanding employees can take advantage of the program as well.

## **Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn was given by Frank Liles at 6:04 p.m. Mike Turner seconded the motion and it was approved by the board. There was no discussion. Motion carried.

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Dr. George Truman, Chairman

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Mr. Howard McLean, Secretary