

**Camden County Board of Education
Camden County High School Media Center
January 9th, 2020**

The Camden County Board of Education met in regular session on January 9th, 2020, in the Media Center at Camden County High School at 6:30 p.m. Board Members in attendance were: Christian Overton, Chairman, Dr. Jason Banks, Vice-Chairman, Board Members Sissy Aydlett, Kevin Heath, and Chris Purcell, Superintendent Joe Ferrell and Board Attorney Will Norrell. Student Board Members Riley Pingree and Elizabeth Fields were also in attendance. Others who attended the meeting and signed the guest register were Larry Lawrence, Reggie Ponder, Nathan Ponder, June Ponder, LaKeisha R. Lighty, KeShan Lighty, Kennedy Lighty, Theresa Langton, Nathan Langton, James McDougald, Abby Williams, Rachel McDougald, Keeley Williams, Cadie Langton, Tia Royal, Hannah Healy, Apryl Healy, McKenzie Douglas, Walter Douglas, Adam Douglas, Derrike Black, Victoria Black, William Royal, Kim Royal, Josh Royal, Autumn Healy, Grace Healy, Katherine Rogers, Abigail Jones, Quinn Lorber, Kristy Plaud, Stella Sophia, Josh Sophia, Bonita Robinson, Alysia Mizelle, Sally Norfleet, Deborah Penwell, Tiffney White, Cris Fields, Marvella McPherson, Tim Lazar, LeVar Mizelle, Britton Overton, Amber M. Davis, Billie Berry and Anita Cuthrell.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Overton at 6:34 p.m. Mr. Overton asked Board Members if there were any additions, deletions, or changes to be made to the January Closed Session Agenda. Each member was polled. Mr. Overton added one item to *Personnel* and one item to *Consult with Attorney*. Mr. Norrell added one item to *Consult with Attorney*. There were no other additions, deletions, or changes made to the January Closed Session agenda. Motion was made by Ms. Aydlett to approve the amended Closed Session Agenda. Mr. Purcell seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

The Board entered Closed Session beginning at 6:35 p.m. in order to approve Closed Session minutes; discuss confidential student matters; discuss confidential personnel matters; and to confer with the Board Attorney regarding matters within the attorney-client privilege, all pursuant to N.C.G.S §143-318.11(a)(1), (3), and (6).

The Board returned to Open Session. At 7:48 p.m., Mr. Overton called the meeting to order.

Mr. Overton asked Board Members if there were any additions, deletions, or changes to be made to the January Open Session agenda. Each member was polled. Mr. Norrell added *Consent Agenda Item D., 2019 Local Government Agencies General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule*. There were no other additions, deletions, or changes made to the January Open Session Agenda. Motion was made by Ms. Aydlett to approve the amended Open Session Agenda. Dr. Banks seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Mr. Overton welcomed those in attendance, followed by a moment of silence, as is Board custom.

Mr. Overton asked Superintendent Ferrell if any Camden County resident had asked to address the Board by way of the Public Comment opportunity. Superintendent Ferrell advised Mr. Overton that no guest had signed up for the public comment opportunity.

Student Board Members, Riley Pingree and Elizabeth Fields, led the group pledge.

Following the pledge, Mr. Overton said Kylie Plaud was a 2nd grade student in Ms. Crider's class at Grandy Primary School. He said the Board was spotlighting Kylie because she was the creator of the School System's 2019 Christmas card. He said December, 2019 was the 13th year a student's art work had been used for the front of the Superintendent's Christmas card.

Mr. Overton said in November, Mr. Lazar, Principal at Grandy, asked 2nd grade teachers to have their students create Christmas theme drawings. From these drawings, one picture would be selected by the Superintendent to be used on the School System's Christmas card. Mr. Overton said many beautiful works of art were submitted, making it a very difficult choice. But Kylie's art was especially nice.

He told Kylie that her card had been framed as a keepsake for her and one of her cards had been framed for Mr. Lazar to add to his Christmas art collection in his office. He told her another one of her cards would be framed for Central Office and displayed with the cards chosen over the previous years. Finally, he said her original art work had been framed for her parents.

Mr. Overton congratulated Kylie for being the creator of the 13th Superintendent's Christmas card. He told her she was very talented and thanked her for a job well done.

Mr. Overton asked Alysia Mizelle to join him. He said each year social workers from all regions are nominated by their peers to be the *North Carolina School Social Worker of the Year*. A nomination application must be submitted, then nominees are notified and asked to submit essay responses to questions such as why the nominee chose to become a social worker and what are some of the toughest issues social workers have to work through and resolve. Additionally, the nominee submits a video that is shown at the conference during the award ceremony. An application panel evaluates the application on a five-point scale, and the person with the highest score is then named the *North Carolina School Social Worker of the Year*. Mr. Overton said this is the second time Ms. Mizelle has received the regional award. Ms. Mizelle said she is honored to be recognized for doing what she absolutely loves. Mr. Overton said Ms. Mizelle hopes more districts will recognize the work that their social workers do and honor them as well. He said Ms. Mizelle is in her second year with Camden County Schools. He told her we are fortunate to have her advocating for our students and families. Mr. Overton congratulated Ms. Mizelle on behalf of the Board. He then read the spotlight certificate to Ms. Mizelle. Following the presentation of the Spotlight certificate, pictures were taken of Ms. Mizelle and Mr. Overton.

Mr. Overton said the Board would like to recognize the members of our Women's Cross Country team and asked the following students to join him

- Hannah Healy
- Autumn Healy
- Alyssa Healy
- Grace Healy
- McKenzie Douglas
- Abigail Jones
- Cadence Langton
- Kennedy Lighty
- Quinn Lorber
- Riley Pingree
- Victoria Royal
- Stella Sophia
- Keeley Williams

Mr. Overton said the Cross Country Team was an impressive team of talent and he named the following accomplishments:

- Regional Champions
- Conference Champions
- Undefeated Regular Season
- 5th in the State
- Bo Run Invitational Champions (biggest invitational in Eastern NC)
- 2nd Place @ Panther Invitational
- And Hannah Healy broke the school's Cross Country record with a time of 19:21 and The Daily Advance named Hannah the Cross Country Runner of the Year

Mr. Overton congratulated the team on behalf of the Board. He then read the spotlight certificate for the students. Following the presentation of the Spotlight certificates, pictures were taken of the team and Mr. Overton.

Mr. Overton then asked the following principals to join him:

- Timothy Lazar, Principal, Grandy Primary School
- LeVar Mizelle, Principal, Camden Middle School and
- Amber Davis, Principal, Camden County High School and Camden Early College High School

Mr. Overton said Dr. Ferrell received a letter of congratulations from our State Superintendent, Mark Johnson. Mr. Johnson explained schools in the Camden County School district would receive recognition for achieving and exceeding expected academic growth. Mr. Johnson sent a growth award certificate for the 2018-2019 school year for four schools to display. In addition to displaying the certificate, each of the awarded schools may obtain a website badge graphic that can be used on the school's website or on printed material such as banners or t-shirts. This graphic is considered a badge of honor.

He said State Superintendent Johnson said these awards represent an impressive amount of hard work by students and educators. He asked that each school being recognized know that he and the entire staff at the Department of Public Instruction send their appreciation and congratulations.

On behalf of Camden County Board of Education, Mr. Overton thanked principals and their staff for their commitment to students. He told principals that education was ignited by inspiration and thanked them for inspiring our students.

Mr. Overton asked Superintendent Ferrell if there was anyone to appear during *Open Session to Appear*. Superintendent Ferrell told Mr. Overton no one had requested to appear before the Board during *Open Session to Appear* for the January meeting.

The Consent Agenda was presented as follows:

II. Consent Agenda

The following items are recommended for approval by consent of the Board:

- A. Approval of Minutes
(Regular Session Minutes – December 2, 2019)
- B. Revised Policies
(NCSBA PLS Update: Fall 2019 Policy Updates and later revisions to Policy 7241 which had been emailed to Board Members earlier.)
- C. Field Trip/Transportation Request Form
(Starr Binner, CMS teacher and Jr. Beta Club Sponsor, has submitted a request for students to travel to Greensboro, North Carolina to attend the National Junior Beta Club State Convention. The group will depart on Tuesday, February 4, 2020 and return on Wednesday, February 5, 2020.)
- D. 2019 Local Government Agencies General Records Retention and Disposition Schedule
(As added to the Consent Agenda by Attorney Norrell.)

Mr. Norrell requested a motion that *Policy 3620* be amended to not include the section on dual enrollment of middle school students and he requested that *Policy 7360* include Section C with the dollar amount of \$500.00. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda with amendments made by Attorney Norrell was made by Ms. Aydlett and seconded by Mr. Heath. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Amber Davis, Principal of Camden Early College High School presented CECHS highlights to Board Members (*Information Updates A., School Highlights*). Ms. Davis thanked the Board for allowing her to present information on the CECHS school year. She said students started the second semester on Monday. She turned the presentation over to Cris Fields, CECHS Assistant Principal. Ms. Fields said she had enjoyed begin at CECHS. She recognized new staff members who were Cassie Bell and Rick Lage, CECHS science teacher. Ms. Fields said CECHS implemented a new technological sign-in process using QR codes to identify the location of students at different places and times for safety purposes. When signing in using QR codes, students are taken to a spreadsheet where location and purpose are logged in the system. This system proved effective when locating students when COA was locked down.

Another new process is Seminar which uses the traits of the Profile of a Graduate to inspire the different topics for each weekly focus. She said CECHS has a large number of student athletes and students who participate in JLP, Drama, SGA, HOSHA, National Honor Society, etc. CECHS students also participated in CCHS Spirit Week and Homecoming. Regarding outreach and social awareness, CECHS students readily volunteer to participate. For example, CECHS students helped GPS with Truck Day and CECHS Honor Society worked with CCHS Honor Society on projects. Students recently raised more than \$900 with the car wash for literacy and books for the Media Center. Ms. Djigounian inspired students to help raise money for Ocracoke. Students adopted a family and raised more than \$2,000.00. Because CECHS is small, projects become a campus initiative with all CECHS students banding together for a common cause. CECHS participated in a mental health awareness project known as *Chalk About It* where students wrote inspirational words or phrases with chalk to bring attention to mental health. Enrollment is as follows: There are 179 students enrolled (36 freshman, 46 sophomores, 48 juniors, 47 seniors and 7 fifth year seniors). An Associates of Science is the pathway focus of the majority of CECHS students. Testing strategies such as using Seminar were discussed. They will test next week for NCVSP classes. CECHS students are required to be on campus each week. One hour is dedicated to educational enrichment and the other hour is dedicated to soft skills and speakers come in (for example, how to balance a check book). These are skills students are unfamiliar with and is part of fulfilling staff's promise to help CECHS students survive in the real world. There were no questions and Ms. Fields concluded her presentation.

Senior Student Board Member, Riley Pingree, and Junior Student Board Member, Elizabeth Fields, presented student updates to Board Members (*Information Updates B., Student Board Members Update*). Junior Student Board Member, Elizabeth Fields, said CCHS has exams coming up next week for all courses. A Winter Formal is planned for both high schools on January 25th. The next upcoming home basketball game will be on Tuesday, January 14th against Edenton. There will be a new drama play about Greek mythology. Auditions were held this week and the cast list has just been posted.

Riley Pingree, Senior Student Board Member, said the production before the Christmas break was great. She recommended going to the next one. Before break, CECHS had exams. There is a winter conference on January 18th and all hope to go to regionals and then the state. JLP competition is scheduled on March 17th.

Superintendent Ferrell presented the School Justice Partnership Interagency Agreement to Board Members (*Action Agenda A., School Justice Partnership Interagency Agreement*). He advised that in 2017 the NC General Legislator passed a general statute requiring that all chief district court judges and school administrators establish a school justice partnership in each county with the goal of reducing school incident referrals as well as out of school suspensions and expulsions. It focuses on the number of students across the state who are being charged in the juvenile justice system.

Members are superintendents, student services, directors, middle and high school principals and/or assistant principals, school resource officers, board of education members, etc. Chief District Court Judge Edgar Barnes met with Superintendent Ferrell and asked him to bring this agreement to the Board for consideration to have our Board Chair sign to support the initiative. It also states someone on the board will serve on the committee. Once Judge Barnes has all required signatures, he will reach out to Superintendent Ferrell to set up the process. He wants to meet twice each school year. He will then determine if more or less time is needed for meetings. Mr. Norrell added that it is a good idea for the court system to see and hear what is going on in the school systems to have a better understanding of what is actually happening. Superintendent Ferrell recommended that the Board approve the partnership. Mr. Overton said the Board had heard the Superintendent's recommendation and asked if there was a motion. Motion to approve the School Justice Partnership interagency Agreement as presented by Superintendent Ferrell was made by Ms. Aydlett and seconded by Dr. Banks. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried. Mr. Overton said since the Board approved this agreement, he asked if the Board would select the person to serve on the committee. He referenced Item B.3 which stated the committee person would be the chairman or the chairman's designated representative. Mr. Overton asked if any board member wanted to volunteer to represent Camden County Board of Education. Mr. Purcell volunteered to serve as the designated representative.

Superintendent Ferrell discussed with Board Members the retitled Policy 4240/7312 (*Action Agenda B., NCSBA PLS Update: Custom Policy 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety*). He congratulated the Board on continuing to ensure the services of NCSBA Policy Services are in place to support Camden County Schools where policies and laws are concerned. One update is regarding reports to law enforcement of different kinds of child victimization as described in the update. Also, there is a Child Sexual Abuse and Sex Trafficking training program. As of January 1, 2020, every school district is required by law to choose a sexual abuse and sex trafficking training program that all staff members who come in contact with students will have to complete every two years beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Superintendent Ferrell said we are in the process of selecting the training program and will bring options to the Board. Superintendent Ferrell asked if Mr. Norrell had anything to add. Mr. Norrell had no information to add. Superintendent Ferrell recommended the Board table the policies for the mandatory 30 days. Mr. Overton said the Board had heard the Superintendent's recommendation. He asked if there was a motion. Motion was made by Ms. Aydlett for the Board to table the policies presented by Superintendent Ferrell for the mandatory 30 days. Motion was seconded by Dr. Banks. There was no discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Superintendent Ferrell recommended Personnel as presented by Billie Berry and as amended during Closed Session as follows:

CAMDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS
Board of Education Meeting
January 9, 2020

RETIREMENT	POSITION	SITE	EFFECTIVE DATE
Hermione Cousette	Payroll Bookkeeper	Central Office	March 1, 2020
Esther Minton	Teacher's Assistant	Grandy Primary	February 1, 2020

Mr. Overton said the Board had heard the Superintendent's employment recommendations as presented by Billie Berry and as amended. He asked if there was a motion to accept his recommendations. Motion was made by Mr. Purcell and seconded by Dr. Banks to approve Superintendent Ferrell's employment recommendations as presented by Billie Berry and amended during Closed Session. There was no discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Mr. Overton read the following announcements:

VI. Announcements

- A. Future Conference Date for NCSBA Annual Conference
(Thursday, November 5, 2020 – Saturday, November 7, 2020)

Superintendent Ferrell reminded Board Members the conference usually runs Sunday to Wednesday but the upcoming conference will run Thursday to Saturday.

Mr. Overton asked if anyone had any other business they would like to bring before the Board. There was none.

There were no *Other Business or Future Agenda Items* on the agenda.

At 8:30 p.m., Mr. Overton asked if there was a motion for the Board to return to Closed Session. He said before returning to Closed Session, the Board would take a quick recess. Motion was made by Ms. Aydlett for the Board to go back into Closed Session. Motion was seconded by Mr. Purcell. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

The Board returned to Open Session at 10:24 p.m.

No other actions were taken in Open Session following the Board's return from Closed Session. Mr. Overton asked if there was a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn Open Session was made by Ms. Aydlett. Motion was seconded by Mr. Purcell. There was no further discussion, all voted ayes and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 10:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 13th day of February, 2020.



Christian A. Overton, Chairman



Dr. Joe Ferrell, Secretary