

**Camden County Board of Education  
Camden County High School Media Center  
July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Camden County Board of Education met in regular session on July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021, in the Media Center at Camden County High School at 6:30 p.m. Board Members in attendance were: Christian Overton, Chairman, Jason Banks, Vice-Chairman, Board Members Sissy Aydlett, Kevin Heath, and Chris Purcell, Superintendent Joe Ferrell and Board Attorney John Leidy. Others who physically attended the meeting and signed the register were Larry Lawrence, Ina D. Lane, Timothy Lazar, Gwen Stevens, Mara Swindell, Lisa Byrum, Sally Norfleet, Mike Reaves, Amber Davis, Yolanda Anderson, Sean Lynam and Anita Cuthrell. Also, this meeting was broadcasted via live stream.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Overton at 6:31 p.m. He asked Board Members if there were any additions, deletions, or changes to be made to the July Closed Session Agenda. Each Member was polled. There were no additions, deletions, or changes made to the July Closed Session Agenda. Motion was made by Mr. Purcell, seconded by Ms. Aydlett, to approve the Closed Session Agenda. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Mr. Purcell, seconded by Ms. Aydlett, and unanimously carried at 6:32 p.m. to discuss confidential student matters; discuss confidential personnel matters; and to confer with the Board attorney regarding matters within the attorney-client privilege and preserve that privilege, all pursuant to N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a) (1), (3), and (6). All members of the Board were physically present. Also present were Joe Ferrell, Superintendent, and John Leidy, Board attorney.

The Board returned to Open Session. At 7:38 p.m., Mr. Overton called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Mr. Overton asked Board Members if there were any additions, deletions, or changes to be made to the July Open Session Agenda. Each Member was polled. There were no additions, deletions, or changes made to the July Open Session Agenda. Motion to approve the Open Session Agenda was made by Mr. Heath and seconded by Dr. Banks. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Mr. Overton called for a moment of silence as is Board custom.

Mr. Overton asked Superintendent Ferrell if anyone had asked to address the Board by way of the *Public Comment* opportunity. Superintendent Ferrell advised Mr. Overton no one had signed up for the *Public Comment* opportunity.

Mr. Overton led the group pledge.

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

Superintendent Ferrell told Mr. Overton that before presenting the Consent Agenda to the Board for approval, he needed to advise the Board of a mistake which had been found in the June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Open Session minutes in the board package they received on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The erroneous information on Page 9259 read as follows: *Of the 29 CECHS Graduates, 18 Graduated with a COA Degree*. Superintendent Ferrell advised the Board that the information had been corrected to read as follows: *Of the 43 CECHS Graduates, 29 Graduated with a COA degree*. The Consent Agenda was then 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 –June 10, 2021)  
(Special Called Meeting Minutes –June 29, 2021)
- B. Policy Updates  
(NCSBA PLS Update: Spring 2021 Policy Updates as presented from Policy Services except for highlighted changes to Policy Code 1710/4020/7230, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law.)
- C. Field Trip/Transportation Request Form –  
(Mark Harnly, Athletic Director, has submitted a request for students to travel to NC A&T University for NCHSAA State Championships. The group will depart on Thursday, June 24, 2021, and return on Friday, June 25, 2021.)

Motion was made by Mr. Purcell to approve the Consent Agenda with the June 10<sup>th</sup> minutes corrected as per Superintendent Ferrell. Motion was seconded by Dr. Banks. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Larry Lawrence, Chief Operations Officer, presented Board Members with Northeastern North Carolina Co-Op bids for the 2021-2022 school year (*Action Agenda A., Child Nutrition Food Supply Bids*). He referred Board Members to the bid information included in the board package. The CCS Child Nutrition Program was able to roll-over most local bids based on the original 2019-2020 IFB Contracts or Requests for Quotes except for Pepsi and Flowers Bakery. Pepsi agreed to roll-over with an increase of approximately 4% due to the cost of goods going up which is acceptable based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI) and Sysco was approved as the bread vendor. Superintendent Ferrell recommended that the Board approve the Child Nutrition food and supply bids as presented by Mr. Lawrence. Motion to approve the Child Nutrition food and supply bids as presented by Mr. Lawrence was made by Ms. Aydlett and seconded by Mr. Heath. There was not further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Ina Lane, Chief Student Services Officer, presented Board Members with the School-Based Mental Health Initiative for approval (*Action Agenda B., Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Plan for Camden County Schools*). She said the BOE is required to pass support for the program. All personnel who interacts with students in the district must be trained in the components of the program. Specialized instructional support personnel such as psychologists, guidance counselors and social workers have another level of training to complete. The components of the plan are as follows:

- Youth mental health
- Suicide prevention
- Substance abuse
- Teenage dating violence
- Child sexual abuse prevention
- Sex trafficking prevention

Training methods have been selected and to date, training is free. She is arranging for self-paced online training and plans to have backup PD sessions for groups for the major components. She detailed various trainings which will be available for staff and noted CCS participates in Sandy Hook Promise which will be a good source of training products. Since there are online self-paced resources, this training will not take time from teachers and their classrooms. Ms. Lane said the social and emotional objective is to teach children how to be good teammates, be kind, work productively with a group and accept criticism, etc. There are a lot of different components to social and emotional learning but the intent is to help children understand how to navigate as good citizens. She asked if there were any questions.

Mr. Overton said he understands this additional training is for teachers and all staff who are interactive with children so staff can recognize social and emotional needs as well as know appropriate steps when needs are identified. Ms. Lane agreed and noted CCS partners with outside sources such as the Sheriff's Office, Trillium, and Getting Ready which are available resources when addressing needs. This will also involve partnerships with local organizations such as Crisis Prevention (which we have worked with for many years). Ms. Lane spoke with Mr. Hamm at Crisis Prevention and he is open to co-signing a MOU with CCS. We currently have an approved MOU with Getting Ready but we must first get our building ready for them to move in. We are open to any organizations which have professionals who can come in and guide our staff members in recognizing and implementing steps that will help our children be successful citizens. Mr. Overton asked if this training is in addition to current mental health training. Ms. Lane said this training is making the other mental health training more binding. Mr. Overton asked if more binding meant making it was boarder as far as personnel training. Ms. Lane said DPI has passed a policy so all districts are committed to providing six hours of training in the first year and refresher trainings thereafter instead of districts training at different speeds across the state. In 2025, CCS must submit a report to the State Board to include training used and disciplinary incidents which have occurred. She noted each person to be trained must have a manual at the cost of \$40.00 each. Dr. Banks asked if she could send the Board the PowerPoint slide with the active information link. Ms. Lane agreed. Mr. Purcell understands that teachers and social workers who are very involved with students are familiar with data reporting but asked if mandatory reporting requirements would put an additional burden on bus drivers and cafeteria workers. Ms. Lane said she is not aware of reporting responsibilities for bus drivers and cafeteria workers. As far as she knows, the law still maintains that it is the professionals (any staff with a professional teaching license) with reporting responsibilities. Dr. Banks made a motion to table *Social Emotional Learning and Mental Health Plan for Camden County Schools* as presented by Ms. Lane until the next regular BOE meeting to allow him and fellow Board Members additional time to review information links and other resources regarding the plan. Mr. Overton reiterated Dr. Banks' motion. Motion was seconded by Mr. Purcell. There was no further discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Superintendent Ferrell recommended the Board approve the personnel report as presented by Ms. Anderson during Closed Session as follows:

**CAMDEN COUNTY SCHOOLS**  
**Board of Education Meeting**  
**July 8, 2021**

<b>EMPLOYMENT</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Michael Barlow	Assistant Principal	CCHS	08.01.21
Chudney Hill	EC Assistant	CCS	08.12.21
Taylor Ball	Social Studies Teacher	CMS	Pending Background Check

<b>REASSIGNMENTS</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Bonita Robinson	from Principal to English Teacher	CIS CCHS	07.15.21
Lisa Byrum	from Asst. Principal To Principal	GPS CIS	07.15.21

<b>COACHES</b>	<b>POSITION</b>	<b>SITE</b>	<b>EFFECTIVE DATE</b>
Mark Harnly	Athletic Director	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Josh Sophia	Head Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Jakori Evans	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Victor Neal	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Dearl Neal	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Ed Romm	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Matt Sundberg	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Jack Thornton	Asst. Football Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Ashley Miller	Head Volleyball Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Jill Robertson	Asst. Volleyball Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Preston Kuno	Men's Soccer Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
E. Lee Penwell	Asst. Soccer Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Victoria Black	Cross Country Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Derrick Black	Asst. Cross Country Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season
Tanisha Parker	JV/Varsity Cheerleading Coach	CCHS	2021-22 Athletic Season

Motion was made by Dr. Banks to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for personnel as presented by Ms. Anderson in Closed Session. Motion was seconded by Ms. Aydlett. There was no discussion. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

Mr. Overton read the following announcements:

**VI. Announcements**

- A. **Administrative Retreat**  
*(Superintendent Ferrell will conduct an Administrative Retreat on August 3, 4 and 5, 2021.)*
- B. **Convocation**  
*(Friday, August 20, 2021; schedule will be forthcoming.)*
- C. **Future Conference Date for NCSBA Annual Conference**  
*(Thursday, November 11, 2021 – Saturday, November 13, 2021)*

Mr. Overton said he had held **Opening Ceremonies, Item E., Board Spotlight**, until the end of Open Session, to give the family of Maksymilian Szczepanski the opportunity to attend the meeting. Maks was scheduled to receive a student spotlight but at this time, the student and his family were not in attendance. Ms. Byrum had telephoned the family and learned they were unable to attend because of inclement weather conditions. Mr. Overton read the excerpt for Maks' spotlight as follows:

*Last year at Grandy Primary School, eight year old Maks was a second grade student in Ms. Parker's class. Maks' mother recently shared with Mr. Lazar and Ms. Byrum that one afternoon in January, 2021, Maks and his little brother Nikodem, were in their room playing. Nikodem (who was almost 3 years old at the time) was playing with small toy figures and put one in his mouth. Maks was playing video games when he suddenly realized Nikodem had started to choke. Maks reacted very fast. He bent Nikodem forward and used back blows while at the same time calling out to his mother for help. When Mom got to the room, Maks had everything under control. Nikodem, who had spit out the toy, was safe but scared although he was too young to fully understand what had actually happened. Through it all, Maks remained calm. Since then, Maks has been on high alert where Nikodem is concerned. Every time Nikodem just coughs, Maks is right next to him. This is an event which will likely stay with Maks for a long time and there is no doubt that when Nikodem grows up and hears the story, he will be forever grateful to his brother, Maks, for saving his life. Maks' parents were so full of pride and so grateful for Maks' fast actions, that they shared this story with Mr. Lazar and Ms. Byrum. Mr. Lazar and Ms. Byrum knew Maks and his family would be leaving Camden for the upcoming school year to move to Poland. He will return to Camden in time to enroll for the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. This is why it was important to recognize Maks' heroic actions at this time.*

Mr. Overton noted that Maks had received the Medal of Merit from the Boy Scouts of America "for outstanding service in implementing scouting skills and ideals" in recognition of Maks' exceptional character and outstanding act of service. The BOE wanted to present Maks with a spotlight certificate in recognition of his outstanding courage and quick actions which kept his brother safe. Mr. Overton gave the spotlight certificate to Ms. Byrum. She will make sure Maks receives the spotlight certification before the family leaves the area.

Mr. Overton read the following announcements:

## **VI. Announcements**

### **A. Administrative Retreat**

*(Superintendent Ferrell will conduct an Administrative Retreat on August 3, 4 and 5, 2021.)*

- B. Convocation  
(Friday, August 20, 2021; schedule will be forthcoming.)
- C. Future Conference Date for NCSBA Annual Conference  
(Thursday, November 11, 2021 – Saturday, November 13, 2021)

Mr. Overton asked if there were any other announcements or future agenda item requests. There were no other requests for future agenda items.

At 8:08 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 to recess Open Session and return to Closed Session was made by Dr. Banks and seconded by Ms. Aydlett. All voted ayes, none opposed and the motion so carried.

After a brief recess, the Board entered Closed Session at 8:20 p.m.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:50 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 Mr. Purcell and seconded by Mr. Heath. There was no further discussion, all voted ayes and the motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted this 12<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2021.

  
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Christian A. Overton, Chairman

  
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Dr. Joe Ferrell, Secretary