

KANNAPOLIS CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
MINUTES

Date: February 8, 2021	Present:	Mr. Todd Adams, Chair Mr. Kevin Clark Mrs. Brenda McCombs Mrs. Anita Parker Mrs. Kristina Cook Dr. Chip Buckwell Mr. Kevin Garay Dr. Jessica Grant Mr. Will Crabtree Ms. Kim Soryz Mr. Brandon McPherson, attorney Mrs. Ashley Forrest, recorder
Time: 5:30 PM		
Place: Board – Boardroom Administrative Offices		
Public – Virtual by Zoom		

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Todd Adams called the meeting to order at 5:40 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., a motion was made by Mrs. Parker that the Board convene in Closed Session, pursuant to General Statute 143-318.11(a)(3) to consult with an attorney employed or retained by the public body in order to preserve the attorney-client privilege between the attorney and the public body, which privilege is hereby acknowledged, and pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11(a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of student information that is confidential under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, and pursuant to Gen. Stat 143-318.11(a)(6) to prevent the disclosure of personnel information that is confidential under N. C. Gen. Stat. 115C-319 through -321. Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried.

Closed Session was recessed at 6:08 p.m. and Open Session was reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chairman Adams led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Mr. Clark requested an amendment to the agenda to add item IX Superintendent Search. Ms. McCombs made a motion to approve the agenda as amended. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS FROM CLOSED SESSION

Ms. Soryz requested approval of the personnel list as presented with no persons requesting a leave of absence (for action), nine persons leaving employment (for information), six persons recommended for employment (for action), and four persons recommended for employment

changes (for information). Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the personnel list as presented. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion carried.

Dr. Grant requested approval of the student assignment list as presented with two students granted acceptance to Kannapolis City Schools. Mrs. Cook made a motion to approve the student assignment list as presented. Mr. Clark gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Clark made a motion to approve and release the Closed Session minutes from January 11, 2021. Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Upon a motion by Mrs. Parker and second from Mrs. McCombs, the minutes from the January 11, 2021 and the January 20 & 21, 2021, Open Sessions and the December 27, 2020, credit card statement were approved as presented.

#### RECOGNITIONS

Six persons from G. W. Carver Elementary were recognized. Jaxton Yin is one of the first grade “superstars” at G. W. Carver. He works incredibly hard each and every day especially now during these times of virtual learning. Isabella Moody is a third grade student at G. W. Carver who so many know about simply because of her wonderful and creative ideas! Isabella may be quiet at times but is so full of life! Danyale Ford and the Kannapolis Church of God have been a tremendous asset to G. W. Carver and have worked extremely hard to support our students and staff. Anette Carlock has been an amazing substitute teacher this year at G. W. Carver and has been added to the top of the “GO TO” substitute list. Michelle Morgan is going on her second year as an Instructional Assistant at G. W. Carver and has so quickly learned the ‘ins and outs’ of this role. She is one who wants to perform to the best of her ability at all times and has extremely high expectations not only for herself but also for her students. If there is one thing Christy Parker is phenomenal at doing it’s integrating the arts into her everyday lessons. Her instructional practice is so incredibly sound and her students remain engaged at all times, across all subject areas.

Madison Hipp is an extraordinary 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Dual Language English Teacher at Fred L. Wilson Elementary. She is a phenomenal educator! We are extremely proud to have her as part of the KCS family and to honor her as the February Hilbish Ford Teacher of the Month.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no request for Public Comment.

#### DISTRICT COVID IMPACT UPDATE

Dr. Buckwell shared updated data from COVID briefings and recommended that the district return to Plan B beginning February 16, 2021, and remain in Plan B through the end of the 2020-2021 school year unless circumstances warranted an additional transition. After discussion by board members, Mr. Clark made a motion that KCS students return to Plan B beginning February 16, 2021, and continuing through the end of the school year, unless otherwise mandated. Mrs. Cook gave the second and the motion passed unanimously.

Board members also considered a resolution in support of teachers and school staff being given priority in receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. After Chair Todd Adams read the resolution into the record, Mrs. McCombs made a motion that the board adopt the Resolution in Support of High Priority Being Given to Teachers and School Staff in Receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine. Mr. Clark gave the second and the motion carried.

#### POLICY 9125 PARTICIPATION BY MINORITY BUSINESS

Dr. Buckwell reviewed the proposed policy. Mr. Clark made a motion that the board adopt Policy 9125 on second read. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried.

#### FINANCE

Will Crabtree presented the amendments and transfers for review. Mrs. Parker made a motion to approve State (1) Amendment 5, Local (2) Amendment 4, Federal (3) Amendment 3, Head Start (7) Amendment 2, and Local (8) Amendment 3 as presented. Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Crabtree also shared the monthly report and the monthly superintendent travel and expense report.

Additionally, Mr. Crabtree shared the Mental Health Personnel Count required to be reported annually: Psychologists-6.75, School Counselors-13, Social Workers-4, and Nurses-1(McK). He noted that KCS only employees 1 nurse who is located at McKnight Head Start and reminded those listening that the other school nurses are provided through a partnership with the Cabarrus Health Alliance.

#### FACILITIES

Mr. Crabtree presented the NC Education Lottery Building Capital Fund application to request \$282,900 to retire debt service. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the request as presented. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Crabtree also asked board members which of the interviewed architect firms they wanted to select for the A. L. Brown Campus Study. After some discussion, Mrs. Cook made a motion that Little Architecture be selected for the A. L. Brown Campus Study. Mr. Clark gave the second and the motion carried.

Additionally, Mr. Crabtree asked that the board approve the bid from LCJ Construction for the Kannapolis Memorial Stadium ADA improvements in the amount of \$225,782. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Mrs. McCombs gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Crabtree requested the board approve the bid from Superior Construction for the McKnight roof replacement in the amount of \$90,871. Mr. Clark made a motion to approve the bid as presented. Mrs. Parker gave the second and the motion carried.

Mr. Crabtree updated board members on the status of district projects.

### SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH

Chair Todd Adams shared remarks regarding Dr. Buckwell's retirement as superintendent effective July 1, 2021, and the responsibility of the board in hiring a superintendent for the district. He also shared he had spoken with the board's attorneys at Schwartz & Shaw about the options available to the board in the superintendent search process. Attorney Brandon McPherson shared additional information with board members and recommended a board training session offered by Attorney Richard Schwartz that would assist as board members begin this process. The training session was set for Monday, February 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Several announcements and upcoming events were discussed.

Chair Todd Adams recessed the meeting at 8:45 p.m. and reconvened with board members and Attorney Richard Schwartz by Zoom on Monday, February 15, 2021, at 6:00 p.m. as board members participated in a superintendent search workshop with Attorney Richard Schwartz.

Chair Todd Adams recessed the meeting at 7:32 p.m. and reconvened with board members and Attorney Rich Schwartz by Zoom on Tuesday, February 23, 2021, at 6:03 p.m. as board members reviewed proposals from six search consultants: The Masonboro Group, McPherson & Jacobson, Ray and Associates, BWP, HYA, and NCSBA. Board members narrowed their review to four, eliminating HYA and NCSBA. Attorney Richard Schwartz agreed to arrange presentations from those four.

Chairman Adams recessed the meeting at 6:50 p.m. and reconvened with board members and Attorney Rich Schwartz by Zoom on Wednesday, February 25, 2021, at 6:03 p.m. heard presentations from the following search consultant firms:

1. BWP, presented by Dr. Kevin Castner and Dr. Percy Mack;
2. The Masonboro Group, presented by Dr. Eddie West;
3. McPherson & Jacobson, presented by Dr. Tom Jacobson; and
4. Ray & Associates, presented by Michael Collins and Dr. Minnie Forte-Brown.

After hearing and considering the presentations and the proposals submitted by each of the four groups, Board members deliberated and discussed their preferences.

Upon a motion made by Mr. Clark, seconded by Mrs. McCombs, the Board voted to retain the Masonboro Group as its superintendent search consultant for an inclusive fee of \$14,330.00

consistent with the Masonboro Group's proposal, which does not include additional costs for candidate travel and national ads, with the additional provisions of a two-year guarantee and a commitment that the Masonboro Group will not conduct a concurrent search within a two-county radius of the Kannapolis City Schools. The motion passed unanimously, on a roll call vote.

Chair Todd Adams adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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Daron C. Buckwell, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Todd Adams, Chair