

WEBSTER COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 14, 2024 AT 6:00 P.M.

The Webster County Board of Education held its regular meeting on May 14, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. Mrs. Linda Rogers, Mrs. Mary Hinman, Mr. Donald Brown, Mr. Jimmie Johnson, Mr. Landon Matthews, and Dr. Dorothy Y. Ingram, Superintendent were present.

Mrs. Linda Rogers called the meeting to order.

Mr. Jimmie Johnson gave the invocation.

(No Visitors Present)

The Board approved the tentative agenda with the amendment of adding to the agenda—#11 Approve the Stronger Connections Grant Budget (FY24 Grant for \$196,070.00) and #12 Approve to Purchase a Crisis Alert System from Audio Enhancement in the Amount of \$174,349.66—by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the March 2024 financial report by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the April 8, 2024 (5:00 p.m.) work session minutes by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the April 8, 2024 (6:00 p.m.) regular meeting minutes by a motion made by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the April 17, 2024 (9:00 a.m.) special called meeting minutes by a motion made by Mr. Jimmie Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the April 26, 2024 (9:00 a.m.) public hearing minutes by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to enter into executive session to discuss or deliberate upon the appointment, employment, compensation, hiring, disciplinary action or dismissal, or periodic evaluation or rating of a public officer or employee or to interview applicants for the position of superintendent; (O.C.G.A. § 50-14-3(b)(2)) by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Landon Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved exit out of executive session by a motion made by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mr. Donald Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved action taken in executive session to approve adjusted salary amount for the combining positions of Superintendent and Principal beginning fiscal year 2024-2025 (July 1, 2024) by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

(No Public Comments)

The Board approved the Stronger Connections Grant Budget (FY24 Grant for \$196,070.00) by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to purchase a Crisis Alert System from Audio Enhancement in the amount of \$174,349.66 by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Landon Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the out-of-county tuition in the amount of \$500 per child for the 2024-2025 school year by a motion made by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The approval of Sheridan Construction contract was tabled.

The Board approved the REI Technology Grant FY23 in the amount of \$100,000.00 by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the purchase of 20 iPads from Apple Inc. in the amount of \$23,780.00 (Prek funds)—the initial approval took place in April for an amount of \$24,725.00 for 25 iPads that are no longer available by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Landon Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to purchase 16 laptops from Govconnection in the amount of \$14,137.28 (REI Technology FY23) by a motion made by Mrs. Mary Hinman, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to purchase 18 student computers and 18 monitors from Govconnection in the amount of \$19,757.34 (REI Technology Grant FY23) by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to purchase 16 VR headsets from Powerup EDU in the amount of \$10,447.00 (REI Technology grant FY23) by a motion made by Mr. Jimmie Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved to purchase of one Lu Uno interactive playground bundle from Powerup EDU in the amount of \$34,865.00 (REI Technology Grant FY23) by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mr. Donald Brown. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved the updated Administrative Assistant Job Description by a motion made by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved personnel recommendation of the Superintendent to adopt the Administrative Assistant 10-month salary scale by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved personnel recommendation of the Superintendent for 2024-2025 supplements (see memo dated 5/14/2024) by a motion made by Mr. Landon Matthews, seconded by Mr. Jimmie Johnson. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved \$200 stipend—revised amount per DOE Federal Regulation (the initial approval

took place in April for an amount of \$500)—for 26 certified teachers for Professional Learning on School Climate and School Culture held Thursday, April 18, 2024 for May’s payroll (Title II-A Funds) by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved \$400 stipend for certified teachers to attend the 4-hour Math Professional Development Session presented by Chattahoochee Flint RESA to be held Friday, May 17, 2024 for June’s payroll (Title II–A funds) by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Landon Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

The Board approved personnel recommendation of the Superintendent (see memo dated 5/14/2024) by a motion made by Mr. Jimmie Johnson, seconded by Mrs. Mary Hinman. The motion was approved unanimously.

Ingram presented the Superintendent’s Report and the CTAE Report—Dr. Ingram commented that the 2022 ESPLOST deposit for the end of April 2024 was \$19,057.27 (handout). Dr. Ingram presented the Board with GSBA handouts for Risk E-lert May 2024, RMS Safety Scenario April 2024, Policy Alert May 2024, Capitol Watch with budget highlights, and the State Board Meeting May 2024. Also, handouts were presented of the new state salary schedule for FY25 (which included a \$2,500 raise from Governor Kemp). Facilities Update: MTC has completed most of the technology work at the Board Office. Curriculum/Academics/Testing: Notifications are being made for Summer School attendance, GA Milestones retest will be held June 25-26, 2024. Math GA Milestones results are expected to be returned this Fall. Mrs. Tamekka Garrett will attend MathCon in July for K-5 to review new math standards and redeliver to K-5 teachers during pre-planning. Ms. Angie Brunson from RESA will redeliver MathCon to teachers in grades 6-12 during pre-planning. Dual Enrollment Update: Spring 2024—Eleven -11 students successfully earned dual enrollment credit, Summer 2024-5 students and Ten—10 students Fall 2024. Dr. Ingram presented the Board with the Webster County 4-H Report—April 2024 (handout). The Health Department inspected the lunchroom on April 11, 2024—Score = 100. The system’s Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is 100% for the 2024-2025. Administrators will attend the Safety Conference in Columbus on June 3-5, 2024. The Summer GSBA Conference will be held in Savannah June 6-8, 2024. Webster County Schools will be collaborating with the Red Cross to promote a county wide smoke detector installation project in July. Dr. Ingram highlighted on the upcoming events: next Board meeting is June 10, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. (work session at 5:00 p.m.); Post Planning is May 10-16; Professional Development is May 17. DISTRICT HOLIDAYS: Memorial Day is May 27; Juneteenth is June 19; Independence Day Holidays—July 1-4.

CTAE Report (Dr. Ingram)—Dr. Ingram commented that he Consolidated Application and the CLNA (Consolidated Local Needs Assessment) were signed off on May 10<sup>th</sup>. FY24 CTAE Budgets have been expended. All members of the Graduating Class of 2024 completed high school with a CTAE Pathway completion. Final End of Pathway passing rates: Business and Technology – 20% Programming - 0% Agriculture – will have completers in FY27 (new program). Three (3) high school students will attend SGTC’s Jet Tech Summer STEM Camp this summer on June 9-14, 2024. WBL: Mr. Baker met with students who are interested in participating WBL next school year.

Mrs. Balish presented the Principal’s Report and the Special Education Report— Mrs. Balish commented that the school year was rounded up with Pre-K Graduation on April 30. The gymnasium was full of proud parents as the kids prepared to move up to Kindergarten next year. On May 2nd, we had our Senior

Walk in which the seniors got to put on their caps and gowns and walk the halls of WCS while all the classes and faculty came out to cheer them on. It is always extra special because each soon-to-be graduate is holding the hand of a pre-k graduate symbolizing their start and completion. The following day, May 3, was Honors Day at school (recognized the hard work of so many students). There was a good turn out that day, as well. Final Exams took place followed closely by a beautiful graduation ceremony for the seniors. Mrs. Balish expressed appreciation to the Board members for being a part of the ceremony. Post-planning has began and everyone is busy getting their rooms packed, checking off final end-of-the-year requirements, and making sure their report cards as well as records are up to date and correct. Summers are often a very busy and hectic time for office and admin because we immediately begin to prepare for a new school year.

Special Education Report (Mrs. Balish)—Mrs. Balish commented that she is making final purchases for the Special Education Department and checking off the budget from 2023-24 school year with the assistance of Ms. Hill. The budget was officially approved last week after receiving good news that the Maintenance of Effort passed with amendments. The Special Education Life Skills Room is getting close to being ready to use. The plan is to have the room furnished and supplied before the 2024-25 school year and hit the ground running with some very needed lessons on how to live in the real world. All IEP meetings have been held for the school year and the Special Education department is on track to with having the records completed before the teachers dismiss on Thursday.

Mrs. Sterling presented the Title I Report—Federal Programs: Mrs. Sterling commented that they are continuing to work diligently in hopes to have all funds expended by June 30, 2024. Safer Connections Grant: still pending sign off from DOE. Professional Development: April Board Meeting Amendment needed: DOE Federal Regulations state stipends must be consistent in the amount offered. Per my DOE Title II-A Program Specialist, Joy Gentry, I was required to amend the amount of the stipend to match the previous stipend (January) of \$200. This is the average stipend amount paid for 1.5 to 2 hours of professional development. May Board Meeting request: Certified teachers will be eligible to receive a \$400 stipend (Title II-A Funds) if they choose to attend the 4 hour Professional Development session on May 17, 2024. This PD will be presented by Angie Brunson, Math Specialist with Chatt Flint RESA. This event is open for all certified teachers to attend. The stipend will be included in the June payroll. We are working to ensure all funds are expended accordingly. Reaccreditation: The process continues. Mrs. Sterling stated that she is continuing to work on the Executive Summary. Teachers have provided information requested regarding the Leadership section of the workbook which will be reviewed for the next step within the process. Assessments: WCS completed EOG and EOC Milestones exams in April. Some of the scores are in, however all scores are embargoed until August. Teachers are finalizing their summer school recommendations list. I will send letters out this week.

The Board approved to adjourn by a motion made by Mr. Donald Brown, seconded by Mr. Landon Matthews. The motion was approved unanimously.

Time Adjourned: 7:04 p.m.

Prepared by: Regina T. Dotts

Approved: 6/10/2024