

Minutes
Anson County Board of Education
Regular Meeting
Tuesday, May 19, 2020, 4:30 p.m.
Anson County Schools' Administrative Conference Room/Board Room
Virtual Go To Meeting

The Anson County Board of Education met in regular session on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Members present via Virtual Go To Meeting were Marilynn Bennett, Lisa Davis, Frank Liles, Bobbie Little, Beulah Pratt, George Truman and Mike Turner. Board members present were Carol Gibson and Gay Lookabill. Others in attendance were Michael Freeman (Superintendent), Howard McLean (Associate Superintendent), Marty Godwin (Assistant Superintendent - virtual), Holly Berry (Finance Officer), Mike Flake (Board Attorney), Anne Hyatt (Board Clerk) and Pete Swails (Administrator: Technology).

I. Call to Order

Dr. George Truman opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. and welcomed everyone in attendance.

II. Invocation

Mike Turner gave the Invocation.

III. 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 of interest communicated by the members. 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.

IV. Adopt Agenda

Frank Liles made a motion to approve the agenda. Lisa Davis seconded the agenda it was unanimously adopted by the Board. Motion carried.

V. Approve Minutes

(Regular Meeting 04/27/20)

(Special Meeting 04/28/20)

A motion was made by Gay Lookabill to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 27, 2020 and the special (joint) meeting minutes of April 28, 2020. The motion was seconded by Frank Liles and approved by the board. Motion carried.

I. Public Comment

This was no one present to speak during public comment.

II. Chair's Report

Public Engagement: There were no public engagement information shared due to COVID-19.

On behalf of the board of education, Dr. Truman read the following resolution to honor Mr. Freeman on his upcoming retirement on June 1, 2020:

**RESOLUTION IN HONOR OF MR. MICHAEL H. FREEMAN UPON HIS RETIREMENT
AS ANSON COUNTY'S SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT FEBRUARY 2013 – JUNE 2013
SUPERINTENDENT JULY 1, 2013 – JUNE 1, 2020**

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Freeman has served the education community, the people and the students of Anson County for more than 35 years and as the Superintendent of Schools for more than 7 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman, a native of Lilesville, North Carolina, began his career in public education 38 years ago in Anson County, North Carolina, after graduating from Bowman High School and earning college transfer credits from Anson Community College, his bachelor's and master's degrees from Pembroke State University, and an educational specialist degree from Winthrop College; and

WHEREAS, while Mr. Freeman rose through the ranks of public education as a substitute teacher, teacher, assistant principal, principal, executive director, chief academic officer, chief operating officer, deputy superintendent, interim superintendent and superintendent, he also found time to undertake special assignments as a Co-Coordinator for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) process, Public Information Communicator Designee, mentor for numerous teacher and principal interns and he taught local community college courses; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman was appointed Interim Superintendent of Schools by the Anson County Board of Education in February 2013 and Superintendent of Schools in July 2013, and, since that time, has served under 12 different board of education members; and

WHEREAS, as superintendent of schools, Mr. Freeman has served as secretary of the board of education, served on the District Management Council, a North Carolina Principal's Executive Program Presenter, participant in the Principals Institute, Wachovia Principal of the Year Selection Team Chairperson, served on the first Leadership Anson group in 1996, led a sixth grade instructional team in developing an Integrated Learning Model, served on Safe Schools/Violence Prevention Committee, pioneered a system-wide Basic Education Plan for Summer School, provided numerous staff development sessions for local teachers, served as a state- and system-wide effective teacher trainer, received opportunities from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to present on key programs such as North Carolina's new Kindergarten Program which received a national award when he was still a college student, served on the NCDPI State Inclusionary Practices Committee, chaired the school bond referendum that resulted in new elementary schools across Anson County, served as a public speaker at numerous commencement programs as well as for various local and state educational issues, and was selected by the Creative Writing Institute as a Model Teacher for children's writing strategies; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman has given his time and efforts to serve as a volunteer with many civic and professional organizations, which have all greatly and optimistically impacted the children and adults of Anson County; and

WHEREAS, among his many, many honors and awards, in 2000 and 2006, Mr. Freeman was named Anson County's Principal of the Year and was a finalist for the 2006 Wachovia Principal of the Year; in 2018, he was named the North Carolina Regional Superintendent of the Year for Region 4; and

WHEREAS, through Mr. Freeman's leadership and during his tenure, a number of innovative educational initiatives have been developed and/or enhanced to support student learning in Anson County. Innovative programs such as high school options aligned with community college enrollment, a state-of-the-art Science Center, middle grades STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) program preparing students for high school, and district curriculum alignment ensuring that all students receive appropriate instruction to include pacing at each grade level. In addition to the typical types of educational services a superintendent would provide to support learning, Mr. Freeman beamed when he was able to bring Cam Newton to Anson County Schools to conduct a motivational celebration with all K-6 students while they visited the high school football stadium. This event was made possible through a partnership Mr. Freeman cultivated with Carolinas HealthCare Systems. Specifically, the Cam Newton appearance was to support the 5210 Nutrition Program that was founded by Mr. Freeman and provided to all elementary students. Mr. Freeman passionately brought extra experiences such as this to students. He also helped to secure \$15 million in funding from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant for school construction projects such as the new Anson Middle School that is a priority project for Anson County Schools; additionally, Mr. Freeman oversaw the major renovation project of the Anson High School athletic complex creating facilities our students and community can be proud of for years to come; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman's many years of distinguished public service are a hallmark of exceptional commitment and dedication to public education and to the children of Anson County, and his many years of service as superintendent have afforded him countless opportunities to impact public education – preschool through college; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Freeman has announced his plans to retire on June 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, as the superintendent of schools, Mr. Freeman has earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues and fellow educators, and, even in his retirement, will continue to use his influence to push for educational excellence:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Anson County Board of Education does hereby express its appreciation to Michael H. Freeman for his many years of distinguished service to Anson County and its children, and does hereby commend Mr. Freeman for his lifetime of accomplishments and his dedication to public education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Anson County Board of Education does hereby extend its best wishes to Michael Freeman for a happy and active retirement.

Authorized by: The Anson County Board of Education

Presented: May 19, 2020

Superintendent's Report

Mr. Freeman gave a report on Budget, Human Resources, Current Job Postings, Current Projects, Facility Construction Update and Instructional Programs.

Current Projects Update:

- There has been a lot of emphasis on the high school campus due to the upcoming graduation.
- Security measures have been made due to COVID-19 in the area of protective glass in some areas.
- Working on media center project at Wadesboro Elementary School and are at the furniture stage.
- Will be receiving equipment to help maintain the football field.
- Continuing conversations about the new Anson Middle School project in hopes we can develop ways to finance and fund the school.

Instructional Programs

Mr. Freeman said the school calendar will be on the agenda at the next meeting due to making changes to the start date, student days and staff days of the current calendar for 2020-2021 due to guidance and direction from the state. He said he will go into detail at the May 28, 2020, meeting.

Summer Programs

Mr. Freeman said the jump-start learning program will be an innovative way to do activities during the summer. He explained the school system will need to submit a remote learning plan and it will help break down what can be done in the summer and what we can do when we open in August if we can't open with all students. He explained an update will be shared at the next meeting. Mr. Freeman mentioned the re-entry and opening of school will be complicated but it can be done once guidance is given from the Governor and State folks.

III. Consent Items

Gay Lookabill asked if the audit group was the same as in previous years. Mr. Freeman said this is different audit company. Upon a motion by Frank Liles seconded by Marilyn Bennet, the following consent items were approved by the board: Personnel Report, Budget Amendments, Contract to Audit Accounts, Policy 2302 and Contract Amendment for Lawn and Maintenance Services. Motion carried.

Calendar Items

Mr. Freeman and Dr. Truman said there will be a board meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2020, at 1:30 p.m.

IV. Adjourn

Due to this being Mr. Freeman's final, regular board meeting, Dr. Truman asked him to ask for a motion for adjournment. A motion to adjourn was made at 5:18 pm. by Carol Ann Gibson, seconded by Gay Lookabill and approved by the board. There was no discussion. The motion carried.

Dr. George Truman, Chairperson

Mr. Michael Freeman, Secretary