



# Supporting Students and Schools

Current Context & Looking Ahead

**WCPSS Board of Education - Work Session**

February 16, 2021



## Presenters

# Supporting Students and Schools

**Dr. Edward McFarland**, Chief Academic Advancement Officer

**Drew Cook**, Assistant Superintendent, Academics

**Paul Koh**, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

**Dr. Ashlie Thompson**, Central Area Superintendent

**Dr. Elena Ashburn**, Principal, Broughton High School

**Annette Thornhill**, Community Liaison, Retired Former Social Worker of the Year



## Agenda & Outcomes

1 Current Support Efforts

2 Looking Ahead

3 Dialogue, Questions & Answers



# Current Support Efforts

Paul Koh, Assistant Superintendent, Student Support Services

Dr. Ashlie Thompson, Central Area Superintendent

Dr. Elena Ashburn, Broughton High School Principal

# Supporting Student Success

## Our Goal

Provide schools with common data sets, protocols, and guidance to **continue** engagement in data-based problem solving to support students.





## Student Learning - District and School Support

- Ongoing review of school data and adjustments to mitigate opportunity gaps
- Implementing intervention and academic recovery practices
- Leveraging family engagement strategies
- Engaging in Due Diligence efforts (attendance, engagement)
- Maximizing asynchronous learning days for students and staff
- Principal PLTs
- SSS PLTs
- Other opportunities for collaboration

# District and School Collaboration



**Dr. Elena Ashburn**

High School Principal

2020 WCPSS Principal  
of the Year

2020 Finalist for North  
Carolina State Principal  
of the Year



**Dr. Ashlie Thompson**

Central Area Superintendent



## Student Support Services

"We want families to understand that even though they can't see us in person, we are working behind the scenes to problem-solve concerns."

**-Kristen Lewis, School Psychologist  
Fuller ES, Martin MS**

"...virtual classroom guidance, virtual parent nights, sending newsletters and using social media to make sure that parents and students remain connected."

**-Vanessa Barnes, Dean of Students  
Millbrook High School**

"The expansion of our support in the core behavioral health team has positively impacted the support we are giving students, families and staff...there are strategic action steps we have in place."

**-Nancy Stavrakakis,  
Counselor  
Mills Park ES**



## Student Support Services

“Some students are also working more in order to assist the family with needs.”

**-Vanessa Barnes, Dean of Students  
Millbrook High School**

“The most common challenge I've seen families and students face this year would be childcare and having basic needs met...families have to work in order to survive...”

**-Camille Baker, Social Worker  
Bryan Rd ES, Creech Rd ES**

“School social workers are out in the field ensuring students are safe, finding community resources, connecting families to resources and ensuring that there are no barriers for students to engage in virtual learning.”

**-Camille Baker, Social Worker  
Bryan Rd ES, Creech Rd ES**

# Dialogue and Questions



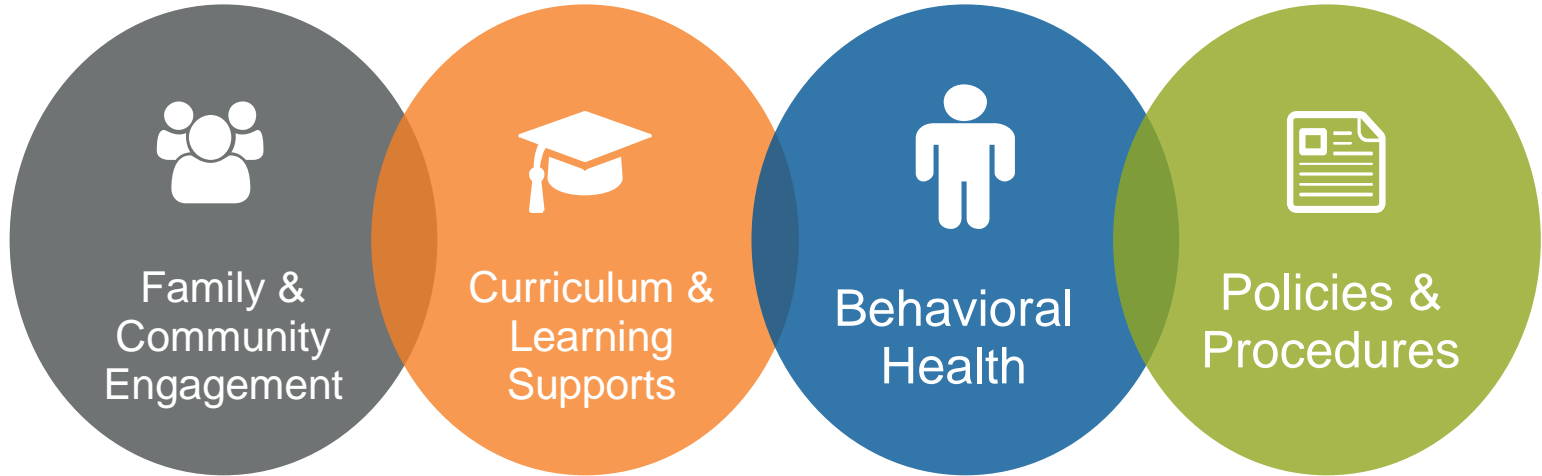
# Looking Ahead: Recover, Rebuild, & Grow

Drew Cook, Assistant Superintendent, Academics



# Areas of Focus

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# Family & Community Engagement

Engage and leverage family and community partnerships to support schools.



# Community Liaison Perspective

## Annette Thornhill

Community Liaison

Retired Former Social  
Worker of the Year





## Parent and Principal Perspective

"I was struck by the way the session quickly created a sense of community and invited us to a deep level of sharing both the struggles and joys that were present in our lives."

**-Apex MS Parent**

"Discovering her ability to adapt to a new situation, encouragement of others, and curiosity in the classroom has helped me know and understand her better."

**-Apex MS Parent**

"Beyond our students, we are proud that our parents have been willing to engage in dialogue, practice, and strategic meetings to support the stresses of Pandemic Parenting."

**- Mariah Walker, Principal  
Hillburn K-8 Academy**



## Curriculum and Learning Supports

### Core Belief #1

Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged and engaged in relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning each day.

- Comprehensive balanced assessment system
- Curriculum supports and resources
- Professional learning and coaching
- Extended learning opportunities
- Course scheduling structures



# Behavioral Health

## Core Belief #1

Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged and engaged in relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning each day.

- Integration - behavioral health with academics
- Behavioral Health Needs Assessment
- Menu of best practices for schools
- Student engagement
- Food security and community partnerships
- Family wellness and self-care sessions
- Mental health needs - upgrading our support

# Review of Policies & Procedures

Ongoing review of policies and procedures for alignment and effectiveness.

**WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

Quick Search/Search this Manual

**NEW Policy Manual**

**INTRODUCTION**

This manual contains the official policies of the Board of Education and related administrative regulations of the Superintendent organized by topic. Board policies state positions adopted by the Board of Education to provide direction, control and/or management of its legal functions. Regulations establish procedures and rules developed by the superintendent to guide and direct the implementation of board policy.

**IMPORTANT NOTE**

The Wake County Board of Education is in the process of revising its policy manual. Please search the NEW manual before searching the OLD policy manual. If there is any conflict between the language of a policy in the NEW manual and the OLD manual, the language in the NEW manual should be followed.

**BROWSING AND NAVIGATION**

The policies are provided in a fully searchable and easy to use format. Click the color-coded section headings to the left to view all the policies and related procedures within each section of the manual. You may also use the Previous Policy and Next Policy buttons at the bottom left to browse the policies. To view the complete Table of Contents, click the Site Map/TOC button at the top left.

**SEARCHING THE MANUAL**

You may search for policies by policy number or by specific words or phrases by using the search box at the top right. When you have completed a search, hit the "clear search" button at the bottom of the screen to return to a full view of the policy manual.

**RECENT REVISIONS**

Click here to view [recent modifications](#) to board policies.

Previous Policy | Next Policy | Clear Search | Search Results | Previous Hit | Next Hit

# Dialogue and Questions

WHAT     
STARTS  
 HERE  
CHANGES  
 EVERYTHING.