

**MINUTES OF BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS’
BRIEFING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2022 AT 3:00 P.M.**

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 15, 2022, in the Commission Chambers, 200 College Street, Room 326 in downtown Asheville, North Carolina at 3:00 p.m. where and when the following business was transacted:

The Chairman called the meeting to order with the following members present:

Brownie Newman, Chairman
Jasmine Beach-Ferrara, Commissioner
Amanda Edwards, Vice Chair
Robert Pressley, Commissioner
Parker Sloan, Commissioner
Terri Wells, Commissioner
Al Whitesides, Commissioner

Staff present: Avril Pinder, County Manager; Sybil Tate, Assistant County Manager; Dakisha Wesley, Assistant County Manager; Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director; Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations; Lamar Joyner, Clerk to the Board; Michael Frue, Senior Staff Attorney

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

During the meeting, the Board and staff will review and discuss agenda items and receive staff updates with discussions as noted:

Review the Board’s Agenda.

Staff Updates:

COVID-19/Vaccine Update. Stacie Saunders, Public Health Director, provided information on the status of the COVID-19 pandemic data and trends, vaccination update, and metric data (3 categories coded red). The infection rate of COVID, cases, and hospitalizations are declining. Vaccine impact was detailed, and vaccinations continue to be performed by the County with walk-in availability.

Enka Sports Park Turf Update. Tim Love, Intergovernmental Relations, explained the project overview with a focus on the Enka Sports Park. The Enka Recreation Destination is a recreation, sports and greenway project that provides connectivity between Buncombe County Sports Park, Bob Lewis Ballfield, educational institutions (A-B Tech, Enka Intermediate) and Enka Commerce Park. Budget information, a recommendation, and next steps were part of the presentation.

Pre-K Expansion Update. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, provided an update that included key points, funding, and expansion timeline for the program. The program will face barriers that staff look to address with resources and creativity.

Continued Discussion of COVID Recovery Funding Process. Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director, reviewed the process and asked for information from the Board for planning the next phase of COVID Recovery Funding Awards. The Commissioners discussed priority areas for remaining funds and flexibility in the proposal process.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

LAMAR JOYNER, CLERK
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BROWNIE NEWMAN, CHAIRMAN
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS