

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina
Central Office**

398 Hospital Road

August 23, 2018

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, August 23, 2018, at the School Board Administrative Offices, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC. The following members were present:

Ali Laird-Large, Chair
Margaret McRae
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton

Also present were Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Mr. Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent; Dean Shatley, School Board Attorney; Dr. Kevin Bailey, Personnel Director, and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Alison Laird-Large called the business meeting to order.

Mrs. Laird-Large led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Elliott recognized the School Nutrition Department: Tina Coggins, Blue Ridge School Cafeteria Manager; Becky Roper, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School Cafeteria Manager; Judy Parris, Fairview Elementary School Cafeteria Manager; Janice Hoyle, Smoky Mountain High School Cafeteria Manager; Ali Grasty, Scotts Creek Elementary School Cafeteria Manager; Lisa Cope, Smokey Mountain Elementary School Cafeteria Manager; Sandra Stevens, School Nutrition Administrative Assistant; and Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director and presented them with Certificates of Appreciation for exceptional service, sanitation scores, technical assistance reviews and support of the JCPS students, staff and first responders during the bomb threats and evacuations.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Meredith Whitfield spoke to the board about recess at Jackson County Public Schools (JCPS). She told the board that she and three other families moved their children to the Charter School last year for many reasons. She said that she felt the Charter School focused on outdoor learning and

more play time for the students. However, due to travel requirements to the Charter School, she transferred her child back to JCPS and is very happy to have her child at Cullowhee Valley. Ms. Whitfield said that she would like to see more recess time included for all children, that will not be at the cost of academics. She cited research that shows more recess time reduces behavioral issues. Ms. Whitfield recommended the board look to charter schools for best practice in providing additional opportunities for learning through play and asked that JCPS be more creative in this area. She thanked the board for the opportunity to speak to them and said she hopes to work with the board in the future.

Ms. Sara Stahlman spoke to the board about recess at JCPS. She told the board that she is impressed with the JCPS SHAC committee and that they are doing wonderful things for the children. She stated that JCPS has an excellent Wellness policy that has been developed, that does not allow recess to be taken away as a punishment. Ms. Stahlman said that JCPS has great folks and that she feels we put a lot of thought into what we do for children. However, she said she is frustrated about the limited amount of time children have for recess. She said that the Principal at her child's school has asked teachers to do more for recess for the students. Ms. Stahlman said that the children are told what to do, when to eat, and when they can use the restroom. She feels that they need more freedom to play and be loud. Ms. Stahlman cited research that shows recess improves behavior and supports both the physical and emotional health of the child. She asked that JCPS put play back in the school agenda. Ms. Stahlman thanked the board for the opportunity to speak to them.

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Draft Open Session Minutes of Special Called Work Session on July 16, 2018.
- B. Draft Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting on July 31, 2018.
- C. Draft Open Session Minutes of Special Called Information and Listening Session on August 7, 2018.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report
Presenter: Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent

Dr. Elliott reported on the following:

1. Excellent start for all 9 schools in the district. JCPS is monitoring class sizes and have very much needed the local positions granted by the Local Commission.
2. Dr. Elliott has visited each school and witnessed excellent work being accomplished by students and staff. We live and work in a most beautiful environment and our schools are an extension of our culture and environment.
3. Dr. Elliott has emailed the Board a DRAFT copy of some survey questions she would like to consider for the Middle School Discussion Continuation. Once the Board approves the survey questions, the goal is to post the survey on the JCPS website and to

do some marketing about the survey. JCPS Principals will provide a Connect Ed call when the survey is posted. Dr. Elliott provided some sample questions.

4. District and School Administrators, Teachers, Staff, SROs and JCPS partners have been hard at work to make sure JCPS has an excellent school year.
5. Dr. Elliott said she is appreciative of the work the Communities in Schools Partnership at Blue Ridge School and Smoky Mountain Elementary School are continuing. The state partnership is funding two positions and Mia Baltutat at BR and Meagan Albert at SME are doing a wonderful job with students. 94% of all students served in those 2 schools were promoted to the next grade level; 89% met their attendance goal and 95% met their behavior goal.
6. Dr. Elliott thanked the Board of Education and Jackson County Commissioners for their engagement in our schools.

B. Agenda Item: Meridian Behavioral Services Update

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Ms. Doppke introduced Ms. Greta Metcalf, Community Engagement Director, and Mr. Jay Ruebel, Child Clinical Director, with Meridian Behavioral Services. Ms. Metcalf provided background information about Meridian services. She updated the board on the number of services Meridian provided for JCPS during the 2017-2018 school year that included: Services for 28 intensive in-home youth and families, 792 outpatient counseling for youth and families, 31 day treatment for youth and families, 48 threat assessments, and 35 suicide assessments.

C. Agenda Item: Public Safety Academy at Blue Ridge School

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Secondary Curriculum Director

Mrs. Dills informed the board about a new Public Safety Academy at Blue Ridge Early College. The Public Safety Program provides public safety curriculum including corrections, emergency and fire management, security and protection, law enforcement and legal services. The course is based on the Introduction to Public Safety course offered through the National Partnership for Careers in Law, Public Safety, and Corrections and Security, The National Partnership is a consortium of state secondary and post-secondary educational entities that focuses on the Law and Justice Career Cluster.

D. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer

Mrs. Edwards presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of August 23, 2018.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer

Mrs. Edwards asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Funds, Federal Grants Funds, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Funds.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the amendments to the State Public School Funds, Federal Grants Funds, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Funds..*

- B. Agenda Item:** Mountain Projects Appointment
Presenter: Mrs. Ali Laird-Large, Chair

Mrs. Laird-Large informed the board that due to being elected as board chair she needs to withdraw from her position on the Mountain Projects board. She said that the Mountain Projects board must have a member from the JCPS board. She asked if any of the board members would like to take her place. None of the JCPS board members volunteered to accept the appointment so she will continue on the Mountain Projects board until she is replaced.

Action: *No Action Taken.*

- C. Agenda Item:** 2018-2019 Student Handbooks – All Schools
Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Secondary Curriculum Director and Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent

Mrs. Dills presented information about the 2018-2019 Online Student Handbooks and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2018-2019 Student Handbooks.*

- D. Agenda Item:** Alternative Accountability Model Approval
Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Testing and Accountability Director

Mr. Holt requested board approval of the Alternative Accountability Model Option B for the School of Alternatives for 2018-2019. JCPS has used Option C for the previous three years, however, DPI has renamed this option as B for the 2018-2019 school year.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the Alternative Accountability Model Option B for 2018-2019.*

- E. Agenda Item:** Approval to purchase a Chiller Unit for Scotts Creek Elementary School
Presenter: Mr. Jason Watson, Maintenance Director

Mr. Watson provided a quote for the purchase of a new chiller unit for Scotts Creek Elementary School and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a Chiller Unit for Scotts Creek Elementary School.*

- F. Agenda Item:** Approval to purchase a Central Walk-In Freezer/Refrigerator
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented a quote for a Central Walk-In Freezer/Refrigerator that will be located at the Central Office and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of a Central Walk-In Freezer/Refrigerator.*

G. Agenda Item: Meridian Behavioral Services MOA renewal for 2018-2019

Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the 2018-2019 Meridian Behavioral Services Memorandum of Agreement renewal and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the Meridian Behavioral Services MOA renewal for 2018-2019.*

H. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Dr. Kim Elliott, Superintendent

Policy Updates:

1. Students at Risk of Academic Failure (3405)

Dr. Elliott reviewed the above listed policy update and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed policy update.*

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-32 and (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

1. Closed Session Minutes of Meeting on July 31, 2018.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Employee Recommendations:

1. Ayers, Phillip – Graduation Specialist, School of Alternatives
2. Ballif, Janet – Teacher Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School

3. Benavides, Jade – Color Guard Instructor, Smoky Mountain High School
4. Bennett, Teresa – Afterschool Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
5. Bishop, Johnnie Nell – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
6. Brower, Brittany – School Counselor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
7. Brown, Hope – Tutor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
8. Edwards, Kimberly – School Nutrition Assistant, Fairview Elementary School
9. Flick, Shawn – Marching Band Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
10. Frady, Tiffany – Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
11. Frady, Tiffany – Marching Band Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
12. Gibson, Demetrius – Teacher Assistant Safety Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
13. Goldin, Alan – Teacher, School of Alternatives
14. Gotay, Maria – School Nutrition Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
15. Green, Brynn – Afterschool Site Coordinator, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
16. Green, Tiffany – School Nutrition Assistant, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
17. Gregg, Kashayla – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
18. Hardin, Ben – Teacher, School of Alternatives
19. Holden, Josie – Teacher, Blue Ridge School
20. Holder, Tammy – Bus Driver, School of Alternatives
21. Johnson, Alan – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
22. Johnson, Linzi – Afterschool Assistant, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
23. Lemons, Michael – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
24. Logan, Jeffrey – Bus Driver, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
25. Mercer, Heather – School Nutrition Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
26. McCoy, Brent – Teacher, School of Alternatives
27. Robinson, Darryl – Bus Driver, School of Alternatives
28. Rowe, Christy – Teacher Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
29. Simmons, Georgeanne – EC Teacher Assistant for Pre-K, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
30. Watson, Savannah – Afterschool Assistant, Fairview Elementary School
31. Winston, Amy – Teacher, Blue Ridge School and Early College
32. Witherspoon, Allison – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

Employee Resignations:

1. Cagle, Curtis – Teacher and Assistant Football Coach, Smoky Mountain High School
2. Gibson, Tony – Teacher, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
3. Moore, Misty – EC Teacher Assistant, School of Alternatives
4. Prewitt, Pauline – Bus Monitor, School of Alternatives
5. Range, Ashleigh – School Counselor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
6. Robinson, Darryl – Custodian and Bus Driver, Blue Ridge School and Early College

Special Requests – Leave of Absence:

1. Green, Connie – Teacher Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Ballentine, Denise – Head Coach Middle School Volleyball, Blue Ridge Early College

2. Boone, Jerrod – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, Smoky Mountain High School – New Staff
3. Brooks, Beth – Head Coach Softball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School - Returning Staff
4. Brooks, Beth – Assistant Coach Volleyball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff
5. Brooks, Whitney – Assistant Coach Softball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
6. Brown, Dolphus – Head Coach Soccer, Fairview Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
7. Estep, Audrey – Assistant Coach Girls Basketball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff
8. Graafsma, Rebecca – Head Coach Volleyball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff
9. Hyatt, Steven – Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
10. Jennings, Emily – Head Coach Volleyball, Fairview Elementary School – New Staff
11. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Boys Cross Country, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Staff
12. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Girls Cross Country, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Staff
13. Pangle, Alaina – Head Coach Girls Basketball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff
14. Ramos, Mike – Head Coach Boys Basketball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
15. Rice, Audrey – Assistant Coach Middle School Volleyball, Blue Ridge Early College
16. Santoyo, Jesus – Head Coach Soccer, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff
17. Williams, Shane – Assistant Coach Junior Varsity Football, Smoky Mountain High School – Returning Staff
18. Willoughby, Wesley – Assistant Coach Soccer, Smokey Mountain Elementary School – Returning Staff

Action: *Upon a motion made by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Elliott.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is September 23, 2018, at 6:00 p.m., at the Blue Ridge School, 95 Bobcat Drive, Cashiers, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chair Ali Laird-Large adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

Alison Laird-Large, Chair

Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Secretary