

**Jackson County Board of Education  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Sylva, North Carolina  
Smoky Mountain High School**

100 Smoky Mountain Drive, Sylva

January 31, 2019

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 31, 2019, at Smoky Mountain High School (SMHS), 100 Smoky Mountain Drive, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson  
Margaret McRae  
Wes Jamison  
Abigail Clayton

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS**

Smoky Mountain High School – Mrs. Evelyn Graning, Smoky Mountain High School Principal  
Dr. Elliott introduced Ms. Evelyn Graning. Ms. Graning introduced Ms. Holly Miller, 12th Grade SMHS student. Ms. Miller served at Hostess-MC for the SMHS presentations. Ms. Miller, Lindsey Stack, Norah Ruebel, Miguel Perez, and Zach Lambert, SMHS Concert Choir students, sang the National Anthem.

Ms. Miller introduced the SMHS Concert Choir who performed “Cry Me a River” with student soloists Mitchell Russotti and Lindsey Stack, and “Glory” with student soloists Miguel Perez and Gavin Winters. SMHS Concert Choir Students who performed are Parker Flynn, Caroline Harrison, Aubrie Miller, Chandler Nicholson, Jonathan Ross, Mitchell Russotti, Jessica Sellers, Jamie Da Costa, Ethan Grasty, Sarah Grider, Hannah Huddleston, Allison Macke, Erin Moore, Hope Powers, Holland Raming, Norah Ruebel, Miguel Perez, Anna Cochran, Ashley Fisher, Zach Lambert, Jessica Moody, Lindsey Stack, Kim Stehling, Olivia Tsou, Ella Waldrop, Gavin Winters, Shelbi Clawson, Nyah Huddleston, Emily Martin, Holly Miller, Sidney Roy, and Gracie Ruebel.

Ms. Miller introduced a SMHS video, “We Are Mustangs” which showcases the many talents, hopes and dreams that the Mustang Nation shares with and for the students who attend SMHS. The video was produced by SMHS and the Instructional Technology Department, under the direction of April Debord, Instructional Technology Specialist.

Mr. Ty Dengler and SMHS students presented a Robotics Demonstration in motion tracking with their robot. This is the second year of competition for the High School Robotics team. The team is required to compete in two regional events during the month of February and March and the will continue on to the state level in April if they do well.

Mary Henson discussed the AppSpace.com television communication system Smoky Mountain High School is using on the televisions in the commons area of the school. The IT Department installed Chrome Bits which allows her to access the software from anywhere to keep the students and staff updated with announcements. Secondly, Mrs. Henson presented on a new course she will be offering in the fall called Drone Technologies. Smoky Mountain High School will be one of a handful of schools throughout the state offering this class. She explained how she obtained her remote pilots license by taking a class and two tests one through the state and the other through the FAA. Students taking this class will not only be flying Drones, but learning the programming language Python and how to read Meteorological Terminal Aviation Routine (METAR) and sectional charts. They will also will learn physics and weather. The class will lead to students preparing for Federal Aviation Unmanned Remote pilot's license. The class will begin in Fall 2019.

“All Day - Every Day Achievers” – Dr. Elliott, Superintendent

Dr. Elliott and Jake Buchanan presented All Day – Every Day Attendance Awards to the following students:

Blue Ridge School

Zach Bedient, Levi Corona Villa, Sinai Corona Villa, Karime Faria, Hailey Ferrin, Cezar Juarez-Garcia, Peyton Kaylor, Angel Magana-Garcia, Analee Russell

Blue Ridge Early College

Erika Ambrocio-Garcia, Gabriel Bedient

Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

Caleb Borchelt, Zebulon Childers, Alexis Cruz Ramos, Bri Dezarn, Dallas Farmer, Dylan Farmer, Calvin Huffman, Austin Pollack, Triston Robertson, Harley Stevens, Kameron Stephens, Ella Tracy, Fatima Villegas Rivas

Fairview Elementary School

Maximiliano Abarca, Dylan Bushaw, Luke Daniel, Kenadee Day, Nathanael Dengler, Lillian French, Kimberlee Jones, Hunter Logan, Joseph Messick, Tej Patel, Braden Teeters

School Of Alternatives

Devon Robertson

Scotts Creek Elementary School

James Blakely, Jaicelyn Cabe, Jake Elders, Patrick Ibarra Ortega, Derick Ibarra, Megan Jones, Kira Kompathoum, Chloe Ledford, Morgan Mathis, Zeb Mathis, Zachary Murray, Vivian Nguyen, Haylee Smith, Xaila Spencer, William Weatherford

Smokey Mountain Elementary School

Sequoyah Bimeat, Evangeline Carr, David Keat, Ella Rossi

**RECONVENE**

Board Chairperson Alison Laird Large reconvened the board meeting in the Media Center at SMHS.

Mrs. Laird Large led the Pledge of Allegiance.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

*Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

## SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Elliott presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Mr. Mark Haskett –WCU Photographer, for his support of JCPS marketing and photography.

Dr. Elliott presented Ms. Graning with the NCA CASI Certificate of Accreditation, the NC State Board of Education award for exceeding Academic Growth for 2017-2018, and the NC SBE award for achieving a 97.1% graduation rate for 2017-2018.

## OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

## CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

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

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of December 18, 2018.

## INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Elliott reported on the following:

1. Dr. Elliott informed the board that Angie Dills, Secondary Curriculum Director, and Dr. Beverly Payne, Assistant Superintendent, Cherokee Central Schools, have been selected to present at the Connecting Communities of Education Stakeholders State Conference in March. They will share the work about the Western Region Counties Professional Development “CREW” program.
2. Dr. Elliott shared her appreciation for the State Employees Credit Union (SECU) donation of food bags for our students who face food insufficiency in their homes. She gave a special thank you to board member Abigail Clayton for her leadership, and stated that we are fortunate to have excellent business and community partnerships.
3. Dr. Elliott informed the board about the School University Education Partnership Grants. JCPS received 4 of the 11 grant awards from across the region as follows: Robotics – Pam Cabe, Ty Dengler, and Larissa Miller; Writing for Comprehension – Tori Goldin; Freedom Here and There – Pam Shuler and Brandon Pendergast; and Enhancement of Music – Sarah Hall.

**B. Agenda Item:** Stop the Bleed

**Presenter:** Michelle Garashi-Ellick, Dr. Lawrence William Selby, and Mr. Kyle Dowling, Great Smokies Health Foundation,

Mrs. Garashi-Ellick spoke to the board about a new partnership between the Great Smokies Health Foundation and JCPS called Stop the Bleed. This program will provide bleeding control kits and training for teachers in the use of these kits. This program will also be implemented in the surrounding counties of Swain and Graham.

**C. Agenda Item:** Brevard College Teacher Education Memorandum of Understanding

**Presenter:** Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent

Dr. Elliott informed the board that Brevard College has renewed its Memorandum of Understanding for Teacher Education with JCPS.

**D. Agenda Item:** Federal E-Rate Program

**Presenter:** Mr. Jeremiah Jackson

Mr. Jackson informed the board that it is our intent to apply for category 2 E-Rate funding. E-Rate funding is a federal program that helps schools and libraries to obtain affordable broadband Internet as well as purchase equipment and services to utilize that connectivity in the classroom. Category 2 E-Rate is for internal connections with a focus on wireless technology in the classroom.

**E. Agenda Item:** Declared Surplus

**Presenter:** Mr. Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan informed the board that the following item is being declared as surplus and will be listed on Govdeals.com for sale:

1. Ricoh Priort DX 4640D Digital Duplicator plus ink supplies

**F. Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary

**Presenter:** Kristie Walker, Interim Co-Finance Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary for January 2019.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**A. Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kristie Walker, Interim Co-Finance Officer

Mrs. Walker asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers for the Local Current Expense Fund, the Federal Grants Fund, the Capital Outlay Fund and Other Specific Revenue Funds.

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae the board voted unanimously to approve the local current expense fund, the federal grants fund, the capital outlay fund, other specific revenue funds, and other local transfers and budget amendments.*

**B. Agenda Item: Field Trips**

**Presenter:** Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent

1. Blue Ridge School, Grade 6 – US Space and Rocket Center, Chattanooga, TN, April 9 to 12, 2019, TT 5351.
2. Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Grade 5 - Charlotte Motor Speedway, Charlotte, NC, March 1, 2019, TT 5364.
3. Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Grade 7 – Camp Greenville, Greenville, SC, April 24-26, 2019, TT 5430.
4. Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Grade 8 – Charleston, SC, April 16-18, 2019, TT 5429.
5. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 4 – Ripley’s Aquarium of the Smokies, Gatlinburg, TN, April 17-18, 2019, TT 5404.
6. School of Alternatives, Grades 3-7 – Planetarium at Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, March 7, 2019, TT 5371.
7. Scotts Creek Elementary School, Grade 3 – Planetarium at Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, April 23, 2019, TT 5325.

Dr. Elliott reviewed the above listed field trip requests and asked for board approval.

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed field trips.*

**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. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.*

**OPEN SESSION**

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

1. Closed Session Minutes of Meeting on December 18, 2018

**PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA**

**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. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

**Employee Recommendations:**

1. Adcock, Caleb – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
2. Alcantar, Elena – Substitute Bus Driver, Blue Ridge School
3. Baldwin, Fiondra – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
4. Cauley, Cleis – EC Teacher Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
5. Ellis, Hattie – Part-time PE Teacher Assistant, Fairview Elementary School
6. Goldin, Dr. Alan – Interim Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
7. Harrison, Adam – Technology Technician I, Central Office
8. Hixson, Allison – School Nutrition Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
9. Konitzer, Andrew – School Nutrition Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
10. Laney, Daryl – Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, CVES, FES, SMHS, SCES, SMES
11. Madsen, Savannah – Afterschool Worker, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
12. Mercer, Heather – School Nutrition Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School and School of Alternatives
13. Moore, Misty – Substitute School Bus and Activity Bus Driver, School of Alternatives
14. Morgan, Sylvia – Office Support, Smoky Mountain High School
15. Piatt, Kennedy – EC Teacher Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
16. Pressley, Sara – Afterschool Assistant, Fairview Elementary School
17. Proffitt, Dennis – Substitute Assistant Principal, Scotts Creek Elementary School
18. Rogers, Jennifer – Part-time Pre-K Teacher Assistant, Fairview Elementary School
19. Spaulding, Laura – EC Homebound Teacher, School of Alternatives
20. Upchurch, Rachel - EC Teacher Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
21. Williams, Shane – Temporary EC Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
22. Williamson, Caroline – Graduation Specialist, School of Alternatives
23. Williamson, Chuck – EC Teacher Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School

**Employee Resignations:**

1. Brady, Darian – Afterschool Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
2. Brown, Hope – Part-time Tutor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
3. Fields, Emily – Afterschool Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
4. Gribble, Craig – Head Coach District Middle School Baseball

**Employee Retirements:**

1. Ayers, Phillip Todd – Graduation Specialist, School of Alternatives
2. Barton, Jimmy – Custodian, Smoky Mountain High School

**Employee Transfers: Requiring Action:**

1. Hawkins, Madysen – From EC Teacher Assistant and Student Driver at Scotts Creek Elementary School to EC Teacher Assistant at Fairview Elementary School
2. Frizzell, Carla – From EC Teacher Assistant at Smoky Mountain High School to Teacher Assistant at Blue Ridge School
3. Pendergast, Stephanie – From EC Teacher at Smoky Mountain High School to EC Teacher at Fairview Elementary School
4. Raming, Caryn – From EC Teacher Assistant at Smoky Mountain High School to Teacher Assistant at Smokey Mountain Elementary School

**Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:**

1. Dotson, Emily – Head Coach Softball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – New Non-Staff
  2. Gibson, Demetrius – Assistant Coach Baseball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – Returning Staff
  3. Gribble, Corina – Head Coach Junior Varsity Women’s Soccer, Smoky Mountain High School – Returning Staff
  4. Huffman, Michael – Head Coach District Middle School Softball, District-wide – New Non-Staff
  5. Moon, Tonya – Assistant Coach Softball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – Returning Staff
- Pollack, Brad – Head Coach Baseball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – Returning Staff

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is February 26, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at Jackson County Early College, 404 College Drive, Sylva, North Carolina.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objection, Chairperson Ali Laird-Large adjourned the meeting at 7:48 p.m.

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Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

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Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Secretary