

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

November 19, 2019

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 19, 2019, at the Board of Education Administrative Office Board Room, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Alison Laird Large, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Cooper, Vice-Chair  
Wes Jamison  
Margaret McRae  
Abigail Clayton

Also present were Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources; John Henning, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Alison Laird Large called the business meeting to order.

Mrs. Laird Large led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Dr. Elliott presented the Jackson County Arts Council with a certificate of Appreciation for their continued support of Jackson County Public Schools arts, history and literature programs.

**OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**CONSENT ACTION AGENDA**

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

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 22, 2019.

## INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Elliott reported on the following:

1. Dr. Elliott announced that Evelyn Graning, Principal SMHS, Eleanor Macaulay, Principal FES, Melanie Jacobs, Principal JCEC, and Kathryn Kantz, Principal CVES, received State Accountability Bonuses for 2018-2019 for graduation and growth at their respective schools.
2. Dr. Elliott attended the regional visit at the Jackson Community School from the state Teacher of the Year committee. Dawn Gilchrist, JCPS TOY has been named as one of two finalists for the Western Region.
3. Dr. Elliott announced that the SMHS Mustangs football team are the 2019-2020 Conference Champions.
4. Evelyn Graning, SMHS Principal, has been invited to be a panelist at WRESA.
5. Dr. Elliott attended the New Century Scholars induction ceremony on Monday, Nov. 18 and said that this was the largest group of inductees.
6. Dr. Elliott informed the board that we still do not have an approved state budget. She said that they continue to pass mini bills and that JCPS is continuing to operate on the approved interim budget.
7. Dr. Elliott received a letter from the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards that JCPS is being named a National Board Accomplished District. Accomplished District. 49 teachers have attained National Board certification.
8. Dr. Elliott presented certificates from DPI for graduation and exceeding and expected growth to the Principals from JCEC, for 100% graduation rate and achieving expected academic growth; BREC, for achieving a 95.7% graduation rate; FES for exceeding academic progress; SMHS, for exceeding academic growth; CVES, for achieving expected academic progress; JCS, for achieving expected academic progress; and SCES, for achieving expected academic progress for 2018-2019.
9. Dr. Elliott announced that Eleanor Macaulay has been named to the State Board Literary Taskforce related to early reading instruction and teacher preparation.

- B. **Agenda Item:** Audited Financial Statements for 2018-2019  
**Presenter:** Mike Wike, Anderson, Wike & Smith PLLC

Mr. Wike presented the board with the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements with a unmodified clean audit report.

- C. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary  
**Presenter:** Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

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

## ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Resolution Urging the State to Take Action to Remit Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Funds

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

Dr. Elliott presented the board with a resolution urging the State to take action to remit civil penalty and forfeiture funds and asked for board approval.

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Resolution Urging the State to Take Action to Remit Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Funds.*

**B. Agenda Item:** Field Trips

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

1. Jackson County Early College, Grade 11 - 12, Washington D.C., Oct. 13 to 16, 2020, TT 6297.
2. Scotts Creek Elementary School, Grade 8 - Outerbanks, April 28, 2020 to May 1, 2020, TT6159.

Dr. Elliott reviewed the above listed Field Trips and asked for board approval.

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

**C. Agenda Item:** Superintendent Recommendation for Low Performing Schools

**Presenter:** Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the second reading of the Superintendent Recommendation for Low Performing Schools and asked for board approval.

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approved the Superintendent Recommendation for Low Performing Schools.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

*The board unanimously approved a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper 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 Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.*

**OPEN SESSION**

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

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of October 22, 2019.

## PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Elliott. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

### **Employee Recommendations:**

1. Brooks, Bridgette – Tutor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
2. Crawford, Nancy – Substitute Bus Driver, Fairview Elementary School
3. Dotson, Woody – Transportation Coordinator, Bus Garage
4. Eyler, James – Activity Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
5. Francis, Josh – Transportation Director, Bus Garage
6. Jamison, Charity – Tutor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
7. Mathis, Donna – Teacher Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
8. Medford, Julia – Teacher, Scotts Creek Elementary School
9. Morris, Ron – School Nutrition Substitute, Smoky Mountain High School
10. Ratcliffe, Nicholas – Technology Technician III, Central Office
11. Schultz, Deborah – Part-time Custodian, Smoky Mountain High School
12. Shehan, Kylea Anne – Afterschool Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School

### **Employee Resignations:**

1. Arrington, Brandon – Custodian and Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
2. Gaddis, Leigh MaShon – Afterschool Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
3. Hyatt, Steven – Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
4. Kirsch, Seth – Bus Driver and Custodian, Smoky Mountain High School

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

1. Buchanan, Wendy – Head Coach Cheer, Fairview Elementary School – New Non-Staff
2. Cody, Stephen Jeremy – Head Coach Boys Basketball, Fairview Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
3. Danner, Shane – Assistant Coach Girls Basketball, Fairview Elementary School – New Non-Staff
4. Dean, Zoey – Assistant Coach Cheer, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – New Non-Staff
5. Dietz, Mary – Head Coach Junior Varsity Softball, Smoky Mountain High School – New Non-Staff
6. Friesen, Cassandra – Head Coach Soccer, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School – New Staff
7. Gentry, Logan – Head Coach Swim, Smoky Mountain High School – Returning Non-Staff
8. Haney, Dean – Assistant Coach Swim, Smoky Mountain High School – Returning Non-Staff

9. Holden, Josh – Assistant Coach Varsity Boys Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College – New Non-Staff
10. Hoyle, Jason – Head Coach Girls Basketball, Fairview Elementary School – New Non-Staff
11. Lequire, Jamie – Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, Fairview Elementary School – Returning Non-Staff
12. Manka, Haley – Head Coach Cheer, Fairview Elementary School – New Non-Staff
13. Matthews, Rachel – Assistant Coach Varsity Softball, Smoky Mountain High School – Returning Non-Staff
14. Mull, Jim – Head Coach Middle School Boys Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Non-Staff
15. Murphy, Ronda – Assistant Coach Cheer, Scotts Creek Elementary School – Returning Staff
16. Naegler, Charae – Assistant Coach Cheer, Fairview Elementary School – New Staff
17. O’Berry, James – Head Coach Middle School Girls Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Non-Staff
18. O’Berry, Robyn - Assistant Coach Middle School Girls Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Non-Staff
19. Phillips, Kevin - Assistant Coach Middle School Boys Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College – Returning Non-Staff
20. Porter, William - Assistant Coach Boys Basketball, Scotts Creek Elementary School – New Staff
21. Stewart, Aaron Heath – Assistant Coach Wrestling, Smoky Mountain High School – New Non-Staff

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is December 16, 2019, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina.**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objection, Chairperson Alison Laird Large adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

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Alison Laird Large, Chairperson

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Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Secretary