

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

July 28, 2020

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, July 28, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., in Sylva, North Carolina. Due to N.C. Governors Executive Order 121, the meeting was conducted using video and telephone conferencing to limit the number of people present for the meeting. The following members were present via telephone and/or online platform:

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson
Margaret McRae

The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Vice-Chair
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton
John Henning, School Board Attorney

Also present were Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Kevin Bailey, Personnel Director; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; 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.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and Mr. Wes Jamison were sworn in as re-elected members of the Jackson County Board of Education for a four-year term ending June 30, 2024, by Mr. John Henning, JCPS Board Attorney.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Board Attorney, John Henning instructed the board members on the procedures for the election of Board of Education officers. Mr. Henning informed the board that the terms for the chair and vice-chair are for a two-year period. The election of officers will take place at the regularly scheduled July meeting of the board on even numbered years corresponding with the non-partisan elections held at the time of the May primary. There being no objection, Mrs. Laird-Large voted via affirmation on the telephone.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board unanimously voted to re-elect Mrs. Ali Laird-Large as board chair until the organizational meeting following the next school board election in 2022.*

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to re-elect Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper as vice chair until the organizational meeting following the next school board election in 2022.*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shane Danner, Dolphus Brown, Dennis Proffitt, and Dr. John Edwards, spoke in support of a proposal for the establishment of an elective course of Bible study to be added to the JCPS curriculum. They shared a 1995 Christian Heritage Week proclamation by the Governor of the State of North Carolina. The proclamation outlined the importance of children learning the complete history of our nation, including the historical Christian Heritage of our nation to the present date, and stated that this would be accomplished through these studies. They asked that the board consider adding this elective course during the normal school day, to be taught by local pastors. They thanked Dr. Elliott and the board for allowing them the opportunity to be heard.

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 June 23, 2020.

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

- B. Open Session Minutes of Special-called Meeting of July 7, 2020.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Elliott reported on the following:

1. JCPS directors are doing a great job getting grant funding, both Federal and State allotted and allocated. The E-rate, McKinney Vento, Exceptional Children, Indian Education, CTE, Title I, and other Federal Programs are very proactive. She thanked the directors in charge of these programs.
2. Dr. Elliott congratulated the following staff:
 - JCPS Principal of the Year, Eleanor Macaulay – Dr. Elliott stated the Eleanor will represent JCPS very well at the regional level. She added that the growth Fairview Elementary School has experienced with her leadership is phenomenal.

- JCPS Teacher of the Year, Wanda Crisp, PreK Teacher from Blue Ridge School. Ms. Crisp will advocate for all students- especially PreK at the Western Region Interview.
 - JCPS Support Employee of the year is Ashley Taylor, Student Support Services Department. Ashley does a wonderful job in assisting students with needs from school supplies to shoes and toiletries. JCPS is grateful for Ashley and for our community, civic and Faith-Based partnerships that support our students.
3. Dr. Elliott said that in this Pandemic called COVID -19 we have pulled together as a community to help each other. It is important to stay focused on the work of the heart, as she calls it. We must take care of our students and each other. She is very proud of JCPS in that we have put children first through this crisis. Dr. Elliott shared that tonight the Board faces difficult decisions that will have to balance health and safety along-side of academics and the economics of the families and the region. Their task is a heavy one. She stated that she hopes everyone will join her in supporting the board as they make this very important decision for the students concerning Re-Entry for 20-21 school year.

Dr. Elliott closed her remarks with the following:

Everyday Mantras for Mindfulness

- Today I plant the seeds for the life I long to live.
- I am open and willing to flow with life’s changes.
- I build a space of calm and clarity all around me.
- My creativity is precious and unique.
- One activity at a time; there is no need to rush.
- No one can distract me from this moment but me.
- I am supported in my work and goals.
- Today, I will see the world with enthusiasm and curiosity.
- My breath is an entryway to a place of inner calm.
- I am capable of small positive changes.
- Balance in all things brings peace and contentment.
- Today, I will create something new.
- My mind longs for new information and growth.
- Acts of kindness ripple through the world.
- My compassion does not go unnoticed.
- Time is never wasted when I am fully present.
- Today, I will step outside my comfort zone.
- Setting goals for the future gives me direction in the present.
- My five senses are a doorway to the present moment.
- I will heal by connecting with others.
- I am a constant work in progress, and that is okay.

B. Agenda Item: Universal Breakfast and Meal Application Process

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented information about the Universal Breakfast program, Summer Food Services, Reduced Priced Lunches, and the online Meal Application process.

C. Agenda Item: MOA with Appalachian State University – College Advising Corps.

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented information about the Memorandum of Agreement with Appalachian State University – College Advising Corps.

D. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of July 28, 2020.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers to the Capital Outlay Fund.

***Action:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments and transfers to the Capital Outlay Fund.*

B. Agenda Item: Budget Resolution Format Change Request

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented a request to change the format of the JCPS Budget Resolution and asked for board approval.

***Action:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the change in format for the JCPS Budget Resolution.*

C. Agenda Item: Alternative Accountability Model Option B

Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Testing and Accountability Director

Mr. Holt presented the Alternative Accountability Model Option B 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 Consolidated Federal Programs Application.*

D. Agenda Item: Consolidated Federal Programs Application

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Elementary Curriculum Director

Mrs. Dills presented the Consolidated Federal Programs Application 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 Consolidated Federal Programs Application.*

E. Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding with Head Start Program

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Elementary Curriculum Director

Mrs. Dills reviewed the MOU with Mountain Projects – Head Start Program and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU with Mountain Projects – Head Start Program.*

F. Agenda Item: Purchase of iPads for K-3 Students

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer and Laura Dills, Elementary Curriculum Director

Mr. Jackson reviewed the bids for the purchase of iPads for K-3 students and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of iPads for K-3 Students.*

G. Agenda Item: Microsoft Licensing Agreement renewal

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson reviewed the Microsoft Licensing Agreement renewal and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the Microsoft Licensing Agreement renewal.*

H. Agenda Item: Teacher Laptop Computer purchase approval

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr Jackson reviewed the bids for the purchase of Teacher Laptop Computers 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 purchase of Teacher Laptop Computers.*

I. Agenda Item: Low Wealth Consortium HotSpot Purchase Approval

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

J. Mr. Jackson reviewed the Low Wealth Consortium HotSpot Purchase and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Low Wealth Consortium HotSpots.*

K. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Superintendent
Policy Suspension

1. Graduation Requirements (3460)
2. Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy (4400)
3. Foreign Exchange Student Program (3630/4160)

Policy Updates Rescind:

1. Prohibition Against Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying (1710/4021/7230)
2. Discrimination, Harassment, and Bullying Complaint Procedure (1720/4015/7225)

Policy Updates (NEW):

1. Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (1710/4020/7230)
2. Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex (1720/4030/7235)
3. Title IX Sexual Harassment – Prohibited Conduct and Reporting Process (1725/4035/7326)
4. Title IX Sexual Harassment – Definitions (1725/4035/7236-R)
5. Title IX Sexual Harassment (1726/4036/7237)
6. Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disabilities (1730/4022/7231)
7. Staff-Student Relations (4040/7310)
8. Bullying and Harassing Behavior Prohibited (4329/7311)
9. Assaults, and Threats (4331)
10. School Level Investigations (4340)
11. Discrimination and Harassment in the Workplace (7232)

Dr. Elliott reviewed the above listed policy suspensions, updates and new policies 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 above listed policy suspensions, updates and new policies.*

L. Agenda Item: Jackson County Public Schools Updated Re-entry Plan

Presenter: Mr. Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent and Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer.

Mr. Buchanan and Mrs. Dills reviewed the updated JCPS Re-entry plan 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 JCPS Updated Re-entry Plan.*

CLOSED SESSION

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

OPEN SESSION

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:*

Administrator Contract Renewal:

1. Lunsford, Angela

Employee Recommendations:

1. Bassett, Scott – Substitute Bus Driver, CVES and SMHS
2. Boaz, Brittany – EC Teacher, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
3. Coggins, Tina – ESY School Nutrition Manager, Blue Ridge School
4. Cope, Lisa – ESY School Nutrition Manager, SMES
5. Cope, Mary Jo – Teacher, Jackson County Early College
6. Fox, Amber – Instructional Coach, Scotts Creek Elementary School
7. Frizzell, Karla – ESY School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
8. Grasty, Ali – ESY School Nutrition Manager, Smoky Mountain High School
9. Greene, Heather – Media Specialist, Fairview Elementary School
10. Hines, Millie – Payroll Specialist, Central Office
11. Hoyle, Janice – ESY School Nutrition Manager, SMHS
12. Jones, Krista – Teacher, SCES
13. Kostak, Abigail – Teacher, CVES
14. Lee, Carol – Assistant Principal, Smoky Mountain High School
15. McCoy, Susan – ESY School Nutrition Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
16. McPherson, Adrienne – EC Teacher, CVES
17. Mercier, Anna Rae – Teacher, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
18. Parris, Judy – ESY School Nutrition Manager, SMHS
19. Pendergast, Brandon – Principal, Blue Ridge Early College
20. Phillips, Trina – Teacher, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
21. Powell, Daniel Brady – Part time Custodian and Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
22. Roper, Becky – ESY School Nutrition Manager, CVES
23. Stewart, Jaime – EC Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
24. Tipton, Dr. Tony – Interim Superintendent, Central Office
25. Trantham, Hailey – School Nurse, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Ammons, Stephanie – Teacher, CVES
2. Brooks, Bridgette – Teacher, SMES
3. Costa, Leslie – Tutor, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
4. Geary, Saskia – EC Teacher, Jackson Community School
5. Harris, Whitney – Teacher, CVES
6. Jones, Kim – Bookkeeper, Smoky Mountain High School
7. Kokot, Dustin – PE Teacher Assistant and Custodian, Fairview Elementary School
8. Littlefield, Aaron – Teacher, Blue Ridge Early College
9. Morris, Elizabeth – EC Teacher Assistant, Blue Ridge School
10. Young, Garner Cole – EC Teacher Assistant, Jackson Community School

Employee Retirements:

1. Buchanan, Shirley – Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
2. Jones, Tamara – Custodian and Bus Driver, Scotts Creek Elementary School

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Ashe, Jimmy – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
2. Boone, Jerrod – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Staff
3. Brindley, Ricky – Head Coach Football, SMHS – Returning Staff
4. Brown, Dolphus – Head Coach District Men’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
5. Brown, Stephen – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Staff
6. Capps, Zeb – Head Coach JV Football, SMHS – Returning Staff
7. Carnes, Scotti – Head Coach Fall Varsity Cheer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
8. Chambers, Angela – Assistant Coach Varsity Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff
9. Dengler, Ty – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Staff
10. Dezarn, Megan – Head Coach Varsity Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff
11. Doolin, Ashley – Head Coach Girls Tennis, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
12. Elkins, Brittany – Assistant Coach Varsity Boys Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
13. Eyler, James – Assistant Coach Girls Tennis, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
14. Fowler, Carlton – Head Coach JV Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
15. Fowler, Carlton – Head Coach Varsity Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
16. Fowler, Cindy – Assistant Coach Varsity Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
17. Fowler, Cindy – Assistant Coach JV Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
18. Frizzell, Nathan – Head Coach Boys Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Staff
19. Hill, Melissa – Head Coach JV Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff
20. Jones, Garrett – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
21. Larch, Catherine – Assistant Coach Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
22. Lester, Brittany – Volunteer Coach Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Staff
23. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Boys Golf, BREC – Returning Staff
24. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Boys Cross Country, BREC – Returning Staff
25. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Girls Basketball, BREC - Returning Staff
26. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Girls Cross Country, BREC - Returning Staff
27. Melvin, Jason – Head Coach Women’s Golf, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
28. Moody, Madison – Head Coach Fall JV Cheer, SMHS – Returning Staff
29. Moody, Tony – Head Coach Middle School Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
30. Orr, Kelli – Assistant Coach Fall Varsity Cheer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
31. Pressler, Nick – Head Coach Varsity Boys Soccer, BREC - Returning Staff
32. Pressley, David – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
33. Provost, Michelle – Head Coach Cross Country, SMHS - Returning Staff
34. Quinn, Tony – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
35. Reddin, Colby – Head Coach JV Men’s Soccer, SMHS - Returning Staff
36. Reece, Elijah – Volunteer Coach Middle and High School Basketball, BREC - Returning Staff
37. Roberson, Lane – Assistant Coach Middle School Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff

38. Roberson, Mark – Assistant Coach Middle School Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
39. Rosario, Jesus – Assistant Coach JV Men’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
40. Santoyo, Jesus – Assistant Coach Men’s District Soccer, SMHS - Returning Staff
41. Scifers, Jonathan – Volunteer Coach Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
42. Shuler, Pam – Head Coach Girls Cross Country, SMHS - Returning Staff
43. Steinel, Ashley – Assistant Coach Varsity Girls Basketball, BREC - Returning Staff
44. Steinel, Ashley – Head Coach Middle School Volleyball, BREC - Returning Staff
45. Williams, Shane – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS - Returning Staff

A topic related to real property, which is approved for Closed Session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (5), was discussed during Closed Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Board of Education will hold a Special-Called Meeting, using video and telephone conferencing, to discuss athletics and personnel on Tuesday, August 4, 2020, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is August 25, 2020, 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 11:30 p.m.

Alison Laird Large, Chairperson

Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Secretary