

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

October 27, 2020

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, October 27, 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

The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Vice-Chair
Margaret McRae
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton
Chris Campbell, School Board Attorney

Also present were Dr. Tony Tipton, Interim 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.

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

Annie McCord Wilson spoke to the board concerning retiring the Cullowhee Valley Elementary School Rebel Mascot. She stated that she feels the current mascot is controversial and divisive and urged the board to retire the Colonel and allow the students to pick a new more inclusive mascot.

Emily E. Virtue, Ph.D. spoke to the board concerning the Cullowhee Valley Elementary School Mascot. She stated that the present Colonel Rebel Mascot is non-inclusive and is not an image of pride, it is a symbol of power and divisiveness. Ms. Virtue stated that they have a petition signed by more than 500 people urging the board to retire the rebel and allow the students to select a new mascot.

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 September 22, 2020.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report
Presenter: Dr. Tony Tipton, Interim Superintendent

Dr. Tipton reported on the following:

Smokey Mountain Elementary School was closed for in-person instruction and moved to remote learning, due to an abundance of caution following a small number of COVID 19 cases. This decision was due to wait time for test results, limited substitute teachers available and decreased staff members in self-isolation due to exposure. JCPS has been open to the extent allowed. Dr. Tipton urged everyone to continue wearing face masks, practice social distancing and hand washing. He stated that in our community, so it is in our schools.

- B. **Agenda Item:** Slow COVIDNC Exposure Notification App
Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan provided information to the board about the Slow COVIDNC Exposure Notification App that is available to all students in Jackson County. This non-mandatory app will help track COVID by showing the user if they have been in close contact with someone that has tested positive for the virus. He stated that JCPS will send out additional information about the program and encouraged the high school students to download the app.

- C. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent Recommendation for Low Performing Schools
Presenter: Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources

Dr. Bailey updated the board on district level support that is being provided to the three low performing schools; Blue Ridge School, Blue Ridge Early College and Smokey Mountain Elementary School, to increase student achievement and growth.

- D. **Agenda Item:** Athletic Update
Presenter: Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources

Dr. Bailey updated the board on JCPS 2020-2021 winter athletics. He said that JCPS will provide family members with tickets to sporting events based on attendance limits set by the Governors' office. JCPS will provide live streaming of sporting events, free of charge, due to these limitations. Additional spectators will be permitted if attendance limits are increased, but free live streaming will continue regardless.

- E. **Agenda Item:** School Mental Health Update
Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke updated the board on school mental health programs in JCPS. She said that a district School Mental Health Team has been developed to create a Local School Mental Health Improvement Plan, that will include a mental health training program, a referral/treatment/re-entry plan, and a suicide risk protocol. Mrs. Doppke said that JCPS will again partner with HIGHTS to provide mental health services during the school day. She shared information about a change to the Meridian Behavioral Services, that will provide an out-patient plus model to serve more students across the district. JCPS will support an in-house day treatment program with a full-time counselor, teacher and two teacher assistants, with the primary goal of supporting students.

F. Agenda Item: Extended Technical Support Hours

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson informed the board that the JCPS technology department is now offering extended tech support hours to assist students with remote learning Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. The call center will be staffed by teachers and technology staff.

G. Agenda Item: Audited Financial Statements 2019-2020

Presenter: Mr. Mike Wike, CPA, Anderson, Smith and Wike, PLLC

Mr. Wike presented the Audited Financial Statements for 2019-2020 and offered a clean report for overall financial operations, controls and compliance, federal, and state fund controls.

H. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary for September 2020.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the board with budget amendments and transfers to the Federal Grants Fund, State Public School Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund 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 budget amendments and transfers to the Federal Grants Funds, State Public School Funds and Other Specific Revenue Funds.*

B. Agenda Item: District and School Improvement Plans

Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Assessments

Mr. Holt presented the district and school improvements plans for 2020-2021 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 district and school improvement plans.*

C. **Agenda Item:** Purchase of iPad Charging Devices

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented information and bids for the purchase of iPad Charging Devices from Bretford PureCharge, for use in the classrooms 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 Bertford PureCharge iPad charging cabinets.*

D. **Agenda Item:** Purchase Student Chromebook Computers

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented bids for the purchase of Student Chromebook Computers from Virtucom 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 Student Chromebook Computers from Virtucom.*

E. **Agenda Item:** Occupational Therapy Contract Approval

Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented a service agreement for Enable My Child, LTD Occupational Therapy Services, which is needed due to a leave of absence by the current OT and asked for board approval subject to a final legal review.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the Occupational Therapy Contract with Enable My Child, subject to final legal review.*

F. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding Southwestern Child Development Center
Scotts Creek Afterschool Programs

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Elementary Curriculum Director

Mrs. Dills presented a Memorandum of Understanding between Southwestern Child Development Center to provide an Afterschool Program at Scotts Creek Elementary School.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU with Southwestern Child Development Center to provide and Afterschool Program at Scotts Creek Elementary School.*

G. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates

Presenter: Mr. Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

1. Governing Principle – Parental Involvement (1300)
2. Parental Involvement (1310/4002)
3. School Safety (1510/4200/7270)

4. Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law (1710/4020/7230)
5. Code of Ethics for School Board Members (2120)
6. Board Member Conflict of Interest (2121)
7. Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (3000)
8. Online Instruction (3102)
9. Testing and Assessment Program (3410)
10. Attendance (4400)

Mr. Buchanan presented proposed changes to the above listed 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 policy updates listed above.*

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 Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 28, 2020.
- B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of September 22, 2020.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

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

Employee Recommendations:

1. Accardo, Nicholas – AM Bus Monitor, BREC
2. Algeo, Melissa – Teacher, CVES
3. Ammons, Matthew – Custodian, FES
4. Bishop, Johnnie Nell – Temporary Custodial Hours, CVES
5. Bishop, Samantha – Evening Remote Support – District-wide
6. Bollinger, Anthony – Temporary Technology Technician I, Central Office
7. Bonen-Clark, Michael – Bus Monitor, CVES
8. Boone, Rebekah – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES

9. Brown, Tabitha – Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
10. Bryson, Kim – Sanitation, SMHS
11. Buchanan, Becky – Student Transportation, SMHS
12. Edwards, Christian – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
13. Gentry, Julie – Sanitation, SMHS
14. Haggard, Linda – Sanitation, SMHS
15. Hallman, Sabrina – Student Transportation, SMHS
16. Huston, Madilyn – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
17. Lavezzo, Olivia – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
18. Lewis, Taylor – Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
19. Maney, Graham – Technology Technician III, Central Office
20. Manring, Rebecca – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
21. Martin, Kirstyn – Evening Remote Support, District-wide
22. Matthews, Brooke – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
23. McFalls, Nicole – PE Safety Assistant, FES
24. McMahan, Patricia – Temporary Custodial Hours, CVES
25. Medford, Taylor – Activity Bus Driver for LEAP, CVES
26. Mendez, Daira – Part-time ESL Tutor, SMHS and SCES
27. Montieth, Jennifer – Instructional Support Assistant, SMES
28. Moses, Kathryn – Jumpstart Afterschool Tutoring Bus Driver, SCES
29. Moss, Keagan – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
30. Myers, Gail – Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
31. Myers, Sarah – Sanitation, SMHS
32. Nicholson, Jacob – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
33. Parsons, Stephen – Substitute Bus Driver, SCES
34. Plemmons, Shauna – Tutor, SMES
35. Pollack, Brad – LEAP Bus Driver, CVES
36. Pollack, Brad - Jumpstart Afterschool Tutoring Bus Driver, CVES
37. Pruett, Tonya – Evening Remote Support, District-wide
38. Reep, Madison – Afterschool Assistant, FES
39. Ridley, Rebekah – Custodial Worker, SCES
40. Robinson, Haley – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
41. Ruscheinski, Jenna – Interim TA, SMES
42. Sessoms, Todd – Student Transportation, SMHS
43. Sessoms, Todd – Evening Remote Support, District-wide
44. Taylor, Mike – Custodian, SMHS
45. Upchurch, Rachel – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
46. Vanderheide, Ashley – Afterschool Assistant, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Davis, Trisha – Temporary CNA, SCES
2. Galloway, Kaileigh – Bus Driver, SMHS
3. Massingale, Michelle – Teacher, FES
4. Mullen, Kimberly – EC TA, SMHS
5. Scherman, Amy – Bus Driver, FES
6. Smith, Susan – EC TA, BRS
7. Villanueva, Berenice – School Nutrition Assistant and Custodian, CVES

Staff, Non-Staff, and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Boone, Jerrod – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Staff
2. Brown, Megan – Head Coach District Middle School Volleyball, SMHS, New Staff
3. Capps, Zeb – Head Coach JV Men’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Staff
4. Day, Casey – Assistant Coach JV Volleyball, SMHS, Returning Non-Staff
5. Dunford, Ollin – Head Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Staff
6. Ellsworth, Marissa – Assistant Coach JV Women’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Non-Staff
7. Gentry, Logan – Head Coach Swim, SMHS, Returning Non-Staff
8. Lehman, Reanna – Head Coach District Middle School Women’s Basketball, SMHS, New Non-Staff
9. Melvin, Casey – Head Coach District Middle School Men’s Basketball, SMHS, New Non-Staff
10. Melvin, Jason – Head Coach JV Women’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Non-Staff
11. Mulligan, Tyler – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Staff
12. Mulligan, Tyler – Assistant Coach District Middle School Cross Country, SMHS, Returning Staff
13. Parsons, Stephen – Assistant Coach JV Men’s Basketball, SMHS, Returning Staff
14. Phillips, Adam – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, SMHS Returning Staff
15. Raleigh, Emma – Assistant Coach District Middle School Volleyball, SMHS, New Non-Staff
16. Stephens, Devon – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS, Returning Non-Staff

Special Request – Leave of Absence:

1. Taylor, Tracy – ESL Tutor, SMHS and SCES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is November 17, 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 8:05 p.m.

Alison Laird Large, Chairperson

Dr. Tony Tipton, Secretary