

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

March 23, 2021

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 23, 2021, at the Board of Education Administrative Office Board Room, 398 Hospital Road, 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:

Margaret McRae

The following members were present:

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

Also present were Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent; Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources; Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; Chris Campbell, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Board 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 Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

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

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 23, 2020.

INFORMATION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** JCPS moving to Plan A on April 5, 2021

Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan updated the board on JCPS moving to Plan A on April 5, 2021. He said that the JCPS dashboard for COVID-19 numbers were at zero across the board. Plans are underway for students to return for face-to-face learning four days per week, with Wednesdays remaining remote instruction only beginning April 5, 2021. In the case of a COVID outbreak, closures will be determined on a case-by-case basis, if needed.

B. **Agenda Item:** Update on Fall 2021 Planning

Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan updated the board on Fall 2021 Planning that includes providing 5 days a week, 5 hours per day of face-to-face instruction for all students unless remote instruction is medically required. Remote instruction will be provided for students with a clinical diagnosis who are considered medically fragile, need 504 accommodations, or are homebound due to a medical diagnosis. The Fall 2021 Plan will be presented at the April board meeting.

C. **Agenda Item:** ESS Update

Presenter: Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources

Dr. Bailey updated the board on implementation of ESS Substitute Services. He said that ESS has provided excellent quality of services with a 95% fill rate for teacher substitute needs since the implementation of the agreement on March 1st.

D. **Agenda Item:** ESSR II Update

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker updated the board on the ESSR II supplemental funds that were received on December 27, 2020, that will expire on September 30, 2023. She said that JCPS received additional ESSR III funds on March 1st that will expire September 2024. Laura Dills is monitoring the funds expenditures.

E. **Agenda Item:** Internal Audits

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker updated the board on Internal Audits that have been conducted on all Bank of America P-Card purchases and at all JCPS schools. She said that there have been no significant findings and thanked all the staff for their hard work to make these programs successful.

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

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary for March 2021.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Office

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

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

B. Agenda Item: 2021 – 2022 School Calendar Approval

Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the 2021-2022 School Calendar 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 2021-2022 School Calendar.*

C. Agenda Item: Activity Bus Purchase

Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent for Josh Francis, Director of Transportation

Mr. Buchanan presented the quote to purchase a 66 Passenger Activity Bus 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 a 66 Passenger Activity Bus.*

D. Agenda Item: Stertil-Koni School Bus Lift Purchase

Presenter: Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent for Josh Francis, Director of Transportation

Mr. Buchanan presented the quote to purchase a Stertil-Koni School Bus Lift for the Transportation Department 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 a Stertil-Koni School Bus Lift.*

E. Agenda Item: Innovative Partnership Grant for Jackson Community School

Presenter: Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the Innovative Partnership Grant application for Jackson Community School 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 Innovative Partnership Grant application.*

- F. **Agenda Item:** EC Laptop Purchase
Presenter: Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson asked for board approval to purchase 40 Laptop Computers for the Student Support Services – Exceptional Children Department.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of 40 Laptop Computers for Student Support Services.*

- G. **Agenda Item:** Summer Academic Program
Presenter: Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented plans for the JCPS Summer Academic 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 2021 Summer Academic Program.*

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 Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

- H. **Agenda Item:** Blue Ridge School and Early College Teacher Signing Bonus
Presenter: Elizabeth Cooper, Vice Chairperson

Mrs. Cooper made a motion to authorize a \$1000.00 signing bonus for Blue Ridge School and Early College Teachers and directed administration to develop a retention plan for existing BRS and BREC teachers to be presented at the April board meeting 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 BRS and BREC \$1000.00 Teacher signing bonus and the development of a retention plan for existing teachers.*

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

Employee Recommendations:

1. Bell, Kaitlyn, SSC Temporary Office Support, SMHS
2. Ellenburg, Heather – Substitute Bus Driver, FES
3. Gentry, Julie – Testing Coordinator, SMHS
4. Joyner, Alexandria – After School Worker, CVES
5. Norman, Susan – Temporary Title I Tutor, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Allison, Mary – EC Teacher, CVES
2. Ballentine, Susan – School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
3. Buchanan, Emma – Teacher, SMHS
4. Greenwood, Jane – Bus Driver, FES
5. Kanwischer, Robert – Teacher, SMHS
6. McClellan, Jesame – Teacher, SMES
7. Overstreet, Journey – Teacher Assistant, BRS
8. Phillips, Adam – Head Coach Men’s Basketball, SMHS
9. Piatt, Kennedy – EC Teacher Assistant, SMHS
10. Ploch, Phillip – Technology Technician, Central Office
11. Reddin, Colby – Teacher, SMHS
12. Umphlett, Andrew – Band Director, SMHS

Employee Retirements:

1. Jicha, Elizabeth – School Social Worker, CVES

Employee Separations:

1. Deitz, Jessica – School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
2. Frye, William – Instructional Support Assistant, SMES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Burns, Jennifer – Head Coach Middle School Softball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
2. Elkins, Brittany – Assistant Coach Varsity Girls Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
3. Larch, Catherine – Head Coach Middle School Track, SMHS – Returning Staff
4. Pressler, Nick – Head Coach Varsity Girls Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
5. Robinson, Joey – Head Coach Men’s Track, SMHS – New Staff
6. Sandoval, Jesus – Assistant Coach District Women’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Staff
7. Schenk, Hailey – Assistant Coach JV Softball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
8. Thompson, Robert Mark – Assistant Coach District Baseball, SMHS – Returning Staff
9. West, Keith – Head Coach District Baseball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
10. Winchester, Travis – Assistant Coach Middle School Softball, SMHS – New Non-Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is April 27, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Central Office, Sylva, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Dr. Tony Tipton, Secretary