

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

February 23, 2021

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 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:

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ali Laird-Large called the business meeting to order.

Ali 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

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 January 26, 2021.

On behalf of the Board of Education, Chairperson Ali Laird-Large thanked the parents, students, and staff of Jackson County Public Schools for helping keep the school system open. She said that by following social distancing guidelines, wearing masks, and washing hands frequently, we have been able to avoid closing the schools. She stated that the teachers have overcome and adapted to the new challenges and she is thankful to our community for their help and support.

INFORMATION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Superintendent's Report

Presenter: Dr. Tony Tipton, Interim Superintendent

Dr. Tipton reported on the following:

1. Dr. Tipton thanked Harris Regional Hospital and the Jackson County Health Department for their support providing over half of the JCPS employees with their second COVID-19 vaccination. Dr. Tipton said that this month has been one of the best months as far as new positive cases among our staff and students.
2. Dr. Tipton thanked Dr. Bailey for presenting the annual training in Title IX procedures to the school board members. Administrator Title IX training will be scheduled in the near future.
3. Dr. Tipton congratulated Mr. David Proffitt for receiving several awards in social and digital media for Jackson County Public Schools. David will present additional information about these awards.
4. Dr. Tipton stated that every district in the state is waiting for additional guidance on Senate Bill 37, and he will update the board as information becomes available.
5. Dr. Tipton reported that Ms. Angie Dills wrote and received a Grant in the amount of \$5,000.00 that will be used to purchase outdoor picnic tables for additional social distancing, once the weather turns nice.
6. Dr. Tipton provided the LEA report on the local number of Mental Health Support Personnel as required by House Bill 75 as follows: 3 fulltime School Psychologists, 17 fulltime School Counselors, 6 fulltime School Nurses, and 5.96 fulltime Social Workers. This is an increase of one School Nurse and a slight decrease in Social Workers, due to a mid-year retirement. The district continues to employ 3 Student Support Specialists and 2 Behavior Specialists. Additionally, two new rolls have been added on the district mental health team: Dana Tucker serving as the district's Social Emotional Learning Coordinator, and Steve McRae serving as the Mental Health Coordinator.

B. Agenda Item: Employee Vaccination Update

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

Dr. Bailey updated the board with the results of the JCPS COVID-19 Vaccination Clinics. He said that 313 staff received their first vaccine dose on Jan. 22nd and 310 JCPS staff received their second vaccine on Feb. 19th, which represents approximately 53% of the staff. He added that 60% of JCPS teachers have received both doses of vaccine, and an additional 50 staff have signed up for vaccines when they become available. He thanked the School Board, Harris Regional Hospital, Jackson County Health Department, and Blue Ridge Health for their support of JCPS.

C. **Agenda Item:** Athletics Update

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

Dr. Bailey updated the board JCPS Athletics Programs as follows:

1. BREC Girls' Basketball finished the season with a winning record of 7-6 – third in the conference. Charlotte Sherrill recorded 56 points, SMHS school record, against Nantahala which tied her for 6th place in the NCHSAA WBB record book for single points in a game. Boys finished third in the conference.
2. SMHS Girls' Basketball finished runner up in the Mountain 6 Conference Tournament. Heading into the Championships they had won 6 games in a row, including back-to-back wins vs. Franklin.
3. SMHS successfully completed Volleyball, Cross Country, Swim, and Basketball, with no game cancellations.
4. This week SMHS Football games begin and all home games will be live streamed on YouTube this season at <http://smh.jcpsnc.org/athletics/>.
5. March 1st is the first official day of SMHS Women's Soccer, Softball, Men's and Women's Golf.
6. April 12th is the first official day of Track and Field, Baseball, Women's Tennis, and Wrestling.

D. **Agenda Item:** North Carolina School Public Relations Association Awards Update

Presenter: Mr. David Proffitt, Chief Communications Officer

Mr. Proffitt informed the board that the JCPS Communications Department received 10 awards for excellence in communications from the NC School Public Relations Association at the annual Blue Ribbon Awards Ceremony held on February 5, 2021. The Blue Ribbon Awards are among the association's most prestigious honors. JCPS received awards in three categories: Electronic Media: 6 Gold Awards, 1 Silver Award; Photography: 2 Gold Awards; Digital Media Engagement: 1 Gold Award.

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

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of February 23, 2021.

ACTION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund 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 budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grant Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

- B. Agenda Item:** Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC Audit Contract
Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented the Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC Audit Contract and Audit Engagement Letter for 2021-2022 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 Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC Audit Contract for 2021-2022.*

- C. Agenda Item:** Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees Appointment of Sue Bartlett for unexpired term of Elizabeth Knight 01-21-2021 to 06-30-2023
Presenter: Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Mrs. Laird-Large requested approval for Ms. Sue Bartlett to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Elizabeth Knight to the Southwestern Community College Board of Trustees as the Jackson County Public Schools representative from Jan. 21, 2021 through June 30, 2023.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the appointment of Ms. Sue Bartlett to the SCC Board of Trustees to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Elizabeth Knight from January 21, 2021 through June 30, 2023.*

- D. Agenda Item:** 2022-2023 Calendar Weather Waiver Approval
Presenter: Dr. Kevin Bailey

Dr. Bailey presented the 2022-2023 Calendar Weather Waiver 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 2022-2023 Calendar Weather Waiver.*

- E. Agenda Item:** ESS Southeast, LLC – Substitute Staff Placement Agreement
Presenter: Dr. Kevin Bailey

Dr. Bailey presented the ESS Southeast LLC Substitute Staff Placement Agreement 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 ESS Southeast LLC Substitute Staff Placement Agreement.*

- F. Agenda Item:** Promethean Active Board Purchase Approval
Presenter: Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jeremiah Jackson presented a request to purchase Promethean Active Boards 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 Promethean Active Boards.

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

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 Mr. Buchanan. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:

Employee Recommendations:

1. Callaham, Lorie – After School Assistant, FES
2. Davis, Megan – Bus Driver, SCES
3. Hansen, Debbie – Head Coach MS District Soccer, SMHS
4. Houtzer, Deborah – After School Tutor, BRS
5. Hunter, Kristal – After School Tutor, BRS
6. Mathis, MaKellyn – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
7. Moses, Kathryn – Bus Driver, SMHS
8. Plush, Laura – Tutor, BRS
9. Powell, Daniel Brady – Custodian and Bus Driver, CVES
10. Sloan, Patricia – Student Transportation Driver, CVES
11. Stewart, Jamie – Homebound Instructor, SMHS
12. Watkins, Susan – After School Tutor, BRS
13. Westwood, Nicole – After School Tutor, BRS

Employee Resignations:

1. Flowers, Amber – After School Assistant, CVES
2. Huston, Madily – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
3. Upchurch, Rachel – Instructional Support Assistant TA, FES

Employee Retirements:

1. Rice, Audrey – Receptionist, BRS
2. Stanley, Rhea – Teacher Assistant, FES
3. Wilson, Lisa – EC Teacher Assistant, FES

Employee Separations:

1. Lee, Carol – Assistant Principal, SMHS
2. Waldrop, Erica – Preschool Speech Pathologist, FES

G. Agenda Item: Legal Services with Campbell Shatley LLC

Presenter: Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Mrs. Laird-Large presented the updated rates for legal services with Campbell Shatley LLC 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 continuation of legal services with Campbell Shatley LLC.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is March 23, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., at the Administrative Offices of the Board of Education, Sylva, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Ali Laird-Large adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Dr. Tony Tipton, Secretary