

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

June 22, 2021

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, at 6:00 p.m., 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 Chairperson  
Wes Jamison  
Abigail Clayton

The following members were present via telephone and/or online platform:

Margaret McRae

Also present were Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Dr. Kevin Bailey, Executive Director of Human Resources; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; Ashley Leonard, 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. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

**OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Board Assistant Cora Fields read the following public comment received via email on 06-18-2021:

*Kathleen Borzell - I would like to express my deep concern for introducing/allowing CRT (Critical Race Theory) in our Jackson County public schools. This is a dangerous way to manipulate our children's thinking and their perception of not only others but they themselves!*

**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 May 25, 2021.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report

**Presenter:** Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. Dr. Ayers gave her first report since assuming the position of Superintendent of Jackson County Public School on June 1<sup>st</sup>.
2. Dr. Ayers attended seven promotion and graduation ceremonies at six JCPS schools in four days. She praised the resiliency and diligent work of the staff in preparing for the summer program due to the quick turn-around time of the state mandated hours.
3. The JCPS Summer Program is underway at Blue Ridge School, Fairview Elementary School and Smoky Mountain High School, serving more than 600 students. More than 100 staff members are focusing on core academic areas, while also allowing for physical activities, guest speakers and enrichment hands-on lessons. Dr. Ayers specifically mentioned the following staff for working behind the scenes to organize the summer programs: Jeremiah Jackson, Angie Dills, Josh Francis, Laura Cabe, Laura Dills and Kelly Doppke.
4. Dr. Ayers stated that her goals for JCPS are a return to normal operating routines and the need for increased communication, academic growth, early literacy, early education, and increased programs/services to best serve JCPS students.
5. Dr. Ayers has been meeting with colleagues around the county to promote progress and improvement for our schools and students.
6. Summer athletic workouts and practices are taking place throughout the district, professional development is being offered for staff, plans are being made to welcome students for the fall and JCPS is preparing for the best school year ever.

B. **Agenda Item:** Capital Projects Update

**Presenter:** Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan updated the board on several projects as follows:

1. Blue Ridge School Water Project – The BRS water project is nearing completion. Mr. Buchanan thanked Jackson County staff, Michael Poston, Planning Director, and Don Adams, County Manager, for obtaining the grant to cover the cost of this project and ensuring a timely completion.
2. Safety Upgrades at BRS, FES, SMES and SMHS – Mr. Buchanan informed the board that only one bid was received for the four projects. Per General Statute, JCPS will be required to be repost the project in two weeks. Previously interested parties that did not submit bids have been contacted and have indicated they will rebid by the deadline. Mr. Buchanan informed the board that a recommendation will be made at the July board meeting. He said that the project could be phased in or adapted to fit our parameters if required.

C. **Agenda Item:** Declared Surplus

**Presenter:** Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the following items as declared surplus:

1. Surplus Vehicle 8001 2004 Ford Crown Vic Serial # 2FAFP71W84X116044

**D. Agenda Item:** Audit Update

**Presenter:** Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker informed the board that the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter internal purchase card audits have been completed with no findings. JCPS plans to continue and expand this program in the future.

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

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of June 22, 2021.

**ACTION AGENDA**

**A. Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

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

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

**B. Agenda Item:** Interim Budget Resolution for FY 2021-2022

**Presenter:** Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the board with the Interim Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021-2022 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 Interim Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2021-2022.*

**C. Agenda Item:** Chromebook Purchase through E-Rate

**Presenter:** Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson informed the board of his intention to initiate an RFP for the purchase of additional Chromebooks through e-rate for 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade take-home devices 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 RFP for the purchase of 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade take-home Chromebook devices.*

**D. Agenda Item:** 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summer Mini Grant iPad Purchase Approval

**Presenter:** Mrs. Laura Dills, Executive Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the board with the proposal for the purchase of 198 iPad devices through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summer Mini Grant 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 198 iPad devices through the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Summer Mini Grant.*

**E. Agenda Item:** Alternative School Modified Accountability Model Option B

**Presenter:** Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Accountability

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 Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the Alternative Accountability Model Option B.*

**F. Agenda Item:** Wilson Foundations Professional Development Approval

**Presenter:** Mr. Brent Speckhardt, Director of Professional Development and Teacher Growth

Mr. Speckhardt presented the Wilson Foundations Professional Learning and Teacher Support 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 Wilson Foundations Professional Learning and Teacher Support Plan.*

**G. Agenda Item:** Behavior Support PRC 29 Grant Request

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Director of Student Support Services

Mrs. Doppke presented the board with the Behavior Support PRC 29 Grant request 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 PRC 29 Behavior Support Grant request.*

**H. Agenda Item:** Mental Health Plan Approval

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Director of Student Support Services

Mrs. Doppke presented the board with the District Mental Health Plan for Social Emotional Learning and School Mental Health 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 Mental Health Plan for Social Emotional Learning and School Mental Health.*

**I. Agenda Item:** HVAC Service Agreement for Scotts Creek Elementary School, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, and Smoky Mountain High School

**Presenter:** Jason Watson Director of Operations

Mr. Watson presented the HVAC Service Agreement for Scotts Creek Elementary School, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School and Smoky Mountain High School 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 HVAC Service Agreement for Scotts Creek Elementary School, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School and Smoky Mountain High School.*

- J. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding between JCEC and SCC for 2021-2022  
**Presenter:** Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding between JCEC and SCC for 2021-2021 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 Memorandum of Understanding between JCEC and SCC for 2021-2022.*

- K. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding between BREC and SCC for 2021-2022  
**Presenter:** Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding between BREC and SCC for 2021-2021 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 Memorandum of Understanding between BREC and SCC for 2021-2022.*

- L. **Agenda Item:** Proposed Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2021-2022  
**Presenter:** Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the proposed Board of Education meeting schedule for 2021-2022 and asked for board approval. The schedule includes holding a board meeting at all eight school locations, changing the start time of the meetings to 5:30 p.m., and beginning each meeting with Closed Session and the regular meeting to begin at 6:30 p.m.

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Board of Education meeting schedule for 2021-2022.*

### **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. Abigail Clayton, 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 May 25, 2021.

### **PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA**

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

#### **Employee Recommendations:**

1. Bell, Kaitlyn – Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Assistant, SCES
2. Bell, Stephanie – Teacher, CVES
3. Burchette, Marissa – Teacher, SMES
4. Carlton, Amelia – Teacher, CVES
5. Cleaveland, Lisa – Intervention Specialist, FES
6. Cloer, Debbie – Teacher, SCES
7. Connell, Megan – Teacher, CVES
8. Cook, Haley – Teacher, SMES
9. Cox, Lora – Student Support Specialist, CVES
10. Doll, Victoria – Teacher, SMES
11. Freesman, Jillian Beaumeister – Teacher, CVES
12. Hansell, William – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
13. Hansen, Elizabeth – EC Teacher, BREC
14. Jones, Kennedy – Social Emotional Learning (SEL) Assistant, FES
15. Lambert, Julie – Counselor, CVES
16. Luker, Allison – Data Manager, CVES
17. Manring, Rebecca – Instruction Support Assistant, FES
18. McAbee, Cassie – Intervention Specialist, FES
19. McCue, Gretchen – Teacher, SCES
20. Morris, Kathy Jo – Teacher, JCEC
21. Nytko, Emily – Teacher, CVES
22. Ruscheinski, Jenna – Teacher Assistant, FES
23. Stowe, Stephanie – Teacher, SMHS
24. Taylor, Lora – Teacher, FES
25. Thompson, Audrey Estep – Teacher, CVES
26. Watson, Katlin – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the following recommendations:*

**Summer Program Employee Recommendations:**

1. Adams, RB – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
2. Barnes, Linda – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
3. Bates, April – School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
4. Bean, Chuck – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
5. Clark, Michael Bonan – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, FES
6. Bryson, Amy – Summer Academic Program Bus Monitor, District
7. Bumgarner, Mary – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
8. Callaham, Lorie – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
9. Cash, Emily – Summer Program Teacher, SMHS
10. Coggins, Tina – School Nutrition Cafeteria Manager, BRS
11. Cook, Haley – Summer Program Teacher Assistant, FES
12. Fox, Paula – Summer Program Enrichment Teacher, FES
13. Fox, Rebecca – Summer Program Teacher Assistant, FES
14. Gotay, Maria – Bus Driver, SCES
15. Graham, Paul – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
16. Grasty, Ali – School Nutrition Cafeteria Manager, FES
17. Hack, Samantha – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, BRS
18. Hansen, Elizabeth – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
19. Hawken, Danielle – Summer Program EC Teacher Assistant, FES and SMHS
20. Hornbuckle, Dawn – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
21. Kinsey, Sheila – Summer School Bus Driver, BRS
22. Mathis, Cassandra “Sandy” – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, FES
23. Mathis, Susan – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
24. McCoy, Susan – Summer Custodian, SCES
25. McCoy, Susan – Summer School Nutrition Assistant, FES
26. McGaha, Harold – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
27. Mercer, Heather – Summer School Nutrition Assistant, FES
28. Miller, Ashley – Summer McKinney Vento Support, All Schools
29. Monteith, Brianna – Summer Program Teacher Assistant, FES
30. Moses, Kathryn – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
31. Naegler, Charae – Substitute EC Teacher/Teacher Assistant Summer Programs, FES and SMHS
32. Parris, Judy – School Nutrition Cafeteria Manager, FES
33. Pollack, Brad – Substitute Summer Program Supervisor, FES or BRS
34. Rigdon, Danny – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
35. Robinson, Laura “Kim” – Summer School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
36. Roddy, James – Summer Program Teacher Assistant, FES
37. Shuler, Tiffany – Substitute EC Teacher Assistant Summer Programs, FES and SMHS
38. Taylor, Frank – Summer School Bus Driver, FES
39. Winston, Amy – Summer Academic Program Enrichment Teacher, BRS

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the following resignations:*

**Employee Resignations:**

1. Brown, Abbey – Teacher, CVES

2. Copeland, Heather – EC Teacher, SCES
3. Cunningham, Brittany – Teacher, SMHS
4. Davis, Thomas – EC Teacher Assistant, SMHS
5. Lewis, Taylor – Instructional Support Specialist, CVES
6. McDonald, Madison – Human Resources Coordinator, Central Office
7. Metz, Dr. Traci J. – Student Success Coach, JCS
8. Morgan, Sylvia – Guidance Office Support, SMHS
9. Mulligan, Tyler – EC Teacher, FES
10. Shuler, Pamela – Cross Country Coach, SMHS
11. Stewart, Jamie – EC Teacher, SMHS

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board unanimously approved the following retirements:*

**Employee Retirements:**

1. Bishop, Gladys – Teacher Assistant, SCES

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

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

2. Ledford, Damon – Assistant Coach JV Men’s Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
3. Lehman, Reanna – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, SMHS
4. Mayse, Tim – Head Coach Varsity Girls Basketball, BREC – Returning Staff
5. Stewart, Anna – Assistant Coach JV & Varsity Volleyball, BREC – New Non-Staff
6. Wolfe, Jayce – Assistant Coach JV Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board unanimously approved the following special requests:*

**Special Requests:**

1. Maney, Christy - Teacher, SMES – Leave of Absence
2. Tompkins, Suzanne – Teacher, SMHS – Rescind Retirement Request

**Action:** *Abigail Clayton recused herself from the vote. Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board approved the following recommendation:*

**Employee Recommendation:**

27. Woods, Anna – Instructional Support Assistant, FES

**Action:** *Upon a motion made by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted four to one to approve the following recommendation:*

**Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendation:**

1. Hill, Melissa – Head Coach Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is July 28, 2020, at 5:30 p.m., at Board of Education Administrative Office, using video and telephone conferencing.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objection, Chairperson Alison Laird Large adjourned the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

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Alison Laird Large, Chairperson

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Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary