

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

March 22, 2022

5:45 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, at the Board of Education Administrative Office Board Room, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. 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 Chairperson  
Wes Jamison  
Abigail Clayton

The following member was present via telephone and/or online platform:

Margaret McRae

Also present were Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Teri Walawender, Director of Human Resources; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; Chris Campbell, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Alison Laird Large called the business meeting to order.

**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.*

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

1. Draft Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting on February 22, 2022.

*Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to convene open session.*

**CALL TO ORDER – REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Chairperson Alison Laird Large called the regular business meeting to order.

Students from Scotts Creek Elementary School led the Pledge of Allegiance via video.

### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

### **SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Dr. Ayers presented Certificates of Recognition to the following individuals:

1. For participation in the JCPS Aspiring Leaders Group – Lindsay Button, Reyna Crisp, Cindy Ensley, Kristie McCall, Becca Mulligan, Kathryn Rae and Tracy Watson.
2. Holly Whisnant for her selection to the NCPAPA Accelerated Assistant Principal Program Inaugural Cohort.
3. Mariella Sheppard and Addison Cowan SMHS HOSA Students for State and National Competition awards.
4. Odette Kennedy – For being featured on the WLOS Thanks to Teachers segment of the news.

### **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 Emergency Meeting of February 17, 2022.
- B. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 22, 2022.

### **INFORMATION AGENDA**

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent’s Report  
**Presenter:** Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. We have just completed our third quarter in JCPS and plan to end the final quarter on a strong note! As of today, there are a little less than nine weeks remaining and I am confident we will have a successful conclusion to the school year. In the coming month, we will have spring break. Our staff, students and student-athletes are working hard and deserve a break. Students will not be in school the week of April 11th-15th. It is a welcome time to relax and recharge.
2. Our COVID data looks incredible! As of this afternoon, we have ZERO student cases. We no longer track data around quarantining since the NC Strong Schools Toolkit does not require quarantine with exposures. We have been optional masking since February 22 and have had very few positive cases reported since then.
3. Over the last three weeks, our teaching staff completed the NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey. I am delighted to announce that all NINE JCPS schools have a 100% completion rate. JCPS was second in the western region to achieve 100% completion. Survey results guide school improvement and district planning; this is valuable information.

4. Other exciting news to share is the award of funds for our adapted playgrounds and equipment at CVS, FVS and SMHS. The grant funds, awarded by the Dogwood Health Trust and matched by our County Commissioners, total \$260,000! I could not be more pleased with the progress we are making in ensuring our playgrounds are accessible for all students. These projects will be completed prior to the start of the 2022-2023 school year.
5. Last week, I held the inaugural meeting of the Superintendent's Advisory Panel. This panel consists of school nutrition and transportation staff, custodians, teacher assistants, technology staff, teachers, admin, and counselors. We spent time getting to know each other, reviewing my five district goals, discussing our purpose and ways to problem-solve. Our panel meets quarterly. It is encouraging to hear how this group wants to help our students and colleagues thrive.
6. I am enormously proud of our staff and their efforts to continually improve and enrich the lives of every student. Much of the work that goes into making school "happen" is not measured by a test score. Though our most recent data shows we have room for improvement, one cannot forget that we endured two full years of school during the pandemic. Additionally, we are a public school unit. This means we focus on teaching all students, regardless of their abilities, home support or financial status. We are educators driven to be the best for every student and to continually grow. There are many opportunities for our community to support our schools. Substitute teaching, bus driving, and volunteering are just a few ways JCPS would welcome community support. Taking care of our students and staff is our goal and purpose. It's what we do in JCPS!

**B. Agenda Item: Internet Filter Update**

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

Mr. Jackson informed the board of a change to the Internet Filter option that will be utilized by JCPS. He said that new funding from NCDPA allowed for a more competitive bidding environment and reevaluation of products and services for internet filters. Mr. Jackson informed the board that Linewize offered additional options at no additional cost and a lower overall cost.

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

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

Ms. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of March 22, 2022.

**OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

1. John Edwards – The Bible as History and Morale Law – It was a joy to hear what you all shared especially about the dental health and progress it's making in Jackson County. I feel that everything, even dental health, if we know who the creator is and that we were created, we didn't happen by chance, it will make a difference to our personal health, as well as the health of all people that have teeth, and even those that don't have teeth. History and morale law require that we transmit from one generation to the next, something to be handed down to them. And if we take the bible as history that is very, very accurate and has been checked by many people for its accuracy and if those that say it is not accurate have to eat their hat sometimes, we need to look at that document with a little bit more care and have it open as a thing that can be used by our teachers in our schools, as well as in our classrooms and playgrounds because what impacts

us in our overall life, in every aspect of our life, God and his word, the bible, has something important to tell us and if we dismiss that and don't allow our children and our teachers to get the benefit of that knowledge, we are losers and we might excel in some areas which is good, but it could be a lot better with that.

### **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, 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 Mr. Wes Jamison, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grant Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

**B. Agenda Item:** Review Mask Mandate

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

Dr. Ayers presented the most current COVID-19 data that showed no active cases of COVID for students or staff. Dr. Ayers informed the board that only three counties in North Carolina still require face masks and that Federal legislation no longer requires anyone riding our school buses to wear a face covering.

*Action: Upon a motion by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the continuation of Optional Masking in JCPS buildings.*

**C. Agenda Item:** 2022-2023 School Calendar

**Presenter:** Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the 2022-2023 school calendar 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 2022-2023 School Calendar.*

**D. Agenda Item:** Approval for E-Rate

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

Mr. Jackson presented a request to apply for E-Rate funding 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 application for E-Rate funding.*

**E. Agenda Item:** Summer Academic Program Approval

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

Mr. Holt presented the 2022 Summer Plan for EOG testing that will focus on kindergarten through 8<sup>th</sup> grade 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 Summer Academic Program.*

**F. Agenda Item: Field Trips**

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

1. CVES, Grade 5 – Charlotte Motor Speedway, Concord, NC, 04-04-22, TT7423.
2. SMHS, Grades 9-12 – Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, 04-05-22, TT7462.
3. FES, Grade 7 - Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN 04-06-22, TT7409.
4. CVES, Grade 3 – Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, 04-07-2022, TT7519.
5. FES, Grade 8 – Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN, 04-08-22, TT7412.
6. SCES, Grade 3 – Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, 04-08-2022, TT7533.
7. JCEC, Grade 12 - NASCAR Speed Park, Sevierville, TN, 04-29-22, TT7444.

Dr. Ayers reviewed the above listed field trip 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 above listed field trip.*

**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. Benjamin, Stacy – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
2. Brantley, Eric – Technology Technician I, Central Office
3. Broom, Anita – Bus Driver, SMHS
4. Danouski, Jeffrey – Mental Health Clinician, SMHS
5. Doll, Victoria – Student Transportation Driver, SMES
6. Fahey, Amy – Project ACTIVATE Coach/Clinician, Central Office
7. Fisher, Keari – School Nutrition Assistant, CVES
8. Goranson, Olenda – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
9. Graning, Evelyn – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
10. Mull, Jim – Bus Driver for MS Baseball, BRS
11. Reece, Elijah – Teacher, BREC
12. Richmond, Denise – Part-time Title I Tutor, SCES
13. Rous, Matthew – ESL Tutor, SMHS
14. Sutton, Natalie – LEAP Bus Driver, CVES
15. Sutton, Natalie – Substitute Bus Driver/Field Trip Driver, CVES
16. Tallent, Natasha – Teacher Assistant, SCES
17. Treadway, Mike – Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
18. Varian, Lynn – EC Teacher, SMHS

## **Summer Employment Recommendations:**

1. Algeo, Melissa – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
2. Austin, Kayla – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
3. Ayling, Leigh – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
4. Ayres, Chloe – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
5. Bailey, Douglas – Summer Camp Bus Driver, SCES
6. Barlowe, Rebecca – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
7. Bell, Kaitlyn – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
8. Bell, Tasha – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
9. Benitez-Represa, Evelyn – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
10. Bishop, Samantha – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
11. Bollinger, Amy – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
12. Bramlett, Brienne – Summer Academic Program Substitute Teacher. SCES or BRS
13. Browning, Amy – Summer Academic Program Receptionist, SCES
14. Bryson, Ginger – Summer Academic Program Custodian, BRS
15. Bryson, Kim – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
16. Bullock, Heather – Summer Academic Program Counselor, SCES or BRS
17. Burchette, Marissa – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
18. Cauley, Cleis – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
19. Cauley, Jonathan – Summer Career Accelerator Program Teacher, SCES
20. Cook, Haley – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
21. Crisp, Rayna – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
22. Cunningham, Brittany – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
23. Davis, Janet – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
24. Debord, April – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
25. Derks, Mary – Summer Academic Program Counselor, SCES or BRS
26. Dodson, Kaitlyn – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
27. Drake, Lindsey – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
28. Eckard, Stephanie – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
29. Eden, Zach – Summer Academic Program Administrator, BRS
30. Edmonds, Genia – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
31. Fox, Paula – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
32. Greene, Heather – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
33. Haigler, Shirley – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
34. Hammer, Kelly – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
35. Hansen, Debbie – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
36. Hawken, Danielle – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
37. Helton, Mary Ellen – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
38. Herring, Aimee – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
39. Hill, Janice – Summer Academic Program Nurse/CNA, SCES or BRS
40. Hornbuckle, Dawn – Summer Camp Bus Driver, SCES
41. Houtzer, Deborah – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
42. Howerton, Caleigh – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
43. Johnson, Crystal – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
44. Kabinoff, Beth – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
45. Kinsey, Sheila – Summer Camp Bus Driver, BRS
46. Kostak, Abigail – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
47. Larch, Catherine – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES

48. Laws, Kaylah – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
49. Lunsford, Hannah – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
50. Manring, Rebecca – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
51. Marr, Michelle – Summer Academic Program Administrator, SCES
52. Martin, Hannah – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
53. Martin, Shirley – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
54. Massingale, Whitney – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
55. McCoy, Susan – Summer Academic Program Custodian, SCES or BRS
56. McCue, Gretchen – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
57. McElroy, Craig – Summer Career Accelerator Program Teacher, SMHS
58. McFadden, Kathy – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
59. McGee, Logan – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
60. McMahan, Luisa – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
61. Mercer, Heather – Summer Academic Program Custodian, SCES or BRS
62. Miller, Emma – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
63. Mills, Jordan – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
64. Montesano, Stephani – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
65. Moody-Bumgarner, Mary – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
66. Moody-Bumgarner, Mary – Summer Camp Bus Driver, SCES
67. Moses, Kathryn – Summer Career Accelerator Program Teacher, SCES
68. Moses, Kathryn – Summer Camp Bus Driver, SCES
69. Mull, Karen – Summer Academic Program Receptionist, BRS
70. Myers, Sarah – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
71. Nordmann, Clare – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
72. Norman, Natalie – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
73. Nytko, Emily – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
74. Olson, Christi – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
75. Owen, Tammy – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
76. Painter, Mikaela – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
77. Parsons, Stephen – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
78. Pippio, Michelle – Summer Academic Program Nurse/CNA, SCES or BRS
79. Plemmons, Shauna – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
80. Pol, Lana – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
81. Portale, Daniel – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
82. Reagan, Christy – Summer Academic Program Nurse/CNA, SCES or BRS
83. Reece, Gretchen – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES or BRS
84. Richmond, Denise – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
85. Rockwell, Annette – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
86. Schwalm, Angie – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
87. Shook, Bridgette – Summer Academic Program Custodian, BRS
88. Simmons, Georgeanne – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
89. Simmons, Georgeanne – Summer Camp Bus Driver, SCES
90. Sizemore, Brenda – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
91. Sloan, Trish – Summer Reading Camp Teacher Assistant, SCES
92. Steinel, Ashley – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
93. Stiles, Maria – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
94. Swartzwelder, Katie – Summer Academic Program Teacher, SCES
95. Thompson, Audrey – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES

96. Verrault, Gina – Summer Academic Program Substitute Teacher, SCES or BRS
97. Volk, Amanda – Summer Reading Camp Teacher, SCES
98. Watkins, Rebekkah - Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
99. Watkins, Susan – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS
100. Watson, Katlyn – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
101. West Traci – Summer Career Accelerator Program Planner, SMHS
102. Whisnant-Longnecker, Crystal – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS
103. Woodson, Emeilia – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES or BRS

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

1. Chambers, Angela – Assistant Coach JV Softball, SMHS, Returning Staff
2. Elkins, Brittany – Assistant Coach Varsity Girls Soccer, BREC, Returning Staff
3. Mayse Jr., Timothy – Head Coach Varsity Boys Golf, BREC, Returning Staff
4. Poston, Stephen – Assistant Coach Baseball, FES, New Non-Staff
5. Pressler, Nickalus – Head Coach Varsity Girls Soccer, BREC, Returning Staff
6. Russell, William – Head Coach MS Baseball, BRS, Returning Non-Staff
7. Strouse, Alexei – Head Coach Baseball, FES, Returning Non-Staff

**Employee Resignations:**

1. Massingale, Michelle – Teacher, CVES
2. Murcia, Irma – School Nutrition Assistant, SMES
3. Rigdon, Danny – Bus Driver, SMHS

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is April 21, 2022, 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 7:25 p.m.

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Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

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Dr. Dana L Ayers, Secretary