

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

May 24, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, May 24, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office Board Room. 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The meeting was conducted using video and telephone conferencing. 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 Ayers, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer; Ashley Leonard, Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

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

Special Olympics students Jayden Crawford, Scotts Creek Elementary School; Zayden Junaluska, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School; Joe Carnes, Smoky Mountain High School; Mason Allison, Smoky Mountain High School; and Christian Farmer, Scotts Creek Elementary School 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.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers presented Certificates of Recognition to the following staff and students:

1. Kathryn Moses – Kenan Fellows Program for Teacher Leadership 2022-2023 Fellowship
2. Mihin De Silva – All State Honors Middle School State Band at UNC Chapel Hill
3. SMHS Advanced Concert Choir – 2022 National Festival Disney Choral Competition
4. Kristina McCall - WCU Outstanding Clinical Educator Award
5. SMHS Science Olympiad Team - State Tournament

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 April 20, 2022.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. It has been an amazingly busy month and we are now in the final stretch of school. There are only seven student days remaining and those are critical days. As a reminder, there will be no school for students and staff on Monday, May 30th which is Memorial Day.
2. Our COVID numbers have shown a slight increase in both student and staff numbers over the last month but nothing compared to case numbers we experienced in January and early February. We are currently optional masking; students and staff who desire to wear a mask are encouraged to do so.
3. I have concluded my individual meetings and school tours with BOE candidates. More information will be shared regarding the school board elections by Attorney Ashley Leonard later in this meeting.
4. A major highlight this month has been the Jackson County Special Olympics which occurred on the rain date of Friday, May 13th. The games were held at the SMHS football stadium and were a tremendous success thanks to local program coordinator, Abigail Clayton, and the Jackson County Parks and Recreation Department Director Rusty Ellis and staff. More than 100 Jackson County athletes participated, from early ages to adulthood. To witness the excitement, camaraderie, focus, kindness, grace, and joy our Special Olympians exhibited and were showered with was simply something extraordinary to behold. For me, it is the happiest day of the year.
5. JCPS has wrapped up early kindergarten enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year along with our preschool enrollment. We are looking ahead to the large numbers of students we will be welcoming to school in the fall. It is invigorating that we are enrolling many new students in our JCPS student population! We are doing wonderful things in JCPS.
6. As always, I want to remind our community that there are various paid opportunities to support our schools. Substitute teaching, bus driving, custodial and school nutrition workers are the most critical needed positions where we welcome community support and applicants.
7. Finally, we are in the midst of End of Grade testing and will begin End of Course testing on Friday. These tests are very important and measure students' academic proficiency and growth for the year. Though the state requires these assessment measures, I also know that there are many other measures for the success of our students. I am proud of their efforts to "show what they know" on these assessments.
8. Thank you, Jackson County community and JCPS staff for making this an incredible year. We are so fortunate that our students are enveloped in a community who backs

education, the social emotional needs of students and staff as well as the positive changes we have made this year.

B. Agenda Item: JCPS AIG Plan for 2022-2025

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Federal Programs Director

Mrs. Dills provided a copy of the 2022-2025 Draft AIG Plan for the board members first reading and review. Ms. Dills will present the final plan to the board for approval at the June BOE meeting.

C. Agenda Item: Board of Education Election Update

Presenter: Ashley Leonard, Board Attorney

Ashley Leonard provided an update to the board concerning the recent Board of Education election results. She informed the board that two of the three seats qualify for a runoff due to the percentage of votes received. The candidates have until May 31st to file for the runoff. Ms. Leonard said that one candidate, Kim Moore, District 4, received the required number of votes and will be sworn in at the June board meeting. The date for the runoff election will be July 26, 2022, with the results due to be certified within 7 to 10 days following the runoff. Ms. Leonard added that the current board members will remain seated until the election results are certified.

D. Agenda Item: Summer Programming Update

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented information about the upcoming summer programming. Ms. Dills said that the program will run from June 13th for five weeks with a break during the first week of July. The summer programs will be held at Blue Ridge School, Scotts Creek Elementary School and Smoky Mountain High School. In addition to the options for students who were not proficient on their EOG's, the program will include credit recovery for high school students, a summer career accelerator program, and STEM Science programming.

E. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, CFO

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of May 24, 2022.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Dr. John Edwards – Petition to put Bible in School - The idea of having our Pledge of Allegiance is a wonderful thing. But in it we say One Nation under God. On our currency we have In God We Trust. I think it's just right that our people know who this God is. In our constitution it talks about we hold these truths self-evident that all men are created equal. I think our people need to know who that creator is. We also have a place where it says that the judge of all the earth will look kind of favorable on what they were doing when they created the Declaration of Independence. It's just right, I think that our people know who this judge is and if he did have laws for the people of the earth I think it's right since the bible is exclusively the only place where the judge and the creator are mentioned, that we should put the bible back in the schools and have our teachers have the freedom to be able to talk about it and tell our students why we believe what we believe about the

creator and God and why we have from the bible so many quotations that affect our everyday lives like love thy neighbor as thyself. It came out of the bible or the good Samaritan law, so who is the good Samaritan? That information could be in the bible. It will enrich the minds and the hearts of our people and it would make our citizenry better. Thank you.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, CFO

Mrs. Walker presented budget amendments to the State Public School Fund, Capital Outlay Fund,, Child Nutrition Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund, and Federal Grant 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, Capital Outlay Fund, Child Nutrition Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund, and Federal Grant Fund.*

B. Agenda Item: Review Mask Mandate

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the most current COVID-19 data that showed a small number of active cases of COVID for students or staff. Dr. Ayers asked the board to approve the continuation of Optional Masking for students, staff and visitors.

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

C. Agenda Item: CTE Local Application for 2022-2024

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the updated 2022-2024 CTE Local 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 2022-2024 CTE Local Plan.*

D. Agenda Item: Annual Roof Maintenance Approval

Presenter: Mr. Jason Watson, Director of Maintenance and Operations

Mr. Watson presented the proposal for annual roof maintenance for Scotts Creek Elementary 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 Annual Roof Maintenance proposal for Scotts Creek Elementary School.*

E. **Agenda Item:** Permission to submit the COPS Grant Application

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent and Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented information to the board about submission of the COPS Grant Application. He explained that this grant requires a 25% local match of \$125,000.00 with the funds allocated from the JCPS Capital Fund. He said the grant funds will be used to purchase items to improve school security such as door locks, radio communication, lighting and safety equipment 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 COPS Grant Application.*

F. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Updates:

1. Domicile or Residence Requirements (4120)
2. Student Records (4700)
3. Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (5070/7350)
4. Electronically Stored Information Retention (5071/7351)

Mr. Buchanan presented updates 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 updates to the policies 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. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return to 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 Dr. Ayers. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

Employee Recommendations:

1. Boud, Sarah Denise – Afterschool Director, FES
2. Boyles, Autumn – Teacher, FES
3. Bramlett, Brianne – Pre-K Teacher, CVES

4. Brown, Stephen – Teacher, JCS
5. Caldwell, Madison – School-Based Mental Health Therapist, FES
6. Cogdill, Alicia – Teacher Assistant, FES
7. Crisp, Rayna – Assistant Principal, FES
8. Debord, April – EdTech Coach, CO
9. Dewantara, Candace – Pre-K Teacher, SCES
10. Eden, Zachary – Extended Employment Assistant Principal, BRS and BREC
11. Frizzell, Dr. Earl Nathan – Principal, BREC
12. Hill, Melissa – School Counselor, JCEC
13. Hooper, Mark – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
14. King, Margaret – Assistant Principal, JCS
15. Laws, Kaylah – Behavior Specialist, District Wide
16. Manring, Rebecca – Teacher Assistant, FES
17. McAllister, Carla – EdTech Coach, TBD
18. McNabb, Stacy – Extended Employment Instructional Coach, BRS
19. Miller, Renee – Bookkeeper, SMHS
20. Prewitt, Shaina – Instructional Support Teacher Assistant, FES
21. Robinson, Joey – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
22. Steen, Ashlee – Teacher, BRS
23. Stephan, Heather – Teacher, SMHS
24. Stiffler, Kerstin – School Counselor, SMHS
25. Watson, Katlin – Teacher Assistant, FES

Employee Recommendations – Summer Programs:

1. Cochran, Trevor – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES
2. Mathis, Brandon – Summer School Bus Driver, SCES
3. Rich, Kameron – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, SCES

Employee Resignations:

1. Adams, Ziquila – Afterschool Teacher, CVES
2. Barr, Joanna – Parttime Tutor, SCES
3. Benjamin, Stacy – Instructional Support Assistant, SCES
4. Browne, Abigail – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
5. Freesman, Jillian – Teacher, CVES
6. Gilchrist, Marjorie Dawn – Teacher, JCS
7. Hawkins, Allison – Teacher, BREC
8. High, Elaine – EC Teacher, FES
9. Halloran, Timothy – Teacher, JCS
10. King, Mary – Teacher, CVES
11. Korman, Elizabeth – EC Teacher, BREC
12. Love, Caitlin – Teacher, CVES
13. Maney, Christy – Teacher, SMES
14. Martinko, Sarah – Teacher, SMHS and SCES
15. McCraney – Reagan – Interim Teacher, SCES
16. Parsons, Jonathan – Teacher, JCS
17. Philipi, Kara – Teacher Assistant and Afterschool Director, FES
18. Queen, MacKenize – Teacher, SCES
19. Schenk, Hailey – PE Teacher Assistant, CVES

20. Schrader, Kristin, Teacher, BRS
21. Wright, Heather – Teacher, SMHS

Employee Retirements:

1. Cook, Jill – Assistant Principal, SCES
2. Setzer, Ronnie – Custodian, SMHS

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Dillard, Bengie – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS – New Non-Staff
2. Haekler, Carol – Head Coach District Cheer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
3. Rhoads, Emory – Head Coach Men’s Varsity Soccer, SMHS – New Staff
4. Winchester, Travis – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff

Administrator and Director Contract Renewals:

1. Cabe, Laura Ann
2. Dills, Angela G.
3. Francis, Josh
4. Holt, Adam Robert
5. Speckhardt, Brent

Teacher Contract Renewals:

District

1. Laws, Kaylah
2. McRight, Nicole D

Blue Ridge Early College

1. Hall, Sarah Margaret
2. Kennedy, Paula
3. Lanford, Gerald Mason
4. Mayse, Timothy Brian
5. Rockwell, Annette
6. Schiele, Brittany

Blue Ridge School

1. Greene, Heather
2. Houtzer, Deborah A
3. Smithdeal, Erica
4. Steinel, Ashley M
5. Stewart, Donna
6. Watkins, Rebekkah

Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

1. Algeo, Melissa A
2. Bell, Stephanie Elizabeth
3. Boaz, Brittany
4. Bonen-Clark, Michael
5. Borchelt, Carly Noelle
6. Bramlett, Brianne

7. Connell, Megan
8. Deal, Tyson
9. Foust, Lydia Jones
10. Fox, Abigail
11. Hammer, Kelly A
12. Kostak, Abigail Nichole
13. Lambert, Julie
14. Massingale, Whitney
15. Miller, Carly Danielle
16. Nytko, Emily
17. Patten, Jennifer S
18. Pierce, Joshua
19. Reece, Gretchen
20. Richards, Eileen M
21. Smyrl, Joshua
22. Solesbee, Drew Miller
23. Thompson, Audrey Estep

Fairview Elementary School

1. Barlowe, Rebecca
2. Brown, Alicia Ellen
3. Cauley, Cleis
4. Clare, Reanna V
5. Crawford, James Ray
6. Crawford, Nancy
7. Crisp, Meredith Sellers
8. Derks, Mary
9. Dills, Alexis Savannah
10. Doolittle, Hannah
11. Ellenburg, Heather Vreeland
12. Graham, Christi Sanders
13. Gribble, Corina N
14. Howell, Wendy Elaine
15. Leopard, Sara
16. Martin, Kirstyn Shew
17. McDevitt, Brandon Elizabeth
18. Nicholson, Whitney N
19. Payne, Brittany
20. Rearigh, Andrea N
21. Richards, Keith W
22. Taylor, Lora
23. Thompson, Julie Ann
24. Watson, Tracy A

Jackson Community School

1. Brown, Laura Painter
2. Brown, Stephen Holt
3. Daniels, Christina L

4. Dills, Monica Brooke
5. Moses, Kathryn Alverson
6. Sutton, Kelli

Jackson County Early College

1. Fonseca, Amanda
2. Hill, Melissa C.
3. Morris, Kathy Jo

Scotts Creek Elementary School

1. Callaway, Molly
2. Cauley, Jonathan N
3. Cloer, Deborah Ann
4. Edmonds, Genia Louise
5. Evans, Gabriela M
6. Gunter, Gertrude Brooks
7. Hamilton, Jo Ellen
8. Hickman, Melissa Danette
9. Irons, Tiffiney
10. Jones, Krista
11. Mahoney, Michael C
12. Martin, Shirley Louise
13. Medford, Sydney F
14. Pendergast, Stephanie Kennedy
15. Porter, William S
16. Roth, Natalie Harvey
17. Stephens, Chelsea Lydeen
18. Trempe, Andrea

Smokey Mountain Elementary School

1. Burchette, Marissa Lauren
2. Cook, Haley
3. Cox, Rachel S
4. Dodson, Kaitlyn
5. Doll, Victoria Christine
6. King, Morgan
7. McNab, James Dennis
8. Miller, Scott
9. Phillips, Trina M
10. Portale, Daniel
11. Rogers, Christie Michelle
12. Sink, James Eric
13. Smith, Sheila
14. Volk, Amanda
15. Willoughby, Wesley Scott

Smoky Mountain High School

1. Alexander, Jerry Clint

2. Berryhill, Suzanne
3. Cash, Emily Rachel
4. Cauley, Jeremy Daniel
5. Dengler, Ty Allen
6. Dezarn, Megan N
7. Eckard, Stefanie
8. Fox, Michael Blake
9. Gentry, Logan
10. Hilliard, Amanda
11. Jeleniewski, Paige
12. Larsen, Alexander
13. Lester, Brittany A
14. Macke, Stacy M
15. Massey, Garrison
16. McElroy, Craig L
17. Mills, Jordan
18. Mulligan, Lara Rebekah
19. Nelson, Gabrielle
20. Phillips, Angela
21. Ray, Kathryn
22. Rhoads, Emory
23. Sargent, Bethany
24. Sink, Barbara
25. Smith, Martha
26. Stowe, Stephanie
27. Varian, Lynn
28. West, Traci
29. Williams, Kimberly

Action: *Mrs. 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:*

**Teacher Contract Renewals:
Fairview Elementary School**

25. Woods, Anna – Teacher

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is June 28, 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 7:50 p.m.

Alison Laird-Large, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary