

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

July 26, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, July 26, 2022, 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:

Elizabeth Cooper, Acting Chairperson
Wes Jamison
Abigail Clayton
Kim Moore

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

Dr. Lynn Dillard

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

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper called the business meeting to order.

Mrs. Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

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

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 28, 2022.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. I'd like to begin with a welcome to Dr. Lynn Dillard and Kim Moore as new BOE members. We appreciate your commitment to JCPS!
2. The summer days have been long and filled with much action at schools and the Central Office. Last week we wrapped up our summer programs and will be sharing information about that program during our August meeting. Now, we are planning for school to begin in just shy of four weeks, on Monday, August 22.
3. This week, in particular, is very busy as we prepare to not only open school but to open FOUR new preschool classes, one each at Blue Ridge, Scotts Creek, Cullowhee Valley and Fairview Schools. We will be serving an additional 69 students in preschool classrooms during the 2022-2023 school year. I am immensely thankful for the diligent and hard work Laura Dills, Kelli Bumgarner, Jason Watson and our maintenance teams have done to ready these classrooms. If all goes as planned, we will have some ribbon-cutting ceremonies in the coming weeks to open those classrooms along with the grantors who made this possible. More information on those dates and times to come soon.
4. Also, the first-ever Back to School Bash 2022 is fast-approaching on Saturday, August 13th from 10:00-3:00 at the Cullowhee Rec Department. This event, hosted by JCPS in partnership with the Jackson County Recreation Department, will offer many free services and items for families. We are fortunate to have community agencies and businesses who are providing some of the following: free lunch, haircuts, book bags, school supplies, sports physicals, immunizations, school enrollment and information, face painting and much, much more! JCPS will be providing bus shuttle service for families to and from Blue Ridge and Smokey Mountain Elementary Schools. I encourage all of our families and students to attend.
5. I continue to plead for bus drivers for the upcoming year. School begins on August 22nd and we have yet to fill all of our driver positions. If anyone is interested, please reach out to our Human Resources Director, Teri Walawender or Transportation Director, Josh Francis. Starting pay for bus drivers is \$15.50 per hour and guaranteed Monday through Friday work hours.
6. Finally, be ready to support our athletics teams in JCPS! Football, soccer, cross-country and volleyball are kicking off at high schools and with middle grades. We are eager to support our student-athletes and coaches.
7. JCPS is one of the luckiest districts in North Carolina to be so heavily supported by our community, BOE and county commissioners. For that, I thank you!

- B. Agenda Item:** School Nutrition Program and School Health Advisory Council Update
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented an update concerning the School Nutrition Program and School Health Advisory Council. Mrs. Cabe informed the board that it will be necessary to increase breakfast and lunch prices due to rising costs. Breakfast will be \$2.00 and lunch will be \$3.75.

- C. Agenda Item:** Internal Audits
Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the results from the fourth quarter internal audits and reported no findings.

- D. Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary
Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of July 26, 2022.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Annual Roof Maintenance

Presenter: Jason Watson, Maintenance Director

Mr. Watson presented the proposals for the annual roof inspection and schedule maintenance for Fairview Elementary School and Blue Ridge School and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the annual roof inspection and scheduled maintenance for Fairview Elementary School and Blue Ridge School.

B. Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding between Jackson County Sheriff's Office and JCPS – School Resource Officers

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the updated MOU between Jackson County Sheriff's Office and JCPS for School Resource Officers and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU between Jackson County Sheriff's Office and JCPS for School Resource Officers.

C. Agenda Item: NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement renewal

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted to approve the NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement. Abigail Clayton recused herself from the vote.

D. Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding Pre-Employment Transition Services Westbridge

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the Memorandum of Understanding Pre-Employment Transition Services Westbridge and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Pre-Employment Transition Services Westbridge. Abigail Clayton recused herself from the vote.

E. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Updates:

1. Attendance, Absenteeism, and Truancy (4400)
2. Employee Dress and Appearance (7340)

Mr. Buchanan presented updates to the above listed policies and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board voted unanimously to approve the updates to the above listed policies.

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison 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 Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 28, 2022.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Action: Upon a motion made by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Ayers. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:

Employee Recommendations:

1. Albury, Tiffany – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, SMES
2. Bledsoe, Pamela – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
3. Brooks, Beth K. – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, CVES
4. Brooks, Beth K. – Afterschool Substitute, CVES
5. Brooks, Morgan – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
6. Brown, Virgle – Bus Driver, CVES
7. Bryson, Amy – Part-time Receptionist, SMHS

8. Bryson, Kim – District MS Assistant Athletic Director, District
9. Buenting, Abby – Bus Driver Athletics, SMHS
10. Cass, Jessica – Teacher, BRS
11. Cherbony, Herman – Bus Driver, SMHS
12. Cleaveland, Lisa – Intervention Specialist, FES
13. Colton, Rachel – Teacher, SCES
14. Conlin, Sharon – District MS Assistant Athletic Director, District
15. Dowdle, Ashley – EC Teacher Assistant, SCES
16. Duke, Brittany – EC Teacher, SCES
17. Frady, Dillon – Temporary Part-time Custodian, CVES
18. Frazier, Brooke – Teacher, CVES
19. Gribble, Corina – District MS Assistant Athletic Director, District
20. Gunter, Gertrude – Teacher, CVES
21. Hall, Madelyn – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
22. Harris, Donna – EC Teacher, CVES
23. Hill, Molly – College Success Coach, JCEC
24. Howerton, Caleigh – Afterschool Assistant, FES
- ~~25.~~
26. Jorgensen, Leah – Teacher, CVES
27. Lathers, Claire – Instructional Support Assistant, JCS
28. Mason, Melanie – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, SCES
29. Mayes, Kathryn – EC Bus Monitor, CVES
30. Mayse, Jr., Timothy – Athletic Director – Extended Pay, BREC
31. McAbee, Cassie – Interventionist, FES
32. McAllister, Carla – EdTech Coach – Extended Pay, Central Office
33. McCall, Allison – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, BRS
34. McGhee, Logan – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
35. McGuinn, Alexis – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
36. McNider, James – Teacher, JCS
37. Miller, Emma – Teacher, FES
38. Mullally, Francisca – Teacher, BREC
39. Mwaniki, Sarah – EC Teacher, JCS
40. Myers, Gail - Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
41. Nikula, Sandra – Teacher Assistant, SCES
42. Parris, Roseanna – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, CVES
43. Patten, Daquan – Lab Facilitator, SMHS
44. Plush, Laura – Instructional Support Assistant, BRS
45. Rave, Sarah – Teacher, CVES
46. Reece, Gretchen – EC Bus Driver, CVES
47. Rhoads, Emory – Bus Driver Athletics, SMHS
48. Roles, Caice – Teacher, JCS
49. Saavedra, Charito – Teacher, SMES
50. Sealey, Sarah – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
51. Taylor, Tiffany – Media Coordinator, SMES
52. Thompson, Robert – Teacher, CVES
53. Turnmire, Cheryl – Teacher, FES
54. Umphlett, Courtney – Part-time Tutor and Part-time Band Teacher, SCES
55. Watson, Tracy – Teacher, SCES

56. Young, Thomas – Teacher, SMHS

Employee Resignations:

1. Cloer, Deborah – Teacher, SCES
2. Foust, Lydia – Teacher, CVES
3. Graham, Christi – Teacher, FES
4. Jones, Krista – Teacher, SCES
5. Massey, Garrison – Teacher, SMHS
6. McNab, James – Teacher, SMES
7. Robinson, Haley – Afterschool Director, CVES

Employee Retirements:

1. Davis, Sarah – Student Data Coordinator, Central Office
2. Fisher, Katrina – EC Teacher, CVES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Buchanan, Max – Assistant Coach District Football, SMHS – New Non-Staff
2. Cochran, Trevor – Head Coach Men’s Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Staff
3. Danner, Colton – Assistant Coach District Football, SMHS New Non-Staff
4. Doolittle, Hannah – Assistant Coach JV Cheer, SMHS – Returning Staff
5. Mashburn, Nicholas – Head Coach District Football, SMHS – New Non-Staff
6. Roberson, Lane – Assistant Coach District Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is August 30, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at Board of Education Administrative Office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Acting Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Acting Chairperson

Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary