

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

August 30, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, August 30, 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
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; Ashley Leonard, 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.

SIGNING OF THE CODE OF ETHICS

Board Members Elizabeth Cooper, Wes Jamison, Abigail Clayton and Kim Moore signed the Code of Ethics.

ELECTION OF BOARD OFFICERS

The election of officers will take place at the regularly scheduled July meeting of the board on even numbered years corresponding with the non-partisan elections held at the time of the May primary. Due to a runoff election on July 26, 2022, for the district 2 seat, the board postponed the election of officers until the entire board was seated.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board unanimously voted to elect Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper as board chair, and to elect Mr. Wes Jamison as vice chair, until the organizational meeting following the next school board election in 2024.*

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. Draft Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 26, 2022.
- B. Draft Open Session Minutes of Special-Called Meeting of August 11, 2022.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers presented a Certificate of Recognition to Caleb Phillips. Caleb attended the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners Board of Directors 115th Annual Conference in Cabarrus County on August 11-13, 2022. Caleb presented to the commissioners about the dire need for a regulation size track at Smoky Mountain High School.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. It has been a phenomenal start to the school year! But before I share about the first seven days of school, I am compelled to share the excitement of the first-ever Back to School Bash on August 13th. Here are a few statistics: approximately 700 bookbags distributed, more than 1200 hot dog lunches provided, dozens of haircuts given, boxes and boxes of school supplies dispersed, over 30 schools and community groups represented, and a variety of other free services were made available to our families. The day was exhausting and exhilarating for everyone involved. We have plans to make this an annual event with next year's Bash being on Saturday, August 5, 2023. The event was definitely a success thanks to the partnership with Rusty Ellis and his staff at the Cullowhee Rec Center.
2. We opened our doors for open house events on both August 11th and 18th. I was fortunate to be able to attend a good many of these events and families were out in full force. The lines to meet teachers were lengthy as everyone was eager to meet their teachers. The first days of school have been extremely busy and engaging. I've seen students and staff interact in such a positive manner. I also LOVE seeing the joy of the 3- and 4-year olds in all of our preschool classrooms. The JCPS staff deserves all the accolades for preparing school buildings, classrooms, cafeterias, and buses as we readied for students. Everyone has worked so hard to guarantee that the year began with an optimistic culture.
3. I also want to give a shout out to our local law enforcement agencies, Jackson County Sheriff's Office and the Sylva Police Dept. Over the summer, they have been working with our school leadership and district leadership teams to ensure our buildings are safe for everyone. Every school was visited, thoroughly walked through and recommendations made to the leadership teams. We continue to have an excellent partnership with all of our public safety agencies in Jackson County.
4. On Thursday, September 1st, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will release 2022 state testing results. I am confident we will see strong growth from our students across the district. Furthermore, I believe with common curriculum, our solid instructional practices and

the expertise of our dedicated teachers, we will see a positive growth trajectory over the next several years.

5. Finally, I want to offer a huge thanks to our coaching staff across the district. We are lucky to have coaches who love teaching and working with our student-athletes. Their hours are long, compensation is little, and fatigue is REAL. Yet, they continue to strive for excellence on the fields, tracks, courts, and mats. To each of them I am thankful that they pour themselves into our student-athletes.
6. As always, a big thank you to our bus drivers and a plea for more of them. Anyone interested is encouraged to reach out to our Transportation Director, Josh Francis. Starting pay for bus drivers is \$15.50 per hour and guaranteed Monday through Friday work hours. It's going to be a fantastic year in JCPS!

B. Agenda Item: School-Justice Partnership Thirtieth Judicial District Jackson County Agreement

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers informed the board that JCPS has signed the School-Justice Partnership Thirtieth Judicial District Agreement to assist with the goals for the management of school-based misconduct by students.

C. Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding with Mountain Projects/Head Start Update

Presenter: Laura Dills, Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding with Mountain Projects/Head Start for the 2022-2023 school year. The agreement provides that our exceptional children's Pre-K staff will collaborate to assist with child find efforts, provide screenings when necessary, and complete student evaluations for students with disabilities.

D. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of August 30, 2022.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Resolution for 2022-2023

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the 2022-2023 Budget Resolution 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 2022-2023 Budget Resolution.*

B. Agenda Item: Annual Roof Inspection and Maintenance for SMES & CVES Approval

Presenter: Jason Watson, Maintenance Director

Mr. Watson presented proposals for the annual roof inspection and scheduled maintenance for Smokey Mountain Elementary School and Cullowhee Valley Elementary 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 SMES and CVES.*

C. **Agenda Item:** Consolidated Federal Programs Application for 2022-2023

Presenter: Laura Dills, Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the Consolidated Federal Programs Application for 2022-2023 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 Consolidated Federal Programs Application for 2022-2023.*

D. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding between Communities in Schools and JCPS for Smokey Mountain Elementary School and Jackson Community School

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding between Communities in Schools and JCPS for Smokey Mountain Elementary School and the Jackson Community School for 2022-2023 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 Memorandum of Understanding between JCPS and Communities in Schools for 2022-2023 for SMES and JCS.*

E. **Agenda Item:** Teacher Laptop Purchase

Presenter: Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented a quote from Y&S Technologies for the purchase of 80 teacher laptop computers 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 purchase of teacher laptop computers from Y&S Technologies.*

F. **Agenda Item:** Student Laptop Purchase

Presenter: Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented a quote from Y&S Technologies for the purchase of 300 student laptop computers 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 purchase of 300 student laptop computers from Y&S Technologies.*

G. Agenda Item: Hello Hero Contract for EC and Psychological Services Approval
Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented a Services Agreement from Hello Hero for EC and Psychological Services 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 Hello Hero Services Agreement for EC and Psychological Services.*

H. Agenda Item: Beautifully Intertwined Contract for Therapy Services
Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented a contract from Beautifully Intertwined for Therapy Service 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 Beautifully Intertwined contract for therapy services.*

I. Agenda Item: Needs Based Capital Grant Resubmission
Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the Needs Based Capital Grant application for resubmission, due to the change in the match percentage from 5% to 15% 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 resubmission of the Needs Based Capital Grant application.*

J. Agenda Item: Field Trips
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. SMES, Grade 1 – Pigeon Forge, TN, Sept. 23, 2022, tT7780.
2. Fes, Grade 4 – Ripley’s Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, March 30-31, 2022, TT 7763.

Dr. Ayers presented the above listed field trip requests 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 above listed field trips.*

K. Agenda Item: Policy Updates
Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the following Board Policy for First Reading:

1. Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) (4334/5035/7345)

Mr. Buchanan presented the following updated Board Policies and asked for board approval:

1. Board Policies (2400)
2. Online Instruction (3102)
3. School Improvement Plan (3430)

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed policy updates.*

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, 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 July 26, 2022.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

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

Employee Recommendations:

1. Alvarez, Geisha – Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
2. Ashe, Jimmy – Bus Driver for Athletics, SMHS
3. Ballew, Amber – Teacher, SCES
4. Brodie, Daniel – Marching Band Staff, SMHS
5. Bryson, Ginger – Receptionist, SMHS
6. Bumgarner, Mary – Athletic Director, SMES
7. Burck, Lila – EC Teacher, SCES
8. Davidson, Todd – Bus Driver for Athletics, SMHS
9. Dillard, Morgan – Bus Driver for Athletics, SMHS
10. Farmer, Tina – EC Teacher, BREC
11. Fulford, Kaley – Marching Band Staff, SMHS
12. Hall, Gregory – Band Instructor, BREC
13. Hanks, Michael – Marching Band Bus Driver, SMHS

14. Hansen, Debbie – Teacher Assistant, FES
15. Hester, Elliot – School Nutrition Assistant, CVES
16. Hudson, Laura – Teacher, SMES
17. Kennedy, Paula – School Counselor and SCC Liaison, BREC
18. Knight, Mandie – Bus Driver, SMHS
19. Larch, Catherine – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, FES
20. Lathers, Claire – Teacher Assistant, SCES
21. Lee, Jennifer – Teacher, BREC
22. Logan, Jeffrey – Bus Driver for Field Trips, JCEC
23. Lynch, Madelyn – Teacher, SCES
24. Mathis, Susan – Afterschool Assistant, FES
25. McGrew, Tucker – Teacher, SMES
26. Medford, Taylor – Teacher, SCES
27. Monteith, Jennifer – EC Teacher Assistant, SMES
28. Mull, Jim – Bus Driver for Athletics, BRS and BREC
29. Myers, Melody – Afterschool Assistant, FES
30. Norman, Susan – Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
31. Paskell-Peek, Judith – School Nutrition Assistant, CVES
32. Peterson, Emmeleia – Marching Band Staff, SMHS
33. Queen, Daisey – Teacher Assistant, SMES
34. Rhoads, Emory – Teacher, SMHS
35. Rigdon, Danny – EC Bus Driver, CVES
36. Rigdon, Donna – EC Bus Monitor, CVES
37. Schiele, Brittany – Teacher, BREC
38. Shull, Heather – School Counselor, FES
39. Sink, Eric – Teacher, CVES
40. Smathers, Stephanie – Teacher, BREC
41. Smith, Kelsey – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
42. Steinel, Ashley – Assistant Athletic Director, BREC
43. Tallent, Natasha – Teacher Assistant, SMES
44. Voris, Joshua – Afterschool Assistant, FES
45. Ware, Paula – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, BRS
46. Watson, Tracy – Substitute Bus Driver and Bus Driver for Field Trips, SCES

Employee Resignations:

1. Ayers, Chloe – Afterschool Assistant, FES
2. Brantley, Eric – Technology Technician, Central Office
3. Derks, Mary – School Counselor, FES
4. Frizzell, Carla – EC Teacher Assistant, BRS
5. Harris, Angela – School Nurse, SMES
6. Helton, Mary Ellen – Teacher Assistant, SMES
7. Martin, Shirley – Teacher, SCES
8. McCoy, William Brent – Teacher, JCS
9. Olson, Christi – Occupational Therapist Assistant, FES
10. Willson, Dorothea – Teacher, SCES

Employee Retirements:

1. Henson, Julie – Teacher Assistant, FES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Bell, Tasha – Assistant Coach Soccer, SMES - Returning Staff
2. Brooks, Beth – Head Coach Volleyball, SMES – Returning Staff
3. Buenting, Abby – Head Coach JV Women’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
4. Hansen, Debbie – Head Coach Volleyball, FES – Returning Staff
5. Henson, Brandon – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, BREC – New Non-Staff
6. Hoyle, Samantha – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
7. Huss, Susan – Assistant Coach District Middle School Cheer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
8. Miller, Scott – Head Coach Soccer, SMES – Returning Staff
9. Mireles, Cristian – Head Coach District Middle School Men’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
10. Mulligan, Tyler – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, SMHS – Returning Staff
11. Nelson, Reily – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
12. Patten, Daquan – Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS – New Staff
13. Pressley, Jenifer – Assistant Coach District Middle School Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
14. Wilburn, Chris – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
15. Wilson, Erik – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS – Returning Staff
16. Young, Thomas – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, SMHS – New Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is September 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at Scotts Creek Elementary School, 516 Parris Branch Road, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary