

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Scotts Creek Elementary School
Sylva, North Carolina**

516 Parris Branch Road, Sylva

September 27, 2022

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at Scotts Creek Elementary School, 516 Parris Branch Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
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

Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper called the business meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

April Bryson, SCES Principal welcomed everyone to Scotts Creek Elementary School. Mrs. Bryson introduced Genia Edmonds, Music Teacher. The Scotts Creek Chorus led the Pledge of Alliance and sang the National Anthem.

Mrs. Bryson introduced Coach Megan Davis. Ms. Davis, with the help of Mrs. Jackie Moore, Director of Safe Routes to Schools, applied for and received a grant that allowed for the purchase of 25 Stryder bikes and helmets for Scotts Creek Students. Wyatt Smith, Callie Coggins, Bristol Meyer, Lennox Brooks, Raelyn Jones and Memphis Farmer demonstrated the bikes.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers recognized the month of October as National Principals Month. The board presented each Jackson County Public Schools principal with a gift card and plant in recognition of their hard work and dedication to the students of JCPS.

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 August 30, 2022.
- B. Draft Open Session Minutes of Special-Called Work Session on August 30, 2022.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. We are in the sixth week of school and doing quite well with an amazing start. I am pleased to see the purposeful instructional practices in our classrooms where rigor and focus are evident. Outside of the classrooms, students are participating in band competitions, athletics and other extracurricular activities.
2. I continue to praise the working relationship we have with the Jackson County Sheriff's Office. We have planned follow-up safety walk-throughs over the next couple of weeks that allow us to focus on needs at each school campus. These collaborative walk-throughs will also consist of members of the emergency management department here in Jackson County. JCPS is very fortunate to have these positive relationships and common community goals to ensure student and staff safety on every campus.
3. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction released state proficiency scores and, most recently, growth data for each of our district and schools. I am proud to report that eight of nine JCPS schools either met or exceeded growth status. What this means is that as we work toward helping our students achieve proficiency, we are "academically growing" students along the way. Given the negative impacts of COVID, it is rewarding to see the positive growth our students are making. This could only be possible with the dedication of our strong teachers, administrators, families and community. Mr. Holt will be sharing more information about our data later in this meeting.
4. Another exciting event happening at Cullowhee Valley School is the ribbon-cutting of the "Think Big" Reading Room on October 10th at 10:00. A gracious donor to the Carson Scholars organization funded this special reading space where students can select engaging fictional material in a pleasant and welcoming environment. I am thrilled that media coordinator Tammy Cabe and Principal Holly Whisnant were able to select the reading materials for their reading room. We are very grateful!
5. As we complete the final few weeks of the first quarter, I hope that our community consistently offers support to our schools, school staff, students, and families. We conclude the first quarter on Wednesday, October 19th followed by two days of staff development and workdays. Therefore, there is no school for students on October 20th, 21st and October 5th in honor of the Cherokee Indian Fair Children's Day.
6. Lastly, our need for bus drivers is still very real. Though we are maintaining our current routes, there are still buses that we are unable to put on the road as a result of lack of drivers. This means bus routes are longer and require students to arrive home late or be picked up early. We recognize this problem and wish to address it but do not have the capacity to do so with vacant

bus driver positions. If anyone is interested in driving a bus, please contact Teri Walawender, HR Director or Josh Francis, Transportation Director for more information. We are willing to work around schedule barriers as best we can.

7. And, this week, September 26-30 is bus ridership week. The state requires an annual count of student ridership. This count determines funding for our transportation department. Parents and families, please allow your student to ride the bus each day this week to be included in the ridership numbers.
8. Thank you to our students, staff and families for a wonderful start to the school year!

B. Agenda Item: State Accountability Data Release

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

Mr. Holt presented the NCDPI State Accountability Data for the 2021-2022 school year.

C. Agenda Item: College Advising Corp – Appalachian State MOU

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the updated College Advising Corp. – Appalachian State Memorandum of Understanding.

D. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of September 27, 2022.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented budget amendments to the State Public School Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grants Fund, and the Capital Outlay Fund 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 State Public School Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, Federal Grants Fund, and the Capital Outlay Fund Budget Amendments.*

B. Agenda Item: ESSERS Retention Bonus

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented a request to provide a \$1000.00 Retention Bonus for all JCPS personnel employed as of November 1, 2022, regardless of employment status. The Retention Bonus will be

paid in January 2023 using ESSERS funds. Dr. Ayers said that the retention bonus will be prorated for employees who leave prior to June 9, 2023. She said the state has already approved the funds for this purpose and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Lynn Dillard, the board voted unanimously to approve the \$1000.00 Retention Bonus for all JCPS personnel.*

C. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

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

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

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

D. Agenda Item: Field Trips

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Grade 3 – Ripley’s Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, Oct. 17, 2022, TT 7833.
2. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 5 – Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN, Oct. 14, 2022, TT 7869.
3. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 7 and 8 – Washington, DC, May 2-5, 2023, TT 7805.
4. Smoky Mountain High School Band – Sprayberry High School and Georgia Aquarium, Marietta, GA, Oct. 15-16, 2022, TT 7781.

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. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed field trips.*

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. Kim Moore, 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 August 30, 2022.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Dr. Ayers recused herself from employee recommendation #1. Elizabeth Cooper made employee recommendation #1. Upon a motion made by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the remaining personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Ayers. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

Employee Recommendations:

1. Ayers, Dr. Dana L. – Superintendent Contract Amendment, Central Office
2. Bailey, Rebecca – Student Support Specialist, JCS
3. Blankenship, Sue – Substitute EC Bus Monitor, SMHS
4. Brown, Alan – Bus Driver, SMHS
5. Connor, Nancy – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
6. Crisp, Dennis – Lead Bus Driver, SMHS
7. Davies, Ed – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
8. DeBord, April – Homebound Service Teacher, SMHS
9. DeBord, April – Translator Services, District-wide
10. Dupree, Ethan – Custodian and EC Bus Driver, CVES
11. Farmer, Kristina – EC Teacher Assistant, BRS
12. Frizzell, Judith – School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
13. Gotay, Keyshla – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
14. Greene, Macie – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
15. Houser, Avery – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
16. Jondro, Lorraine – School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
17. Kullenberg, Christine – Lead EC Teacher Assistant, BRS
- ~~18. Name Withdrawn~~
19. Ledford, Stephanie – School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
20. Lee, Tonya – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS
21. McCabe, Melody – SIS Coordinator, Central Office
22. McNider, James – Assistant Principal, JCS
23. Mills, Jordan – Part-time Custodian, SMHS
24. Plemmons, Shauna – Temporary Intervention Specialist, SMES
25. Primeau, Angel – Afterschool Assistant, CVES
26. Smathers, Stephanie – Substitute Bus Driver, BRS and BREC
27. Young, Thomas – Substitute Bus Driver and Activity Bus Driver, SMHS

Employee Resignations:

1. Bollinger, Amy – Teacher, CVES
2. Cass, Jessica Taylor – Teacher, BRS
3. Copeland, Debra – Custodian, CVES
4. Copeland, Tim – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS
5. King, Margaret – Assistant Principal, JCS
6. Mason, Melanie – Preschool Teacher Assistant, SCES
7. Mathis, Brandon – Fuel Truck Driver, Bus Garage

8. Queen, Daisey – Teacher Assistant, SMES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Bonen-Clark, Michael – Assistant Coach Soccer, CVES – Returning Staff
2. Ferrin, Jazmin – Assistant Coach MS Soccer, BREC – New Non-Staff
3. Hawken, Danielle – Assistant Coach Volleyball, SMES – New Staff
4. Jamison, Jack – Assistant Coach Volleyball, FES – New Non-Staff
5. Kanupp, Sydney – Assistant Coach Volleyball, CVES – New Staff
6. Kostak, Abigail – Head Coach Soccer, CVES – Returning Staff
7. Libby, Jonathan – Assistant Coach District MS Cross Country, SMHS – New Staff
8. Marshall, Nadia – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff
9. Melton, Dustin – Head Coach Volleyball, CVES – New Non-Staff

TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS FROM 08-30-2022

Employee Recommendations:

5. Incorrect – Bryson, Ginger – Receptionist at SMHS
Correction – Bryson, Ginger – Receptionist at BRS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is September 27, 2022, at 6:00 p.m., at Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, 240 Wisdom Drive, Cullowhee, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary