

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Special Called Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina
Central Office**

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

January 5, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in a Special Called Work Session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 5, 2023, at the Board of Education Administrative Office Board Room, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC. 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; Ashley Leonard, Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson, called the work session 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.

JCPS ATHLETICS

Dr. Ayers presented information to the board about the current state of Middle School/School-Based Athletic Programs in JCPS. Presently JCPS has school-based teams at Cullowhee Valley, Fairview, Scotts Creek, and Smokey Mountain Elementary Schools, as well as district middle school teams with participants from these four schools. She said that the board will need to make a decision about continuing to offer both district level teams and school-based teams or cancel one of these two programs.

Dr. Ayers and the board members have received a lot of input from parents, students, and employees about each of these programs, which are run concurrently in the district. She said the difficulty is to hire and retain quality coaches for both district and school-based teams and find bus drivers and support staff to support these programs.

Dr. Ayers said the board will vote at the January 24th meeting to decide if JCPS can sustain these programs that we already have in place or cancel either school-based or middle school athletic programs.

JCPS Athletic Directors, Assistant Principals and Principals provided additional information to the board during the work session about how the current programs are operating at their schools and the possible impacts of cancelling one of these programs.

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 Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

No action was taken in Closed Session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is January 24, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Smokey Mountain Elementary School, 884 US Highway 441 North, Whittier, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:45p.m.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary