

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

251 Big Orange Way, Sylva

February 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2023, in the Media Center at Fairview Elementary School, 251 Big Orange Way, 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

Eleanor Macaulay, FES Principal, welcomed everyone to Fairview Elementary School. Mr. John Libby, FES Music Teacher, sang the National Anthem. Fairview 2nd Grade students led the Pledge of Allegiance and performed *Give Me Wings*, arranged by Mark Peterson, under the direction of Mr. John Libby.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

1. Dr. Ayers presented Certificates of Recognition to the Smoky Mountain High School Ladies Wrestling Team.
2. Dr. Ayers informed the board about Hohverg "Tito" Palacios Poxtan, SMHS Student. Tito placed Second in the NASCAR Auto Skills Competition at Universal Technical Institute. Tito was not present to receive his Certificate of Recognition due to a scheduling conflict.
3. Dr. Ayers presented a Certificate of Recognition to Danette Hickman, SCES Teacher, for her recognition by *WLOS Thanks to Teachers*.

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 on January 24, 2023.
- B. Open Session Minutes of Special-Called Work Session on January 26, 2023.
- C. Open Session Minutes of Special-Called Joint Work Session with Jackson County Commissioners on January 31, 2023.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. It has been a good but long month of February for our students and staff. Normally, we would have experienced at least one inclement weather event but it has been an unseasonably warm winter. I'd also like to welcome Michelle Marr as the interim principal and David Proffitt as the interim assist principal at SMES.
2. We wrapped up the winter sports season and this week marks the beginning of spring season games and activities. I am proud of the student-athletes and coaches that work hard to maintain great academic standing and participate in sports. I am, however, concerned about the need for coaches and bus drivers for athletic events. During the January meeting we heard many people speak about their willingness to coach and support all aspects of athletics. As of today, our schools have had only nine people not already employed by JCPS initiate contact with schools to support athletics at the middle school level. Of those nine, three have committed in some capacity for spring sports. This is disappointing as we require support to continue with both district and school-based teams.
3. March concludes the end of the third quarter in JCPS. Next week, March 9th and 10th are professional development and optional workdays. There will be no school for students on these days. Our staff have many learning opportunities on March 9th that will directly impact our student success. We value PD days!
4. February is Career and Technical Education month and we have been celebrating the work our CTE teachers do for students. Our social media pages have highlighted the more than 50 different course offerings for students to participate in grades 6-12. We are fortunate to have so many opportunities for students to explore. Thanks, too, to CTE Director Angie Dills for her tireless work to grow this program and engage students and staff in industry tours and internships.
5. Finally, I want to mention our district priorities again. Last month we spent much time talking about a traditional middle school and the positive impacts that will have on our students. Our Board wholeheartedly supports this priority but it is our second priority at this time. There will be a lot of planning and discussing funding with our County Commissioners before this can occur. We are moving forward with planning and determining costs for our first JCPS priority which is a new cafeteria and classroom space at Fairview. We see the need and recognize that this will be a project that will meet the needs of Fairview students and staff.

6. I am always happy to share the gratitude I have for the parents, families and the Jackson County community. We are truly the best thing happening in the west and this would not occur without the tight-knit and strong support we receive.

- B. **Agenda Item:** Summer Learning Programming Information
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Federal Programs Director

Mrs. Dills updated the board on plans for the 2023 Summer Learning Programs.

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

Ms. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of February 24, 2023.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Assistant Cora Fields read a written Public Comment received via email on February 22, 2023 at 9:47 a.m. as follows:

Dear Board,

I urge you to please consider next school year's start date to be on a Wednesday or later. After being out of school for 2 months, it is very difficult for students (and parents) to jump into a new schedule on a Monday. This past Fall was particularly trying with the 1st Soccer game same day.

I vote for an easier transition from Summer Vacation to Back to School.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Lora Pierce, one tired old Mom

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments
Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Capital Outlay Fund and Other Specific Revenue Fund 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 budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grant Fund, Capital Outlay Fund and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

- B. **Agenda Item:** 2022-2023 Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC Audit Engagement Letter & Contract
Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented the Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC Audit Contract and Audit Engagement Letter for 2022-2023 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 Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC Audit Contract for 2022-2023.*

C. **Agenda Item:** 2022-2023 School Calendar Amendment

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented a recommended amendment to the 2022-2023 School Calendar to include one additional Teacher Workday on April 10, 2023 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted 4 to 1 to approve the amendment to 2022-2023 School Calendar. Abigail Clayton cast the dissenting vote.*

D. **Agenda Item:** School Calendar Resolution

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented a School Calendar Resolution supporting local control of school calendars 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 School Calendar Resolution.*

E. **Agenda Item:** 2023 – 2024 School Calendar Approval

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented two 2023 – 2024 School Calendar options. Option B has a student start date of August 21 and complies with the state statute and mandated start date. Option D has a student start date of August 16 and offers more balanced semesters. Dr. Ayers asked for a motion and board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted 3 to 2 to approve Option D of the 2023-2024 School Calendar. Abigail Clayton and Dr. Lynn Dillard cast the dissenting votes.*

F. **Agenda Item:** CTE Desktop Computers for Labs Purchase Approval

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented the bids for the purchase of CTE Desktop Computers for Labs and asked for board approval to purchase from Y&S Technologies.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the CTE Desktop Computers for Labs from Y&S Technologies.*

G. **Agenda Item:** Approval to Apply for E-Rate Funding

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented a request to apply for E-Rate funding for 2023-2024 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 application for E-Rate funding for 2023-2024.*

- H. **Agenda Item:** Approval to Purchase Firewall
Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented the bids to purchase a firewall and asked for board approval to purchase from Tiber Creek Consulting.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Firewall purchase from Tiber Creek Consulting.*

- I. **Agenda Item:** Avigilon Security Camera System Expansion Approval
Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented the bids to purchase additional Avigilon Security Cameras and asked for board approval to purchase from Encore Technology Group.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Avigilon Security Cameras from Encore Technology Group.*

- J. **Agenda Item:** Summer Program Testing
Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Accountability

Mr. Holt presented the 2022-2023 Summer Testing Program Plan 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 Summer Testing Program Plan.*

- K. **Agenda Item:** Field Trips
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. SMHS, Grades 9-11 – Josten’s Yearbook Photography Workshop, Charlotte, North Carolina, February 10, 2023, TT 8184.
2. BRS, Grade 5 - Bad Creek, SC, 04-20-2023, TT 8165.
3. CVES, Grade 1 - Ripley's Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, 03-14-23, TT 8236
4. FES, Grade 3 - Young Harris Planetarium, Young Harris, GA 03-21-23 - TT 8247.
5. SCES, Grade 6 – Ripley’s Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, 05-05-23, TT 8258.
6. SMHS, Grades 9-12 – HOSA Conference, Greensboro, NC, 04-12-23 to 04-15-23, TT 8273.

Dr. Ayers reviewed the above listed field trip 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 above listed field trip.*

- L. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates
Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

First Reading:

1. Emergency Use of Naloxone (5021/6126/7268)

Mr. Buchanan presented the first reading of the above listed policy.

Action: *No Action Taken.*

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.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Kim Moore and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

1. Draft Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting on January 24, 2023.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to convene open session.

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. Blackburn, Trinity – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMES
2. Burck, Lila – Homebound Teacher, SCES
3. Cameron, Taryn – Teacher Assistant, CVES
4. Cauley, Jeremy – Drivers Education Instructor, Bus Garage
5. Donatelli, Donna – School Nutrition Assistant, CVES
6. Fox, Paula – Temporary Custodian, CVES
7. Holland, Daniel – Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, FES
8. Lipan, Nita – Computer Lab Facilitator, SMHS
9. Long, Michelle – Homebound Teacher, SCES
10. Marr, Michelle – Interim Principal, SMES
11. Marshall, Nadia – EC Teacher Assistant, FES
12. McCall, Kristina – Substitute Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, BRS
13. McFadden, Kathy – School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
14. Pierce, Elizabeth – Teacher, SMES
15. Pruett, Tonya – Homebound Teacher, SMES
16. Reed, Tammy – Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, District-Wide
17. Saunooke, David – School Psychologist Intern, Central Office
18. Sexton, Jennifer – Teacher Assistant, SMES
19. Stiles, Julia – School Psychologist Intern, Central Office

20. Walker, Logan – Custodian, Central Office
21. Watson, Tracy – Homebound Teacher, SCES

Employee Resignations:

1. Dellinger, Austin – Assistant Coach MS Basketball, BREC
2. Lester, Brittany – Teacher, SMHS
3. Queen, Jessica – School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
4. Treadway, Michael – Principal, SMES
5. Wilson, Wayne – Custodian, BREC

Employee Retirements:

1. Plank, Tonya – School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Burns, Jennifer – Head Coach District MS Softball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
2. Capps, Zeb – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Golf, SMHS – Returning Staff
3. Chapman, Corey – Head Coach Baseball, CVES – New Non-Staff
4. Cochran, Trevor – Assistant Coach Varsity Track, SMHS – Returning Staff
5. Davidson, Todd – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Track, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
6. Dezarn, Megan – Head Coach Varsity Women’s Track, SMHS – Returning Staff
7. Dillard, Morgan – Head Coach Varsity Softball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
8. Dills, Mickey – Assistant Coach District MS Baseball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
9. Earley, Jordan – Assistant Coach District MS Golf, SMHS – New Non-Staff
10. Elkins, Brittany – Assistant Coach Varsity Women’s Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
11. Ellenburg, Jeremy – Head Coach Varsity Baseball, SMHS – Returning Staff
12. Eyler, Jim – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Tennis, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
13. Hansen, Debbie – Head Coach District MS Women’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Staff
14. Hawk, Derrick – Assistant Coach Varsity Baseball, SMHS – Returning Staff
15. Hill, Melissa – Head Coach JV Softball, SMHS – Returning Staff
16. Howell, Josh – Head Coach District MS Golf, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
17. Libby, Jonathan – Assistant Coach District MS Track, SMHS – Returning Staff
18. Mayse, Timothy – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Golf, BREC – Returning Staff
19. McElroy, Craig – Head Coach JV Baseball, SMHS – New Staff
20. Middleton, Molly – Assistant Coach District MS Women’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
21. Mulligan, Tyler – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Tennis, SMHS – Returning Staff
22. Nicholson, Rachel – Assistant Coach Varsity Softball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
23. Parsons, Stephen – Head Coach Varsity Women’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Staff
24. Pollack, Brad – Assistant Coach Baseball, CVES – New Non-Staff
25. Pressler, Nickalus – Head Coach Varsity Women’s Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
26. Reece, Elijah – Assistant Coach Baseball, SCES – Returning Staff
27. Russell, William – Head Coach MS Baseball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
28. Stephens, Anthony – Head Coach Baseball, SCES – Returning Non-Staff
29. Thompson, Mark – Head Coach District MS Baseball, SMHS – Returning Staff
30. Warlick, Kodie – Assistant Coach JV Baseball, SMHS – New Staff
31. Winchester, Travis – Assistant Coach District MS Softball, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff

Special Requests: Leave of Absence:

1. Sutton, Kelly – Teacher, JCS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is March 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Jackson County Early College, 404 College Drive, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L Ayers, Secretary