

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

404 College Drive, Sylva

March 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, at Jackson County Early College, 404 College Drive, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
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; 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

Melanie Jacobs, JCEC Principal, welcomed everyone to Jackson County Early College. The JCEC Choral Club, led by Ms. Amanda Fonseca, JCEC Honors Math Teacher and Choral Club Sponsor, sang the National Anthem and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Inga Sutton, JCEC Honors English Teacher and Senior HOUSE Teacher, introduced the Senior Job Shadowing Presentations by JCEC Seniors Keira Smith and Jalen Motola.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers presented Certificates of Recognition to the following Jackson Community School students for participating in the Jobs for North Carolina Graduates program:

Hazel Anthony – Career Presentation
Jonathon Sutton, Aaliyah Lafon, Brandon Ray and Mahala Wilson – Creative Problem Solving Team

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

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

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting on February 28, 2023.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. We are wrapping up the busy month of March. This month has been filled with ACT tests, field trips, athletic events, college visits, staff professional learning days and family nights at many schools. We are concluding the week in time for spring break which begins on Monday, April 3rd through Monday, April 10th. Students will return to school on Tuesday, April 11th.
2. Our students have been working very hard in their classes. The level of rigor, challenge and intentional instruction is showing positive results in our performance data. I am incredibly proud of the level of engagement I see when I walk into classrooms and the focus our students have in the subject they are learning. I am confident the hard work and solid instruction from staff will be evidenced by the end of year assessments.
3. Last Thursday, we held the annual Healthy Snack Master Competition at Blue Ridge. We had 41 students from across the district participate and it was a huge success. Thanks to our judges from the Board, Abigail Clayton and Elizabeth Cooper, along with myself, Kheri Cowan and Zachary Eden. Kudos to our school nutrition director and assistant, Laura Cabe and Sandra Stevens for making this a fun and educational experience. We are already planning for next year.
4. I am also honored that JCPS has hosted many visitors from around the state over the last month. We have toured schools with the state and regional Teachers of the Year, Mebane Rash, Executive Director of EdNC, several team members from Dogwood Health Trust, the western region superintendents, the regional DPI Director and the State Superintendent, Catherine Truitt. How exciting that people from around the state want to come to Jackson County Public Schools to see, first-hand, the strong work we are doing!
5. JCPS will soon be announcing the peer-selected Teachers of the Year at each school. What a wonderful honor to be nominated and selected by your colleagues. We will recognize each of those remarkable educators in the coming months.
6. Our spring sports teams are in action as well as performances by our musicians and theater students. Of note is the upcoming musical, *The Sound of Music*, at SMHS on April 28-30. This year, there are students from all JCPS schools involved. I encourage everyone to attend one of the performances because they are certainly something special.
7. Finally, I want to share information about our Special Olympics games. The upcoming games will be held during the day at SMHS on Friday, April 28th. We have solicited for high school students to support the games this year and they will serve in “buddy” roles

and other capacities. If you have never attended this event, it is likely the most joyful day you will see all year long.

8. Thank you for the support we receive from our community, businesses and families. We are fortunate to have everyone cheering on our students and staff to be the very best they can be.

B. Agenda Item: SHAC Update

Presenter: Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe provided an update on the School Health Advisory Council and encouraged the board to support the T21 Resolution that she will present during the Action Agenda.

C. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Ms. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of March 28, 2023.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

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, Local Current Expense Fund, and Other Specific Revenue 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 budget amendments and transfers to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

B. Agenda Item: T21 Resolution

Presenter: Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Ms. Cabe presented the T21 Resolution 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 T21 Resolution.*

C. Agenda Item: Purchase of Storage Building for Bus Garage

Presenter: Josh Francis, Transportation Director

Mr. Francis presented a bid for the purchase of a storage building for the bus garage 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 a storage building for the bus garage.*

D. Agenda Item: 2024-2025 LEA Based Calendar Weather Waiver

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the 2024-2025 LEA Based Calendar Weather Waiver 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 2024-2025 LEA Based School Calendar Weather Waiver.*

E. Agenda Item: Field Trips

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. CVES, Grade 8 – Great Wolf Lodge Water Park, Concord, NC, May 3-5, 2023, TT 8367.
2. JCEC, Grade 12 – Carowinds, Charlotte, NC, May 5, 2023, TT 8297.
3. SCES, Grade 5 – Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN, May 12, 2023, TT 8351.
4. SMHS, Grade 11 – NC State, Raleigh, NC. April 19-20, 2023, TT 8233.

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

F. Agenda Item: Policy Updates

Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Final Reading:

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

Mr. Buchanan presented the final reading of the above-listed policy.

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

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 February 28, 2023.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return 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. Adams, Savita – Deaf Hard of Hearing Teacher, District-wide
2. Coggins, Anita – Teacher, BREC
3. Collins, Stacey – Instructional Coach, FES – Extended School Year
4. Crisp, Rayna – Assistant Principal, FES – Extended School Year
5. Howard, Travis – Behavior Specialist, SMHS and Multi
6. Irizarry, Daija – Deaf Hard of Hearing Teacher, District-wide
7. Johnson, Alexandra – Teacher, SMHS
8. Marshall, Joan – School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
9. Nielsen, Anne Marie – PreK Teacher Assistant, BRS
10. Owen, Tammy – Bus Monitor, BRS
11. Payne, Brittany – Instructional Coach, FES – Extended School Year
12. Prather, James – Interim Band Instructor, SMHS
13. Proffitt, Dennis – Interim Assistant Principal, SMES
14. Sheppard, Mark – Interim Assistant Principal, SMES
15. Watson, Tracy – Instructional Coach, SMES
16. Young, Thomas – Assistant Athletic Director, SMHS – Returning Staff

Employee Resignations:

1. Burck, Lila Patricia – EC Teacher, SCES
2. Cherry, Stacey – EC Teacher, SMHS
3. Gentry, Logan – Teacher, SMHS
4. Hardy, Kara – HR/Finance Administrative Assistant, Central Office
5. Irons, Clinton – Custodian and Bus Driver, SCES
6. Larsen, Alexander – Band Director/Teacher, SMHS
7. Paskell-Peek, Judith – School Nutrition Assistant, CVES

Employee Retirements:

1. Collins, William – Teacher, JCS
2. Franklin, Traci – Teacher Assistant, FES
3. Morgan, Betty Derinda – Data Manager, SMHS
4. Moses, Kathryn – Teacher, JCS

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Bryson, Richard – Head Coach Baseball, FES – New Non-Staff
2. Chambers, Angela – Assistant Coach JV Softball, SMHS – Returning Staff
3. Cooper, Jack – Head Coach District MS Men’s Track, SMHS – New Non-Staff

4. Miller, Scott – Head Coach District MS Women’s Track, SMHS – Returning Staff
5. Montgomery, Dalton – Assistant Coach Baseball, FES – New Non-Staff
6. Southern, Hannah – Assistant Coach Varsity Track, SMHS – New Non-Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Jackson Community School, 3770 Skyland Drive, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L Ayers, Secretary