

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

3770 Skyland Drive, Sylva

April 25, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2023, at Jackson Community School, 3770 Skyland Drive, 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; 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

Ms. Heather Reidinger, JCS Principal, welcomed everyone to Jackson Community School. JCS students led the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Reidinger played a video highlighting the students and programs of Jackson Community School.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers recognized Blue Ridge Early College students Mahalah Stewart and Mercedes McLaughlin for their selectin to the 1A Allstars team.

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 March 28, 2023.

INFORMATION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. It is the end of April and an extremely busy time of the year! There are only 31 days of school remaining and each school is focusing on academic rigor and all the extras that come with this time of the year. We are laser-focused on assessments that begin on Thursday, May 25th for elementary/middle school students and EOC's for high school students the following week.
2. Spring break was a time of rest for staff and students and we were incredibly grateful for the added day to come back to prepare for a strong finish. Our community, as always, stepped up and supported students and families with food bags for the long break away from school. Thank you to local churches and businesses for your generosity.
3. The many spring sports teams are wrapping up their seasons with impressive finishes. It is very rewarding to witness the commitment and dedication that these student-athletes and their coaches have while also maintaining strong academic performance. There's nothing like hearing the cheers of spectators, the crack of a bat or the voices of coaches as they work with their teams!
4. This week is perhaps one of the busiest in the next few. This morning was the annual Special Olympics Torch Run from the fountain to SMHS and this precedes our Special Olympics games that will take place on Friday, April 28th beginning at 9:30. We have special Olympians representing every school in JCPS and more than 80 high school students serving as "buddies" for our Olympians. As I have said before, it is the BEST day of the year! I offer a sincere thank you to Board member Abigail Clayton and Student Services Director, Kelly Doppke, for working diligently to make this event and experience unforgettable.
5. Also, this week, the weekend-long performances of *The Sound of Music* will take place at SMHS Friday through Sunday. There are students from all JCPS schools involved in the production. I am super excited about this show and our students.
6. Looking ahead, we have finalized our date for the 2nd Annual Back to School Bash to be held on Saturday, August 5th at the Cullowhee Recreation Center. We have begun to solicit local businesses for monetary donations and school supplies. To date, we have received two very large monetary donations. The first, Balsam Missionary Baptist Church provided \$5,000. The second was from Brian Barwatt and the group that organized the Assault on Blackrock Trail Run. This was the 13th year for the seven-mile race which goes from The Pinnacle Park up to the summit of Blackrock via the west fork trail and back. They have raised over \$36,000 for nine different non-profit organizations in Sylva since its inception in 2011. This year, they donated \$3,030 to JCPS for the annual Back to School Bash. WOW, way to step up for JCPS! For additional questions or information about the Bash, please call Emily Buchanan at 828-586-2311 ext.1952.
7. It is certainly a blessing to be supported by the community in which we live. Thank you, Jackson County, for all you do for our students, families and staff.

B. **Agenda Item:** Internal Audits

Presenter: Kristie Walker, CFO

Mrs. Walker presented the findings of the 3rd Quarter Internal Audits. Ms. Walker informed the board that there were no findings of fraud, legal noncompliance, or improper use of funds.

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

Ms. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of April 25, 2023.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

ACTION AGENDA

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

Ms. Walker presented budget amendment and transfer to the Federal Grants 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 amendment and transfer to the Federal Grants Fund.*

- B. **Agenda Item:** Resolution in Opposition to HB 219
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the Resolution in Opposition to HB 219 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 Resolution in Opposition to HB 219.*

- C. **Agenda Item:** CTE Local Application for 2023 - 2024
Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the CTE Local Application for 2023 – 2024 which included minor changes 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 CTE Local Application for 2023 - 2024.*

- D. **Agenda Item:** Summer Learning Program
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Executive Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the Summer Learning Program plan for 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 Summer Learning Program.*

- E. **Agenda Item:** MOU between Blue Ridge Health and JCPS Approval
Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the MOU between Blue Ridge Health and JCPS 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 MOU between Blue Ridge Health and JCPS.*

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

Minor Changes:

1. Discretionary Admission (4130)
2. Assignment to Classes (4155)
3. Use of Unmanned Aircraft (Drones) (4334/5035/7345)
4. Automated External Defibrillator (5028/6130/7267)
5. Organization of the Purchasing Function (6410)
6. Employee Dress and Appearance (7340)

Mr. Buchanan presented the changes to the above-listed policies 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 policy updates.*

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

1. FES, Grades 7 and 8 Band – Carowinds, Charlotte, NC, May 20, 2023, TT 8363.
2. SMHS, Grades 9 – 12 EC – Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, May 25, 2023, TT 8450.

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

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 Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

1. Draft Closed Session Minutes for Regular Meeting on March 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. Bates, April – Bus Driver, CVES
2. Boone, Jerrod – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
3. Boyles, Autumn – Homebound Teacher, FES
4. Bryson, Amy – Bus Monitor, SMHS
5. Dalton, David – Data Manager, SMHS
6. Donica, Joseph – LAN Engineer, Central Office
7. Dunn, Karen – Teacher, SMHS
8. Fahey, Amy – Extended Employment Project AWARE Coach Clinician, District
9. Franklin, Traci – Bus Monitor, FES
10. Geary, Erika – Extended Employment Project AWARE Evaluator Clinician, District
11. Henry, Amber – Temporary EC Teacher, SMHS
12. Kurr, Timothy – Principal, SMES
13. Marquez, Olivia – School Psychologist, SMHS
14. McCue, Gretchen – Bus Monitor, SCES
15. McFadden, Kathy – Temporary School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
16. McGee, Hailey – EC Teacher, FES
17. McRae, Steve – Extended Employment Project AWARE Coordinator Clinician, District
18. Miller, Emma – Homebound Teacher, FES
19. Miller, Evangeline – Substitute Bus Driver, BRS
20. Parham, Carleen – Bus Monitor, FES
21. Penny-Nicholson, Olivia – EC Teacher, FES
22. Primo, Ciara – EC Teacher, SCES
23. Riddle, Ronnie – Substitute Bus Driver and Activity Bus Driver, SCES
24. Schwalm, Angie – Bus Monitor, SMHS
25. Sheppard, Mark – Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
26. Ward, Turner – Substitute Bus Driver, BRS

Employee Recommendations - Summer Academic Program:

1. Allred, Alexis – Teacher, CVES
2. Bailey, Rebecca - Teacher, CVES
3. Bishop, Samantha – Teacher, CVES
4. Boud, Sarah – Teacher Assistant, CVES
5. Bowers, Amanda – School Nurse, CVES
6. Brown, Eryn – Teacher, CVES
7. Browning, Amy – Receptionist, CVES
8. Bryson, Ginger – Receptionist, BRS
9. Bullock, Heather – Counselor, CVES

10. Cochran, Trevor – Teacher Assistant, CVES
11. Conlin, Sharon – Teacher, CVES
12. Crisp, Meredith – Teacher, CVES
13. Cunningham, Brittney – Teacher Assistant, CVES
14. Duggins, Lesley – Teacher, CVES
15. Ellenburg, Heather – Teacher, CVES
16. Hansen, Debbie – Teacher Assistant, CVES
17. Howerton, Caleigh – Teacher Assistant, CVES
18. Johnson, Crystal – Teacher, CVES
19. Larch, Catherine – Teacher Assistant, CVES
20. Leathers, Annette – Teacher, BRS
21. Manring, Rebecca – Teacher Assistant, CVES
22. Marshall, Nadia – Teacher Assistant, CVES
23. Massingale, Whitney – Teacher, CVES
24. Mathis, Donna – Teacher Assistant, CVES
25. Mathis, Susan – Teacher Assistant, CVES
26. McGoldrick, Kandace – Teacher Assistant, CVES
27. Miller, Ashley – Teacher, CVES
28. Montesano, Stefani – Teacher Assistant, CVES
29. Moody-Bumgarner, Mary – Teacher Assistant, CVES
30. Myers, Sarah – Teacher Assistant, CVES
31. Nytko, Emily – Teacher, CVES
32. Owen, Tammy – Teacher Assistant, BRS
33. Painter, Mikaela – Teacher, CVES
34. Parham, Carleen – Teacher Assistant, CVES
35. Parris, Rosanna – Teacher Assistant, CVES
36. Plemmons, Shauna – Teacher, CVES
37. Pol, Lana – Teacher Assistant, CVES
38. Repreza, Evelyn – Teacher Assistant, CVES
39. Rice, Christina – School Nurse, BRS
40. Rich, Kameron – Teacher Assistant, CVES
41. Stewart, Donna – Teacher, BRS
42. Swartzwelder, Katie – Teacher, CVES
43. Sydykbekova, Alymkan – Teacher Assistant, CVES
44. Verrault, Gina – Teacher, CVES
45. Watkins, Susan – Teacher, BRS
46. Watson, Katlin – Teacher Assistant, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Goranson, Olena – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
2. Joyner, Alexandria – Teacher, CVES
3. Miller, Tiffany – Educational Diagnostician, District
4. Robideux, Ashley – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
5. Warlick, Kodie – Assistant Coach JV Baseball, SMHS

Special Request: Leave of Absence:

1. Hammer, Kelly – EC Teacher, CVES

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is May 23, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Offices, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L Ayers, Secretary