

WATAUGA BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Educational Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA

October 10, 2022

5:30 P.M.

- | | | | |
|------|-----|---|---|
| 5:30 | 1. | CALL TO ORDER | Board Chair |
| 5:32 | 2. | CLOSED SESSION <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of MinutesB. Reportable Offenses – N.C.G.S.115C-288(g)C. Student Records - N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(1)D. Personnel – N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)E. Attorney-Client - N.C.G.S 143-318.11(a)(3) | |
| 6:00 | 3. | OPEN SESSION CALL TO ORDER/ MOMENT OF SILENCE | Board Chair |
| 6:05 | 4. | DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA | Board Chair |
| 6:08 | 5. | PUBLIC RECOGNITION <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Student Recognition for ExhibitionB. Gold Bell AwardC. Servant's Heart Award | Ms. Genal West
Dr. Scott Elliott
Mr. Jeff Lyons |
| 6:18 | 6. | SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT | Dr. Scott Elliott |
| 6:23 | 7. | STUDENTS' REPORT | Ms. Ellary Smith
Ms. Mia Shanely |
| 6:28 | 8. | PUBLIC COMMENT | Board Chair |
| 6:38 | 9. | CONSENT AGENDA <ul style="list-style-type: none">A. Approval of the Minutes for 9/12/2022B. Field Trip RequestsC. Declaration of SurplusD. Budget Amendment #1E. Personnel Report | Dr. Scott Elliott |
| 6:48 | 10. | CURRICULUM UPDATE- DISTRICT NEEDS ASSESSMENT | Dr. Betsy Furr |

7:08 11. POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ Dr. Wayne Eberle

3430	School Improvement Plan
4240/7312	Child Abuse Reports
4302-R	Rules for Use of Seclusion and Restraint
4334/5036/7345	Drones
4400	Attendance
5240	Advertising in Schools

7:25 12. BOARD OPERATIONS Board Chair

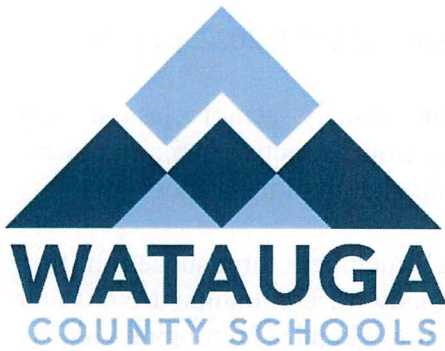
A. Approval of voting delegates to NCSBA

7:35 13. BOARD COMMENTS Board Chair

7:45 14. ADJOURNMENT Board Chair

15. MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

A. Next Meeting November 21st, 2022
B. Calendar Committee Minutes



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Educational Center
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607
(828) 264-7190

DATE: September 12, 2022

TIME: 5:30 PM

PLACE: Margaret E. Gragg Educational Center

PRESENT: Gary Childers, Jay Fenwick, Marshall Ashcraft, Steve Combs, Jason Cornett, Dr. Stephen Martin, Assistant Superintendent, Mr. John Henning, Board Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Gary Childers, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. He asked for a motion to go into closed session. Marshall Ashcraft moved to enter closed session and Jay Fenwick seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made by Steve Combs and seconded by Marshall Ashcraft to reenter open session. The vote to enter open session was unanimous at 6:05 PM.

WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dr. Childers welcomed those attending the meeting at 6:10 PM. He began with a request to observe a moment of silence.

DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda for the September meeting with the exception that the Personnel Report in the consent agenda would be an amended version.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Mary Valante spoke in support of the education available in Watauga County Schools, and in support of the school system. She has two children, one current student and one graduate. She has spent much time in the schools. She hoped that the Board would focus more on things that do need to be changed, and hoped that folks would stop focusing on things that were not occurring in the schools, have never been taught in schools, and are not in the state curriculum, undermining the opportunity for positive change to occur.

Dr. Mark Murphy read a statement addressing the Board, which he hoped would raise substantive educational issues. He had concerns about "woke political indoctrination". He stated that factual documentation would be made available to the public and parents. He highlighted the fact that three board members were up for re-election. He stated that some people wanted to characterize his objections as political and anti-teacher. He objected to some teaching methods and materials, social/emotion learning teaching methods, and surveys utilized in the schools. He feels that Watauga County Schools (WCS) education will be improved if these issues are addressed, and is willing to participate in change.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Childers read Dr. Elliott's comments from an email.

Dr. Elliott and the Board welcomed, and were excited to have Miss Mia Shanely, senior class student representative and Miss Ellary Smith, junior representatives back in meetings. Both are active in many student organizations at WHS. All look forward to their continued positive leadership and input this school year.

Dr. Elliott thanked everyone - students, parents, teachers, and all school staff members for a successful first three weeks of school. He noted that students are already participating in many different student clubs and activities, student athletics and would be enjoying the WHS homecoming that weekend. The football game is the second of only four regular season games that would be played at home this season. He encouraged everyone to attend and cheer on the ROTC, band, cheerleaders, Pacers, and football team

He reminded everyone that Wednesday, Sept. 14, was an early release for teacher professional development in the state mandated LETRS (pronounced "letters") training on literacy and the state's science of reading initiative.

That week was a celebration of Arts in Education week. Many activities would be held in schools all throughout the week in the various arts disciplines experienced by students as a part of their overall education experience. He thanked the Board for their continued investment in arts education, and thanked the arts teachers for their dedication to their students.

He commended WCS students and teachers for their hard work during the previous school year. He noted that the recent release of student test scores and student achievement data for the 21-22 year showed that all schools in WCS either met or exceeded their growth targets from the state. In fact, Watauga County Schools was only one of eight schools in NC to have all schools meet or exceed their growth goals, and one of only three in the Northwest region to do so. An accomplishment worth celebrating, this is reminder of the quality of WCS teachers and the hard work of WCS students.

Interviewing and hiring continues for unfilled positions. No position need is more critical than remedying the shortage of bus drivers. Regular bus routes have been combined or canceled when no driver is available. School field trips may be limited due to the shortage of drivers. He encouraged members of the public, including parents, to sign up for bus classes and consider driving.

He encouraged everyone to continue to take precautions against Covid. Since the start of the school year we have seen 109 students and 31 staff members have been Covid positive. He noted that the guidelines of the CDC and the local health department are followed. WCS would be offering recently approved vaccines and boosters through school based clinics for school employees and for students whose parents want the vaccines. He thanked the nurses for their continued support of students and employees.

He reiterated his thanks for a positive start to the school year. He stated that WCS is fortunate to have quality dedicated teachers and educators, wonderful, hardworking engaged parents, and a very supportive community.

STUDENT REPORT

Miss Mia Shanely and Miss Ellary Smith spoke about activities at the high school. On August 18 freshman and new student orientation was held and supported by Pioneer Ambassadors. Watauga Powder Horn, student newspaper, has 29 students, the Spark literary magazine is revived, and Watauga10 is a new online weekly publication highlighting sports and extra-curricular activities. Clubs have organized many service events. Interact has adopted a section of the New River and has scheduled a cleanup event open to all. The Sustainability Club won a North Carolina Green Power grant to build solar panels at the high school to learn more about that power source in a hands-on fashion. They must raise two thousand dollars and are seeking

an additional thousand dollars to meet grant requirements. Donations can be made on the school website. Homecoming week is also Spirit week, and is celebrated during the day with different daily themes and with after school activities, plus a pep rally. The Homecoming game will be on Friday night with a tailgate, club tables, vendors, and events like corn-hole. Saturday night is the Homecoming Dance, the first since 2019, and is entitled, "There's No Place Like Homecoming" with a Wizard of Oz theme. Students are very excited!

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approval of the Minutes for 8/8/2022
- B. Field Trip Requests
- C. Declaration of Surplus
- D. Lottery Applications
- E. Approval of Client Services Reimbursement for Watauga Opportunities
- F. Amended Personnel Report

Jason Cornett moved to approve the consent agenda items A through F with the personnel amendment. The motion was seconded by Marshall Ashcraft. The board members voted unanimously to approve.

2022-2023 BUDGET RESOLUTION

Ms. Marze presented the budget resolution for the current school year. Mr. Ashcraft asked a few questions about how certain monies would be spent. Following discussion, Marshall Ashcraft moved to approve the Budget Resolution as presented. Steve Combs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

LEASE AND AGENCY AGREEMENT AND BOARD RESOLUTION

Mr. John Henning, Board Attorney explained the purpose of the documents pursuant to construction of the Valle Crucis School. This document will allow the County to use the property as collateral for funding the project. The lease allows the school system to oversee construction. Steve Combs moved to approve the resolution and the lease and agency agreement, which was seconded by Jay Fenwick. The vote to approve was unanimous.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ

- 1321 Board Member Conflict of Interest
- 1350 Duties of Officers
- 1500 Board Policies
- 1700 Consultants to the Board
- 3120 Online Instruction
- 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admissions
- 4260 Student Sex Offenders

Dr. Wayne Eberle presented the above listed policies for first read. Following discussion of each policy individually, Jason Cornett moved to accept the policies on first read. Steve Combs seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ

Dr. Eberle presented the following policies:

- 7540 Voluntary Shared Leave
- 7810 Evaluation of Licensed Employees
- 7815 Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees
- 7620 Payroll Deductions

Dr. Eberle noted that these policies had no changes from first read. Following discussion, Jay Fenwick moved to approve the above policies as written. Jason Cornett seconded. The vote to approve was unanimous.

BOARD OPERATIONS

Marshall Ashcraft requested that the subscription for the NCSBA video subscription be purchased for \$1,500 for all-access videos for one year. These are available school system-wide. The Board had interest in pursuing this.

Mr. Ashcraft asked, regarding School Calendar, if school calendar law were to change, what would the ideal calendar look like? He noted that there is not an enforcement mechanism for violators. Per Dr. Martin, aligning with the community college schedule would be best for students.

Dr. Childers reminded the Board about the September 22 NWRESA meeting and encouraged attendance in Asheville.

Dr. Childers and Marshall Ashcraft would like to change the date of the November meeting. Following discussion, Monday November 21st was selected.

BOARD COMMENTS

Marshall Ashcraft wished to assist in finding future funding for National Board Certification for teachers. Dr. Childers shared that several Board members attended the preparedness exercises at Cove Creek and were surprised and reassured by the activities. Dr. Childers encouraged the Board to participate in surveys seeking information for agendas and legislative action. The top results for action items are: school safety, grading system, and teacher pay.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Combs moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Jason Cornett. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 7:16 PM.

Dr. Gary L. Childers, Board Chair

Dr. Scott Elliott, Superintendent

WATAUGA COUNTY FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

This request is for a: ___ day trip ___ out of state day trip ☒ overnight trip ___ overnight & out of state trip

Day trips must be submitted to the principal 15 days before the trip. Overnight trip requests must be submitted to the superintendent by the first day of each month. Overnight field trips require the prior approval of the principal, transportation director, superintendent, and Board of Education. All trips utilizing rental or charter vehicles require the prior approval of the transportation director. No employee will transport students in a personal vehicle and no employee or volunteer driver will transport students in a 12-15 passenger van. No more than five students will be transported by a school system employee or volunteer in any one vehicle other than a school bus or activity bus.

Sponsoring teacher: (Print) Laura Barry School: Watauga HS
Cell phone number: 919-608-1622 Grade(s): 9-12 Number of students: 12
Departure time/date: 12/19/22 3pm Return time/date: 12/22/22 6pm

Educational purpose:

Trip destination including city, state, and all places to be visited: (attach detailed itinerary as needed)

Women's Basketball Cherokee Invitational
Cherokee Resort - 777 Casino Drive, Cherokee, NC

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: Holiday Basketball Tournament
with many top teams from region. Will help team
building with our varsity group as well as strength
of schedule.

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: Laura Barry/Kalie Eppley/ Bill Torgerson

Names of all non-school chaperones: _____

All chaperones have a background check completed: yes Sponsoring teacher initials: AB

Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? yes no How will students with disabilities be accommodated for site access and transportation? N/A

Sponsoring Teacher Initials N/A (If applicable) A safety/supervision plan for high risk and/or water activities has been shared with the parents. Please attach a copy of the plan to this form if applicable.

Transportation plan:

Mode of transportation: Yellow bus with wheelchair lift Yellow bus without wheelchair lift
Activity bus with wheelchair lift X Activity bus without wheelchair lift Rental car/mini-van
Charter bus Other (Please explain) _____

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) _____

(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: Bill Torgerson Round trip mileage: 184 # of buses needed: 1

Total cost per student \$ _____ Source of funds: _____

The sponsoring teacher has reviewed Board policies 3320, 3320-R, and 6315: Teacher initials: AB

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature: [Signature] Date: 9 / 14 / 22

Principal approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 15 / 2022

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 26 / 22

Superintendent approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 26 / 22

Board of Education approval: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

WATAUGA COUNTY FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

This request is for a: ___ day trip ___ out of state day trip ☒ overnight trip ___ overnight & out of state trip

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Sponsoring teacher: (Print) Will Selle School: WHS
Cell phone number: 828 553 1323 Grade(s): 10 Number of students: 1
Departure date: Friday Nov 4th Return date: Sunday Nov 6th
Departure time: 1:00 PM Return time: 6 PM

Educational purpose:

Trip destination including city, state, and all places to be visited: (attach detailed itinerary as needed)

Winston Salem, UNC School of Arts, NCMEA Convention.

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: Matias Polya was selected
to play in the NC Honors orchestra, Nov 4-6

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: Will Selle, Taryn Wooten (per conversation
with Blanton)

Names of all non-school chaperones: _____

✓

Will Zell
2551 222 1322
Friday Nov 4
1:00 PM

10

Will Zell
2551 222 1322
Friday Nov 4
1:00 PM

Winston Salem, NC 27103-1000

to Glad in the KC House
Marian Foster was selected
to be the 2000-2001

Will Zell
2551 222 1322
Friday Nov 4
1:00 PM

All chaperones have a background check completed:

Sponsoring teacher initials: VCS

Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? ☒ yes ☐ no How will students with disabilities be accommodated for site access and transportation? _____

Sponsoring Teacher Initials V/A (If applicable) A safety/supervision plan for high risk and/or water activities has been shared with the parents. Please attach a copy of the plan to this form if applicable.

Transportation plan:

Mode of transportation: _____ Yellow bus with wheelchair lift _____ Yellow bus without wheelchair lift
_____ Activity bus with wheelchair lift _____ Activity bus without wheelchair lift _____ Rental car/mini-van
_____ Charter bus Other (Please explain) School Car/van

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) _____

(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: Vill Selle Round trip mileage: ≈ 190 # of buses needed: 0

Total cost per student \$ 0 Source of funds: Fundraising

The sponsoring teacher has reviewed Board policies 3320, 3320-R, and 6315: Teacher initials: VCS

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature: William Chelle Date: 9 / 2 / 22

Principal approval: CVB Date: 9 / 7 / 2022

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 26 / 22

Superintendent approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 20 / 22

Board of Education approval: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

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WATAUGA COUNTY FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

This request is for a: ___ day trip ___ out of state day trip ☒ overnight trip ___ overnight & out of state trip

Day trips must be submitted to the principal 15 days before the trip. Overnight trip requests must be submitted to the superintendent by the first day of each month. Overnight field trips require the prior approval of the principal, transportation director, superintendent, and Board of Education. All trips utilizing rental or charter vehicles require the prior approval of the transportation director. No employee will transport students in a personal vehicle and no employee or volunteer driver will transport students in a 12-15 passenger van. No more than five students will be transported by a school system employee or volunteer in any one vehicle other than a school bus or activity bus.

Sponsoring teacher: (Print) Natasha Lyons School: Valle Crucis School

Cell phone number: 828-263-2383 Grade(s): 8 Number of students: 50

Departure date: Tuesday, March 21, 2023 Return date: Friday, March 24, 2023

Departure time: 6:30am Return time: 6:30pm

Educational purpose:

Trip destination including city, state, and all places to be visited: (attach detailed itinerary as needed)

Outerbanks, NC; See Attached Itinerary

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: This trip ties in Social Studies Standards as well as Science Standards within the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Social Study Standards include: 8.H.3.2 (Wright Brothers Memorial and how it shaped air transportation).
Science Standards include: 8.L.4 (how the ocean impacts the land), 8.L.3 (at the Coastal Studies Institute and Jennette's Pier we will investigate how abiotic and biotic factors affect populations), 8.E.1 (looking at the hydrosphere in reference to the ocean and the sound as well as assessing water quality and stewardship practices).

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: Natasha Lyons, Dave Shack, Allen Ingram

Names of all non-school chaperones: Heather Lyons

All chaperones have a background check completed:

Sponsoring teacher initials: NL

Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? yes ☒ no How will students with disabilities be accommodated for site access and transportation? Certain sites (such as the lighthouse and sand dunes) are not accessible for students who cannot walk so those students will be supervised by a staff member in a safe location as close to the rest of the group as they can get.

Sponsoring Teacher Initials NL (If applicable) A safety/supervision plan for high risk and/or water activities has been shared with the parents. Please attach a copy of the plan to this form if applicable.

Transportation plan:

Mode of transportation: Yellow bus with wheelchair lift Yellow bus without wheelchair lift
 Activity bus with wheelchair lift Activity bus without wheelchair lift Rental car/mini-van
☒ Charter bus Other (Please explain)

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) Youngs Transportation - on approved list
(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: Youngs Driver Round trip mileage: ~810mi # of buses needed: 1

Total cost per student \$ 700 Source of funds: parents + fundraising

The sponsoring teacher has reviewed Board policies 3320, 3320-R, and 6315: Teacher initials: NL

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature: Natasha Lyons Date: 08 / 26 / 2022

Principal approval: Bonnie Smith Date: 08 / 26 / 2022

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 26 / 22

Superintendent approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 26 / 22

Board of Education approval: Date: / /



PROPOSAL
Valle Crucis School
NC OBX
March 21-24, 2023

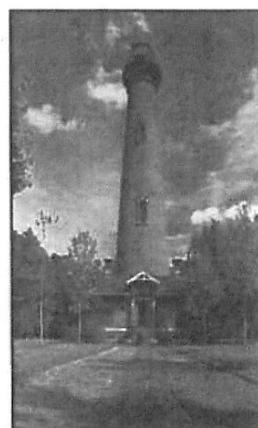
Day 1:

- 6:00 AM Coaches arrive at the school for loading
- 6:30 AM Depart for Asheboro Zoo
- 9:30 AM **Visit the NC Zoo**
- 12:30 PM Eat a bag lunch outside the zoo in the picnic area (*lunch brought from home*)
- 1:00 PM Depart for the OBX making a rest area stop en route
- 7:00 PM Check in to the **Hilton Garden Inn** and have a chance to see the beach
- 7:30 PM **Cook-out dinner** at the hotel (*hamburgers, hot dogs, fixings, sides, dessert and drinks*)
- 8:30 PM **Kite making class with Kitty Hawk Kites** at the hotel
- 10:30 PM Private security guard arrives for duty



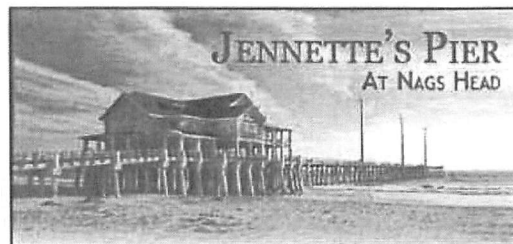
Day 2:

- 7:15 AM **Hot breakfast** at the hotel
- 8:00 AM Depart for Corolla
- 9:00 AM Visit the **OBX Wildlife Center, Currituck Maritime Museum and Climb Currituck Lighthouse**
- 11:30 AM Depart for Nags Head
- 12:30 PM **Box lunch at the pier** (*Country Deli sandwich, chips, cookie and water*)
- 1:00 PM **Programming at Jennette's Pier** (*Two hands on programs and Pier Fishing*)
- 4:00 PM Depart for Jockey's Ridge
- 4:30 PM **Kite contest facilitated by Kitty Hawk Kites – with prizes and time to have fun at Jockey's Ridge**
- 6:30 PM Depart for the hotel to change and shake the sand off
- 7:30 PM **Dinner at Captain George's – All- you-can- eat buffet incl. crab legs, seafood & land lover favorites**
- 8:45 PM **OBX Bowl** (*private event for just tour group*)
- 10:00 PM Depart for the hotel – security arrives at 10:30 PM



Day 3:

- 7:30 AM **Hot breakfast** at the hotel
- 8:30 AM Depart for touring
- 9:30 AM **Hands on Eco Program at Coastal Studies Institute**
- 11:30 AM View **Bodie Island Lighthouse**
- 12:00 AM Depart for Wright Brothers
- 12:30 PM **Box lunch** at the Wright Brother's Memorial
- 1:00 PM Visit the **Wright Brothers Memorial & Museum**
- 2:45 PM Souvenir stop at Ben Franklin's
- 3:45 PM Depart for the hotel
- 4:15 PM Arrive back at the hotel and have time to walk on the beach or enjoy the indoor pool
- 7:00 PM **Pizza Dinner** at the hotel (*Salad, Pizza, dessert and drinks*)
- 8:00 PM **Movie night** at the hotel (*group provides the movie and lap top to be connected to the ball room system*)
- 10:30 PM Private security guard arrives



"Travel with Distinction"

843 Riverside Drive, Asheville, NC 28804 • 828-258-0084 • www.youngtransportation.com

Day 4

7:00 AM Breakfast at the hotel
8:00 AM Depart for Roanoke Island
9:00 AM Visit the **NC Aquarium at Roanoke Island**
10:30 AM Depart for home making rest stops and a box lunch en route
6:30 PM Estimated arrival time back at the school

Price Per Person Includes:

R/T Transportation aboard a luxury coach
Three nights' accommodations and room taxes at the Hilton Garden Inn
Services of a private security guard at the hotel each night
All touring and admissions as indicated
Three breakfasts, three lunches and three dinners
Four complimentary teachers in two hotel rooms (double occupancy)

Safety/Supervision Plan

Written by: Natasha Lyons; Valle Crucis School Teacher & Trip Sponsor
Outerbanks, NC ; March 21 - 24, 2023

Transportation

All students will be on one (1) charter bus. The charter company we are working with is Young Transportation and is on the list of approved charters. Valle Crucis has worked with this company four (4) times in the past for overnight trips, two of those trips being to Williamsburg, VA in March of 2016 and March of 2018, the third being to Washington D.C. in April of 2017, and the fourth being to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in April of 2019. While on the charter, students will remain seated in an assigned seat. Seats are not to be changed unless prior approval from a chaperone has been granted. Reasons for moving seats will be on a case-by-case basis but will only be done in case of an emergency or student illness. There will be four (4) chaperones on the bus at all times with students. When entering the bus, up to two (2) chaperones will go on the bus first to ensure the safety of all students as they enter the bus while the remaining chaperones will wait outside the bus to ensure all students have made it on the bus. Before the bus pulls away, the chaperones will confirm that all students are on the bus by either counting the number of students or calling out their names. When exiting the bus, up to two (2) chaperones will exit the bus first to ensure the safety of the students as they are getting off the bus. The remaining chaperones will stay on the bus and confirm that all students came off the bus before they exit. When off the bus, students will need to check in with their assigned chaperone to ensure all students are accounted for.

Lodging

We will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn at 5353 N Virginia Dare Trail, Kitty Hawk, NC 27949. Their phone number is 252-261-1290. All students and chaperones will be housed in the same hotel. Students will be in rooms with other students. Male students will be on one floor and female students on a separate floor. There will be a chaperone room on each floor. Each night, we will have private security to monitor the rooms to be sure no student leaves their room when not permitted. This security guard will also notify the lead chaperone, Natasha Lyons, of any issues throughout the night that need to be addressed.

Activities

Students will be with a chaperone group at various times throughout the trip. These times will be noted in a parent handout two (2) weeks prior to the departure of the trip. If students are not noted as being in a chaperone group, students will be in one large group together with all four (4) chaperones. Changes to these groups must be approved by the chaperones. All activities are designed for all students with the exception of climbing the Currituck Lighthouse. If there are any students with a disability preventing them from climbing the stairs to the top of the lighthouse, those students will stay at the base of the lighthouse with a chaperone. There will be no swimming in the ocean or any pools while on this trip.

Other Safety Items

Chaperone David Shack is CPR certified. Natasha Lyons is also authorized to administer medication to students for the duration of the trip in the event our school nurse is unable to attend. All Individual Health Plans (IHP) will be carried and followed for students who have one. We have one (1) student attending the trip who has Type 1 Diabetes. Chaperone Dave Shack is part of our school-based Rapid Response Team and is trained on how to handle issues that may arise. In addition, Chaperone Heather Lyons is the mother of this student who will be coming on the trip to assist in any issues that may arise.

WATAUGA COUNTY FIELD TRIP REQUEST FORM

This request is for a: ☐ day trip ☐ out of state day trip ☐ overnight trip ☒ overnight & out of state trip

Day trips must be submitted to the principal 15 days before the trip. Overnight trip requests must be submitted to the superintendent by the first day of each month. Overnight field trips require the prior approval of the principal, transportation director, superintendent, and Board of Education. All trips utilizing rental or charter vehicles require the prior approval of the transportation director. No employee will transport students in a personal vehicle and no employee or volunteer driver will transport students in a 12-15 passenger van. No more than five students will be transported by a school system employee or volunteer in any one vehicle other than a school bus or activity bus.

Sponsoring teacher: (Print) J. Scott Townsend/Alex Keehn School: Watauga Co. Schools - District Level

Cell phone number: 828.773.6683 Grade(s): 6-8 Number of students: Ten (10)

Departure time/date: November 4, 2022 @ 6:00am Return time/date: November 5, 2022 @ 8:00pm

Educational purpose:

Trip destination including city, state, and all places to be visited: (attach detailed itinerary as needed)

Middle School National Cross Country Championships at Tom Sawyer State Park, Louisville, Kentucky

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: _____

The purpose of the trip is to provide and authentic championship experience to elite Watauga MS XC student-athletes as a culminating event to the 2022 season.

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: J. Scott Townsend (townsends@), Alex Keehn (keehna@)

Names of all non-school chaperones: None Identified

All chaperones have a background check completed:

Sponsoring teacher initials: YST

Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? ☒ yes ☐ no How will students with disabilities be accommodated for site access and transportation? _____

Sponsoring Teacher Initials YST (If applicable) A safety/supervision plan for high risk and/or water activities has been shared with the parents. Please attach a copy of the plan to this form if applicable.

Transportation plan:

Mode of transportation: _____ Yellow bus with wheelchair lift _____ Yellow bus without wheelchair lift
_____ Activity bus with wheelchair lift _____ Activity bus without wheelchair lift ☒ Rental car/mini-van
_____ Charter bus Other (Please explain) _____ (Both WCS Mini Vans)

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) _____

(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: J. Scott Townsend / Alex Keehn Round trip mileage: 700 Miles # of buses needed: _____

Total cost per student \$ 115.00 Source of funds: Team Fundraising/Parents

The sponsoring teacher has reviewed Board policies 3320, 3320-R, and 6315: Teacher initials: YST

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature: J. Scott Townsend Date: 09 / 13 / 2022

Principal approval: Dustin Kenley Date: 9 / 28 / 22

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval: [Signature] Date: 9 / 30 / 22

Superintendent approval: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Board of Education approval: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / ____

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>

[illegible][illegible]

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
700114	1	Projector- NEC		1
700599	1	iPod Touch		1
33834	1	Switch- Catalyst		1
29519	1	Switch- Catalyst		1
<div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 20px;"></div>			<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px;"></div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; width: 60px; height: 20px;"></div>
4			0	4

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
28433	1	Doc Camera- F15		1
33637	1	Chromebook- 300e	1	
33311	1	Chromebook- 100e	1	
33625	1	Chromebook- 300e	1	
25625	1	iPad Air- 16 GB	1	
33642	1	Chromebook- 300e	1	
300214-219	6	e-Reader Kindle Touch	6	
301323	1	e-Reader Kindle Fire	1	
301324-326	3	e-Reader - Voyager	3	
301327-336	10	e-Reader Kindle Fire	10	
	26		25	1

Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
30224	1	Chromebook- N23		1
33730	1	Chromebook- 100e	1	
903722	1	Projector- Epson 460		1
900791	1	Projector- Epson 460		1
33001	1	Projector- Epson 460		1
80411	1	Monitor- HP		1
n/a	1	Speakers- Classroom		1

7

1

6

Central Office

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Technology Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
33443	1	Chromebook - 300e		1
36017	1	WiFi- Hotspot- Orbic		1
36042	1	Verizon Orbic- Hotspot		1
51279	1	CPU- workstation - HP z220		1
51083	1	Fax Machine- 2820		1
700358	1	iPad 4	1	
600910	1	iPad 2	1	
600912	1	iPad 2	1	
Varies	45	WiFi Hotspot- Verizon		45
29741	1	CPU- Optiplex 790		1
51910	1	Chromebook - 300e		1
700354	1	iPad 4	1	
200550	1	iPad Air	1	
33271	1	Chromebook- 100e		1

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5

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Transportation Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
50992	1	Diagnostic tool- Vehicle	1	
51454	1	Adapter- J-Pro	1	

2

2

0

Maintenance Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

Child Nutrition

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0



WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center
175 Pioneer Trail, Boone, NC 28607

MEMORANDUM

TO: Dr. Scott Elliott, Superintendent
Members, Watauga County Board of Education

FROM: Ly Marze, Finance Officer

DATE: October 10, 2022

RE: 2022-23 Budget Amendment #1

Attached is Budget Amendment #1 that changes totals in Watauga County Schools 2022-23 adopted budget.

After approval of this Budget Amendment, the budget for all funds will appear as follows:

<u>Fund</u>	<u>Adopted Budget</u>	<u>Amendments</u>	<u>Amended Budget</u>
Local Current Expense	\$ 15,103,022	\$ 0	\$ 15,103,022
State Public School	33,719,262	702,564	34,421,826
Federal Grants	2,361,780	0	2,361,780
School Nutrition	2,275,000	0	2,275,000
Extended Learning Centers	631,416	0	631,416
Capital Outlay	1,315,000	397,425	1,712,425
Special Revenue/Scholarship	553,000	0	553,000
Total	\$ 55,958,480	\$ 1,099,989	\$ 57,058,469

Watauga County Schools
BUDGET AMENDMENT #1
October 10, 2022

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023.

BA #1-1 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget state transfers and additional state allotment dollars as reflected in DPI revisions #1-15.

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.5110.001.121	Classroom Teachers	(35,150)
1.5110.003.162	Non-Instructional Support	(20,132)
1.5110.015.311	School Technology Fund	124
1.5110.055.411	Watauga Innovative Academy	200,000
1.5310.069.142	At-Risk Student Services	(90,351)
1.5110.071.181	Teachers Supplemental Funds	586,514
1.6400.073.311	School Connectivity	39,240
1.5110.085.462	Literacy Intervention	22,319
	Total Appropriations	702,564

Revenues:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
1.3100	State Allocation	702,564
	Total Revenues	702,564

BA #1-2 Explanation:

This amendment is to budget 2021-22 carryover Capital Outlay projects.

Appropriations:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4.5110.901.529.067.336	House Project A 6/7	247,425
4.6570.901.529	Mobile Unit	150,000
	Total Appropriations	397,425

Revenues:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Account Title</u>	<u>Amount</u>
4.4910.002	Restricted Fund Balance - Voc. Ed. House	247,425
4.4110	County Appropriation	150,000
	Total Revenues	397,425

A. PRINCIPLES

Principals, assistant principals, teachers, and other instructional staff at each school are responsible for designing and implementing strategies to reach the educational goals of the Watauga County Board of Education (the "board"). Input from the school community, including parents, students, and representatives from businesses and other agencies, is critical in developing an educational program that will meet the needs of the students and the community.

The board affirms the General Assembly's belief that all children can learn and that the mission of public schools is to challenge, with high expectations, each child to learn, achieve, and fulfill his or her potential.

Accordingly, the board has established in its policies its vision, standards, and means of accountability for the educational program. The superintendent shall provide guidance and establish any other standards necessary for effective implementation of the board's policies. Principals shall lead each school in implementing the policies. The school improvement plan is one tool that school administrators should use to draw upon the creativity and innovation of the staff and the community. This plan, in its two parts, should identify the school's efforts to improve student performance and reach the educational goals of the board.

B. DEVELOPMENT OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: STATE PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL-BASED MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

~~The board endorses the principles set forth by the State Board of Education that all children need to master basic skills and knowledge and build upon this foundation for lifelong learning. Therefore, i~~Each school must develop a school improvement plan that considers the goals set out in the mission statement for the public schools adopted by the State Board of Education ("State Board") and the annual performance goals for that school as established by the State Board under G.S. § 115C-105.35. In developing their school improvement plans, all schools should ensure, to the extent possible, that sufficient resources and curricula are directed toward meeting the goal of having all students performing at grade level or higher in the basic subject and skill areas identified by the State Board.

The board also expects schools to be guided by the educational goals of the board. The board encourages schools to consider innovative means of educating students to meet educational goals. Many board policies provide an opportunity for a school to incorporate innovative ideas into its school improvement plan; however, if a school would like to try an innovative method that requires deviation from board policy, the school may submit a request to the board for a waiver of the board policy. (See also policy 1500, Board Policies.) Any waiver request must identify the particular board policy that inhibits the school's ability to improve student performance, set out with specificity the circumstances

under which the waiver may be used, and explain how the requested waiver will permit the school to improve student performance. The board will consider such requests to the extent the waiver is permissible by law and likely to result in improved student performance at the school.

1. School Improvement Team

Each school must have a school improvement team that develops the school improvement plan. The school improvement team must follow all legal requirements for developing and obtaining school approval of the school improvement plan. School improvement teams also must be familiar with state and local board requirements related to managing and using fiscal resources and must comply with these requirements in developing and implementing school improvement plans.

The school improvement team will consist of the principal, representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel and teacher assistants assigned to the school building, and parents of students attending the school. Each group of school personnel shall elect representatives from their respective group by secret ballot. Parents are to be elected in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.27(a). The school improvement team is encouraged to involve and seek assistance from central office personnel. The school improvement team, especially at the middle and high schools, also is encouraged to seek input from students. The superintendent shall provide guidance to principals to ensure that the principals establish and work together with school improvement teams to develop, review, and amend school improvement plans.

~~The school improvement team shall follow all legal requirements in developing and obtaining school approval of the school improvement plan.~~ School improvement team meetings will be held at a convenient time to facilitate substantial parent participation. The principal shall ensure that the school improvement team, as a public body, complies with the Open Meetings Law in regard to its meetings. Deliberations on the school safety components of the plan must be in closed session in accordance with G.S. 143-318.11(a)(8).

The Superintendent will adopt a timeline for schools to complete the School Improvement Plan process. Should situations impede or prohibit the timeline, a revised timeline may be provided.

2. Mandatory Components of the ~~State~~ Plan

A school improvement plan must include the following components.

- a. The plan must specify the effective instructional practices and methods to be used to improve the academic performance of students identified as at risk of academic failure or at risk of dropping out of school.

- b. The plan must take into consideration the minimum annual performance goal established by the State Board and the goals set out in the mission statement for public schools adopted by the State Board of Education.
- c. The plan must be, to the greatest extent possible, data driven. The team shall use the Education Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) or a compatible and comparable system approved by the State Board of Education to analyze student data to identify root causes for problems and determine actions to address them and to appropriately place students in courses such as Math I. The plan must contain clear, unambiguous targets, explicit indicators and actual measures, and expeditious time frames for meeting measurement standards.
- d. The plan must identify how staff development funds allocated to the school will be used.
- e. The plan must provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement team.
- f. The plan must provide duty-free instructional planning time for every full-time assigned classroom teacher, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week.
- g. The plan must attempt to identify and eliminate unnecessary and redundant reporting requirements for teachers and, to the extent practicable, streamline the school's reporting system and procedures, including requiring forms and reports to be in electronic form when possible and incorporating relevant documents into the student accessible components of the Instructional Improvement System.
- h. As part of the school system's efforts to maintain safe and orderly schools, the plan must address safety and discipline concerns. These concerns include any special conditions at the school. The plan should include the components of any positive behavior management or positive behavior support programs that have been adopted at the school and should comply with the requirements of policy 4200/7270, School Safety, and all protocols established by the superintendent or designee under that policy.
- i. In accordance with policy 4002, Parental Involvement, the plan must identify the goals and strategies for parents to be involved in their child's education and in the educational program of the school.
- j. The plan must include a process by which the school improvement team will review the school improvement plan at least once a year. The annual review process must include (1) a review of student scores on all state- and

board-mandated tests and (2) a means for the school improvement team to modify the plan, if necessary, when the school has not met the expected growth score established by the state.

- k. The plan must require the principal to notify the superintendent if the school improvement team modifies a board-accepted school improvement plan.
- l. The plan must include strategies for meeting the educational objectives of the board (policy 3000, Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program).
- k-m. The plan must include intervention strategies for students who are not at grade-level proficiency or who are not likely to meet standards of promotion measured by other means (policy 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability).

3. Optional Components of the State Plan

The school improvement plan may include any or all of the following components.

- a. The plan may include a request to transfer state funds from one allotment category to another, as permitted by state law. The request must identify the funding allotment categories involved in the transfer and identify how the transfer will facilitate improving student performance.
- b. The plan may include a comprehensive conflict resolution plan, as provided in G.S. 115C-81.15, in order to help create a safe school.
- c. The plan may provide for the use of textbooks that have not been adopted by the State Board (see policy 3200, Selection of Instructional Materials).
- d. The plan may include innovative efforts to meet local educational goals. The following are examples of innovative efforts identified in board policies that the plan may address:
 - i. modifying the school calendar (see policy 3300, School Calendar and Time for Learning);
 - ii. implementing alternative scheduling of classes or other strategies intended to reduce transitional time and limit interference from non-instructional activities (policy 3300);
 - iii. adding hours of instructional time (policy 3300);
 - iv. providing additional means for evaluating instructional programs (policy 3140, Evaluation of Instructional Programs);

- v. developing and implementing pilot programs (policy 3110, Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction);
- vi. expanding the subject areas or objectives of the curriculum (policy 3100, Curriculum Development);
- vii. eliminating curricula on subject areas or objectives that are not state-required (policy 3100); and
- i.viii. modifying the system-wide instructional and curriculum guides (see policy 3115, Curriculum and Instructional Guides).

4. Development and Review of the Plan

School improvement teams should review student performance data from the preceding school year in developing the school improvement plan. Based on the availability of data and when specific school standards are established by the State Board, the superintendent shall establish the date by which school improvement plans must be submitted.

The principal first shall present the proposed school improvement plan to all of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building for their review and vote by secret ballot. The principal then shall submit the school improvement plan to the superintendent only if the proposed school improvement plan has the approval of a majority of the staff who voted on the plan.

The superintendent or designee shall review the plans and seek legal review as necessary prior to presenting the plans with written recommendations to the board. If the superintendent intends to recommend that a plan be rejected, the superintendent shall notify the principal of the school and explain the reasons for the decision. The school improvement team may then submit a modified plan, approved by staff vote, to the superintendent. The superintendent should submit all school improvement plans to the board at the earliest possible date.

The board will review the school improvement plans. The review of the school safety components of the plans must be in closed session. The board shall make findings on the safety components of the plan. Neither the safety components of the plans nor the board's findings on the safety components of the plans may be set out in the minutes of the board.

After review of the school improvement plans, the board will accept or reject each school improvement plan. If a plan is rejected, the board will explain the specific reason(s) for the rejection.

Any plan modified by the school improvement team after being rejected by the

board must be resubmitted to the school personnel for vote and, upon majority approval, resubmitted to the superintendent for review. The superintendent shall resubmit the modified plan to the board with his or her recommendations as soon as is practical. The board will review the modifications along with any recommendations from the superintendent and accept or reject the plan.

If the board and the school improvement team cannot reach agreement on the plan within 60 days after its initial submission, the board or school may request to use the dispute resolution process developed by the State Board under G.S. 115C-105.20(b)(5). Alternatively, if use of the dispute resolution process is not requested, the board may develop a school improvement plan for the school.

A school improvement plan may be in effect for no more than two years. The plan must be reviewed at least annually by the school improvement team in accordance with the review process established in the school's plan. ~~If the State has deemed a school as low performing, the principal must submit to the superintendent and the board a report of the school improvement team.~~ If a school does not earn an overall performance grade of at least a C or does not meet its expected growth standard as established by the State Board, the principal must submit to the superintendent and the board a report of the school improvement team. The report must explain the reasons for the standard(s) not being met and describe any modifications that will be made in the school improvement plan. After considering any recommendations of the superintendent, if the board is not satisfied with the response of the school improvement team, the board may suggest modifications to the plan or may vacate those portions of the plan that impede student performance and require the school improvement team to revise the plan. If a school is a continually low-performing school as defined by G.S. 115C-105.37A, the school's improvement plan must be reviewed and approved by the State Board of Education.

5. Elimination of Redundant or Unnecessary Reporting Requirements

If, at any time before or after the board approves the school improvement plan, the school improvement team identifies a more expeditious manner of providing information to the board that will eliminate a redundant or unnecessary reporting requirement for teachers at its school, the team may make a written request to the superintendent to eliminate the redundant or unnecessary report. The superintendent shall recommend to the board whether the reporting requirement should be eliminated for that school. If the superintendent does not recommend elimination of the reporting requirement, the school improvement team may request a hearing by the board as provided in policy 1600, Hearings Before the Board.

6. Compliance with Requirements

Any employee, parent, or other interested party is encouraged to notify the principal of any concerns regarding compliance with this policy or G.S. 115C-105.27. In addition, any employee, parent, or other interested party may submit in writing to the superintendent concerns regarding compliance with this policy or G.S. 115C-

105.27. The superintendent shall make a good faith effort to investigate the concern and shall provide a written response upon request.

C. POSTING THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN ONLINE

The school improvement plan, except for its school safety components which are not public record, must be posted on the school's website. The names and positions of the members of the school improvement team, along with the date of each member's election to the team, must also be posted on the website.

D. STAFF DEVELOPMENT

The superintendent shall develop a process by which schools can learn from other schools' improvement plans. The superintendent and the schools are encouraged to use staff development resources to provide training to staff on the development, implementation, and evaluation of school improvement plans.

School administrators must be evaluated by their supervisors on the school-based management process ~~as required by board policy and state law~~ and on the effectiveness of the school improvement plan.

Legal References: G.S. 115C-47(38), -81.15, ~~-83.15~~, -84.2, -98, -105.20, -105.21, -105.25, -105.26, -105.27, -105.32, -105.35, -105.37, -105.41(b), -301.1, -307(g); 143 art. 33C

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 4002), School Safety (policy 4200/7270), Compliance with the Open Meetings Law (policy 2320), Board Policies (policy 1500), Hearings Before the Board (policy 1600), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Curriculum Development (policy 3100), Innovation in Curriculum and Instruction (policy 3110), Curriculum and Instructional Guides (policy 3115), Lesson Planning (policy 3120), Evaluation of Instructional Programs (policy 3140), Selection of Instructional Materials (policy 3200), School Calendar and Time for Learning (policy 3300), Students at Risk of Academic Failure (policy 3405), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420)

Other Resources: North Carolina School Improvement Planning Implementation Guide, Version 2.3 – July 2016, N.C. State Board of Education/Department of Public Instruction, available at <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/media/4632/download>

Adopted: March 21, 2016

Revised: March 15, 2018 (Legal references only); February 11, 2019;

CHILD ABUSE AND RELATED THREATS TO CHILD SAFETY

Policy Code: 4240/7312

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) is concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of all children and recognizes the legal and ethical obligations that school employees, contractors, and volunteers have to report known or suspected maltreatment of children. North Carolina has two separate systems that mandate reports to state authorities of suspected child abuse, neglect, dependency, or maltreatment and a third system for mandated reporting of certain crimes against juveniles to local law enforcement.

When a parent or other caretaker is suspected to have caused a child to be abused, neglected, or dependent, this information must be reported to the county child welfare agency. Suspected human trafficking, involuntary servitude, and sexual servitude of a child and death of a child as a result of maltreatment are special forms of child abuse under law and must be reported to the county child welfare agency, regardless of the relationship between the victim and the perpetrator. By contrast, suspected child maltreatment by a caregiver in a child care facility, including in a licensed preschool classroom or other licensed classroom or program operated by the school system, must be reported to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE). When the source of the harm or threat of harm to the child is uncertain, a report should be made to both the county child welfare agency and the Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education DCDEE.

In addition, state law mandates reports to local law enforcement when a child is a victim of certain violent offenses, sexual offenses, or misdemeanor child abuse. An adult who knows or reasonably should have known of any of these offenses inflicted upon a child must report that information immediately.

The board supports all employees who in good faith make a report under North Carolina’s mandated reporting laws.

The superintendent shall develop any necessary procedures for making a report or otherwise implementing this policy.

A. DUTY TO REPORT CERTAIN CRIMES AGAINST CHILDREN TO LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT

A school employee, contractor, or volunteer is legally required to report to local law enforcement when the employee or volunteer knows or reasonably should know that a child has been a victim of any of the following crimes:

1. a sexual offense (which for purposes of this policy, the board interprets to mean any offense that relates to inappropriate sexual contact with a child);
2. an offense that inflicts serious bodily injury or serious physical injury upon the

child by nonaccidental means;

3. an attempt, solicitation, or conspiracy to commit either offense described above, or aiding and abetting either offense; or
4. misdemeanor child abuse, which occurs when a parent or any other person providing care or supervision to a child who is under the age of sixteen (1) inflicts or allows to be inflicted physical injury to the child by nonaccidental means or (2) creates or allows a substantial risk of physical injury to the child by nonaccidental means.

Compliance with this reporting requirement does not relieve the employee or volunteer from his or her duty to report pursuant to Sections B and C of this policy. The employee, contractor, or volunteer also shall immediately report the case to the principal.

A school employee, contractor, or volunteer is immune by statute from any state civil and/or criminal liability when making a report in good faith under this Section. An employee who fails to report or who prevents another person from making a report is subject to disciplinary action by the school system and civil and criminal action under the law. A volunteer or contractor who fails to report or prevents another person from making a report may be restricted from school property or lose the privilege of volunteering for or contracting with the school system and is subject to civil and criminal action under the law.

B. DUTY TO REPORT CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT, DEPENDENCY, OR DEATH AS A RESULT OF MALTREATMENT TO THE COUNTY CHILD WELFARE AGENCY

A school employee, contractor, or volunteer who knows or has cause to suspect that (1) a parent, guardian, custodian, or caretaker of a child has caused the child to be abused, neglected, or dependent, or (2) that a child has died as a result of maltreatment or been a victim of human trafficking, involuntary servitude, or sexual servitude by any person is legally required to report the case to the director of social services. The employee, contractor, or volunteer also shall immediately report the case to the principal. Any doubt about reporting a suspected situation must be resolved in favor of reporting, and the report must be made immediately.

A school employee, contractor, or volunteer is immune by statute from any civil and/or criminal liability when making a report in good faith under this Section. An employee who fails to report or who prevents another person from making a report is subject to disciplinary action by the school system and civil and criminal action under the law. A volunteer or contractor who fails to report or prevents another person from making a report may be restricted from school property or lose the privilege of volunteering for or contracting with the school system and is subject to civil and criminal action under the law.

C. DUTY TO REPORT CHILD MALTREATMENT IN A CHILD CARE FACILITY TO THE DIVISION OF CHILD DEVELOPMENT AND EARLY EDUCATION

A school employee, contractor, or volunteer who has cause to suspect that a child in a child care facility has been maltreated by a caregiver or has died as a result of maltreatment occurring in a child care facility is legally required to report the case to the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE).

A "child care facility" includes any DHHS-licensed classroom or program operated by the school system, including for example, licensed pre-school or Title I classrooms, licensed afterschool programs, and licensed developmental day programs.

Any doubt about reporting a suspected situation or uncertainty whether the child's care is being provided in a child care facility must be resolved in favor of reporting, and the report should be made immediately.

An employee making a report to DCDEE also shall immediately report the case to the principal. If the suspected maltreatment occurred in a licensed preschool classroom or other licensed classroom or program operated by board, the principal shall immediately notify the superintendent of the suspected maltreatment. No reprisals of any kind may be taken against an employee who makes a good faith report of child maltreatment occurring in any licensed preschool classroom or other licensed classroom or program operated by the board.

An employee who fails to make a report as required by law and this policy may be subject to disciplinary action by the school system. In addition, if the employee works in a licensed preschool classroom or other licensed classroom or program operated by the board, failure to report maltreatment of a child in the program or classroom may itself constitute child maltreatment and result in the employee being placed on the state child maltreatment registry. A volunteer or contractor who fails to report or prevents another person from making a report may be restricted from school property or lose the privilege of volunteering for or contracting with the school system.

D. DUTY TO REPORT LICENSED EMPLOYEES TO THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

In addition to the other reporting requirements of this policy, any administrator who knows or has reason to believe that a licensed employee has engaged in conduct that would justify automatic revocation of the employee's license pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.35(b) or involves physical or sexual abuse of a child shall report that information to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with subsection C.4 of policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations.

D.E. COOPERATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL AGENCIES

1. The principal may establish a contact person in the school to act as a liaison with state and local agencies charged with investigating reports made pursuant to this policy.
2. Employees shall cooperate fully with agency personnel conducting an investigation.
3. In a case under the jurisdiction of local law enforcement in which the child's parent, guardian, or custodian is suspected of wrongdoing, employees shall permit the child to be interviewed by local law enforcement on school campuses during school hours. Otherwise, permission from the parent, guardian, or custodian must be obtained before the child may be interviewed by local law enforcement on school campuses during school hours.
4. In a case under the jurisdiction of social services, employees shall permit the child to be interviewed by social services on school campuses during school hours.
5. In a case under the jurisdiction of DCDEE concerning suspected child maltreatment by a caregiver in a child care facility, permission from the parent must be obtained before the child may be interviewed on school campus during school hours.
6. Employees shall provide confidential information to agency personnel, so long as the disclosure does not violate state or federal law.
7. Any confidential information disclosed by the investigating agency to employees must remain confidential and may be redisclosed only for purposes directly connected with carrying out the responsibilities of the school system or the employee.

E.F. SHARING INFORMATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Upon request and to the extent permitted by law, school system officials shall share with other agencies designated in G.S. 7B-3100(a) information that is relevant to (1) any assessment by the department of social services of a report of child abuse, neglect, dependency or death as a result of maltreatment; (2) the provision or arrangement of protective services in a child abuse, neglect, or dependency case by the department of social services; or (3) any case in which a petition is filed alleging that a juvenile is abused, neglected, dependent, undisciplined, or delinquent. School system officials and the designated agencies must continue to share such information until the protective services case is closed by the department of social services or, if a petition is filed, until the juvenile is no longer subject to the jurisdiction of juvenile court.

F.G. CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEX TRAFFICKING TRAINING PROGRAM

In even numbered years, the school system will provide a child sexual abuse and sex trafficking education and awareness training program for teachers, instructional support

personnel, principals, and assistant principals. The program will include at least two hours of training related to best practices from the field of prevention, the grooming process of sexual predators, the warning signs of sexual abuse and sex trafficking, how to intervene when sexual abuse or sex trafficking is suspected or disclosed, legal responsibilities for reporting sexual abuse or sex trafficking, and available resources for assistance. Designated school personnel shall participate in such training as required by law and board policy.

H. CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

In accordance with G.S. 115C-47(65) and State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003, the school system will provide information on child abuse and neglect, including age-appropriate information on sexual abuse, to students in grades 6 through 12. Such information will be provided in the form of (1) a document given to all students in grades 6 through 12 at the beginning of each school year and (2) a display posted in visible, high-traffic areas throughout each secondary school.

~~The superintendent shall develop any necessary procedures for making a report pursuant to this policy, for sharing information with designated agencies, and for cooperating with agency investigations.~~

~~In addition to the requirements of this policy, any administrator who knows or has reason to believe that a licensed employee has engaged in conduct that would justify automatic revocation of the employee's license pursuant to G.S. 115C-270.35(b) or involves physical or sexual abuse of a child shall report that information to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in accordance with subsection C.4 of policy 4040/7310, Staff-Student Relations.~~

Legal References: Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. 1232g; G.S. 7B-101, -301, -302, -309, -3100; 8-53.4; 14-208.6, -318.2, -318.4, -318.6; 110-90.2, -105.3, -105.4, -105.5; 115C-47(65), -270.35(b), -375.20, -400, -402; 126-5; 16 N.C.A.C. 6C.0373; State Board of Education Policy SHLT-003

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 7800), Staff-Student Relations (policy 4040/7310), Student Records (policy 4700)

Adopted: July 14, 2014

Revised: July 9, 2018; September 9, 2019; January 13, 2020; March 12, 2020; August 9, 2021;

RULES FOR USE OF SECLUSION AND RESTRAINT IN SCHOOLS

Regulation Code: **4302-R**

The following rules will govern the use of seclusion and restraint by school personnel. As used in this regulation, “school personnel” means employees of the Watauga County Board of Education (the “board”) and any persons working on school grounds or at a school function (1) under a contract or written agreement with the school system to provide educational or related services to students or (2) for another agency providing educational or related services to students. Nothing in this document shall be construed to prevent the use of force by law enforcement officers in the lawful exercise of their law enforcement duties.

Seclusion and restraint will not be used on students with disabilities (1) for behavior(s) that would not result in seclusion or restraint for students without identified disabilities, unless the use is authorized by the student’s IEP or Section 504 Plan for an educational or safety-related purpose, or (2) based on assumptions or stereotypes about disabilities or students with disabilities generally.

A. PHYSICAL RESTRAINT

Physical restraint means the use of physical force to restrict the free movement of all or a part of a student’s body.

Physical restraint will be considered to be a reasonable use of force when used in the following circumstances:

1. as reasonably needed to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student;
2. as reasonably needed to maintain order or to prevent or break up a fight;
3. as reasonably needed for self-defense;
4. as reasonably needed to ensure the safety of any student, employee, volunteer, or other person present;
5. as reasonably needed to teach a skill, to calm or comfort a student, or to prevent self-injurious behavior;
6. as reasonably needed to escort a student safely from one area to another;
7. if used as provided for in an IEP, Section 504 plan, or behavior intervention plan;
or
8. as reasonably needed to prevent imminent destruction to school or another person’s property.

Except as set forth above, physical restraint of students will not be considered a reasonable use of force, and its use is prohibited. In addition, physical restraint will not be considered a reasonable use of force when used solely as a disciplinary consequence.

Prone restraint is a form of physical restraint in which a person is held in a face-down position on the floor or other surface. Prone restraint does not include placement in a face-down position as part of a necessary medical intervention. The use of prone restraint is prohibited.

B. MECHANICAL RESTRAINT

Mechanical restraint means the use of any device or material attached or adjacent to a student's body that restricts freedom of movement or normal access to any portion of the student's body and that the student cannot easily remove.

Mechanical restraint of a student by school personnel is permissible only in the following circumstances:

1. when properly used as an assistive technology device included in the student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or behavior intervention plan, or as otherwise prescribed by a medical or related service provider;
2. when using seat belts or other safety restraints to secure a student during transportation;
3. as reasonably needed to obtain possession of weapons or other dangerous objects on the person or within the control of a student;
4. as reasonably needed for self-defense; or
5. as reasonably needed to ensure the safety of any student, employee, volunteer, or other person.

Except as set forth above, mechanical restraint, including the tying, taping, or strapping down of a student, will not be considered to be a reasonable use of force, and its use is prohibited.

C. SECLUSION

Seclusion means the confinement of a student alone in an enclosed space from which the student is (a) physically prevented from leaving by locking hardware or other means or (b) incapable of leaving due to physical or intellectual capacity.

Seclusion of a student by school personnel may be used in the following circumstances:

1. as reasonably needed to respond to a person in control of a weapon or other

dangerous object;

2. as reasonably needed to maintain order or prevent or break up a fight;
3. as reasonably needed for self-defense;
4. as reasonably needed when a student's behavior poses a threat of imminent physical harm to self or others or imminent substantial destruction of school or another person's property; or
5. when used as specified in the student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or behavior intervention plan; and
 - a. the student is monitored by an adult in close proximity who is able to see and hear the student at all times while the student is in seclusion;
 - b. the student is released from seclusion upon cessation of the behaviors that led to the seclusion, or as otherwise specified in the student's IEP, Section 504 plan, or behavior intervention plan;
 - c. the confining space has been approved for such use by the ~~local education agency~~ school system;
 - d. the space is appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled; and
 - e. the space is free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or others to harm.

Except as set forth above, the use of seclusion is not considered to be reasonable force, and its use is prohibited. In addition, seclusion will not be considered a reasonable use of force when used solely as a disciplinary consequence.

D. ISOLATION

Isolation means a behavior management technique in which a student is placed alone in an enclosed space from which the student is not prevented from leaving.

Isolation is permitted as a behavior management technique provided that:

1. the isolation space is appropriately lighted, ventilated, and heated or cooled;
2. the duration of the isolation is reasonable in light of the purpose for the isolation;
3. the student is reasonably monitored while in isolation; and
4. the isolation space is free from objects that unreasonably expose the student or

others to harm.

E. TIME-OUT

Time-out means a behavior management technique in which a student is separated from other students for a limited period of time in a monitored setting. Teachers are authorized to use time-out to regulate behavior within their classrooms.

F. AVERSIVE PROCEDURES

The use of aversive procedures, including but not limited to all of the following examples, is prohibited.

Aversive procedure means a systematic physical or sensory intervention program for modifying the behavior of a student with a disability that causes or reasonably may be expected to cause one or more of the following:

1. significant physical harm, such as tissue damage, physical illness, or death;
2. serious and foreseeable long-term psychological impairment; or
3. obvious repulsion on the part of observers who cannot reconcile such extreme procedures with acceptable standard practice, for example:
 - a. electric shock applied to the body;
 - b. extremely loud auditory stimuli;
 - c. forcible introduction of foul substances to the mouth, eyes, ears, nose, or skin;
 - d. placement in a tub of cold water or shower;
 - e. slapping, pinching, hitting, or pulling hair;
 - f. blindfolding or other forms of visual blocking;
 - g. unreasonable withholding of meals;
 - h. eating one's own vomit; or
 - i. denial of reasonable access to toileting facilities.

The use of aversive procedures is prohibited.

G. NOTICE, REPORTING, AND DOCUMENTATION

1. School personnel shall promptly notify the principal or designee of any of the following:
 - a. any use of aversive procedures;
 - b. any prohibited use of mechanical restraint;
 - c. any use of physical restraint resulting in observable physical injury to a student;
 - d. any prohibited use of seclusion; or
 - e. any seclusion exceeding 10 minutes or the amount of time specified in a student's behavior intervention plan.

2. Notice to Parents

When a principal or designee has personal or actual knowledge of any of the ~~events~~ incidents listed in subsection G.1, above, he or she shall promptly notify the student's parent or guardian and shall provide the name of the school employee whom the parent or guardian may contact regarding the incident. Such notice shall be provided by the end of the workday during which the incident occurred when reasonably possible, but no later than the end of the following workday. Such notice also shall be provided in addition to the written incident report required in subsection G.3, below.

3. Written Report to Parents

Within a reasonable period of time not to exceed 30 days after any ~~incident involving the use of physical restraint, mechanical restraint, seclusion, isolation, or aversive procedures~~ incident listed in subsection G.1 of this regulation occurs, the principal or designee shall provide the parent or guardian with a written incident report. This report must include the following:

- a. the date, time of day, location, duration, and description of the incident and interventions;
- b. the events or events that led up to the incident;
- c. the nature and extent of any injury to the student; and
- d. the name of a school employee the parent or guardian can contact regarding

the incident.

4. Reporting to State Board

The board will maintain a record of incidents reported under the procedure described in subsection G.3, above, and will provide this information annually to the State Board of Education.

5. Non-Retaliation for Reporting

Any employee making a report alleging a prohibited use of physical or mechanical restraint, seclusion, or aversive procedure will not be discharged, threatened or retaliated against through compensation, terms, conditions, location, or privileges of employment unless the employee knew or should have known that the report was false.

Adopted: February 9, 2015

Replaces: Policy 5.05.63 Reasonable Force: Use of Seclusion and Restraint

Revised: January 15, 2018;

USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT (DRONES)

Policy Code: 4334/5036/7345

The Watauga County Board of Education (the “Board”) supports and encourages the use of innovative and emerging technologies, including unmanned aircraft or drones, to further the goals and objectives of the educational program. However, the Board also must consider how the use of such technologies may impact the safety, security, and privacy of people and property. Therefore, the Board authorizes some use of unmanned aircraft on school property and at school-sponsored events in accordance with the requirements of this policy and to the extent that such use is not otherwise prohibited by federal, state, or local law or regulation.

This policy applies to all students, school system employees, contractors and vendors, school visitors, and other members of the general public on school property and at school-sponsored events.

A. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this policy, the following definitions apply.

1. An “unmanned aircraft” or “drone” is an aircraft weighing less than 55 pounds that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft. The Board strictly prohibits the use of an unmanned aircraft weighing more than 55 pounds on school property or at a school-sponsored event. A “toy unmanned aircraft” is an aircraft weighing less than 0.55 pounds that is operated without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the aircraft.
2. The “use” of an unmanned aircraft includes the launch, operation, and/or recovery of the unmanned aircraft.
3. “School property” includes any property that is owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the Board.
4. Use of an unmanned aircraft is for a “recreational” purpose if the use is solely for personal interests or enjoyment. Use for work or business purposes or for compensation or hire is not considered to be recreational.

B. AUTHORIZED USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

The use of an unmanned aircraft on school property or at a school-sponsored event for any purpose must be approved in writing by the superintendent or designee and must comply with the requirements of this policy and all other applicable board policies, including the public use requirements of policy 5030, Community Use of Facilities, when applicable. The use of a toy unmanned aircraft does not require FAA registration and does not require the approval of the Superintendent. Such use also must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including the most current registration, certification, permit,

safety, and other requirements established by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT).

The superintendent or designee may grant approval for use on a case-by-case basis with any additional requirements or restrictions deemed appropriate, including, for example, to protect the safety, security, and privacy of people and property. However, the superintendent or designee shall not approve the use of unmanned aircraft for recreational purposes on school property or at school-sponsored events during the school day or at any other time when groups of students or employees may be present outdoors.

Prior to obtaining approval from the superintendent or designee, the operator of any unmanned aircraft may be required to provide proof of insurance, including adequate liability coverage for any claims arising out of the use of an unmanned aircraft, and proof of the registration, certification, permit, and/or waiver required by the FAA and/or NCDOT to operate the unmanned aircraft for the intended purpose(s).

An unmanned aircraft used on school property or at a school-sponsored event must be operated either by or under the direct supervision of an FAA-certified drone pilot in accordance with subsection B.1, below, or by a recreational flyer in accordance with subsection B.2, below.

1. Use by or under the Direct Supervision of an FAA-Certified Drone Pilot

An FAA-certified drone pilot, or an individual under the direct supervision of an FAA-certified drone pilot, may operate an unmanned aircraft for any commercial, educational, recreational, or other school system-related purpose as approved by the superintendent or designee. To qualify as an FAA-certified drone pilot, an individual must obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA and have the certificate easily accessible during all use.

An FAA-certified drone pilot and any individual under the direct supervision of an FAA-certified drone pilot must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including all applicable requirements under 14 C.F.R. Part 107 ("Part 107"). In addition, if the use of an unmanned aircraft is not solely for hobby or recreational purposes, an FAA-certified drone pilot and any individual under the direct supervision of an FAA-certified drone pilot also must comply with the training and permit requirements of G.S. 63, art. 10, as applicable.

2. Use by a Recreational Flyer

A recreational flyer may operate an unmanned aircraft strictly for recreational purposes as approved by the superintendent or designee. A recreational flyer is not required to be an FAA-certified drone pilot or under the direct supervision of an FAA-certified drone pilot. However, a recreational flyer must comply with all federal, state, and local laws and regulations, including all applicable federal

requirements under the *Exception for Limited Recreational Operations of Unmanned Aircraft* (49 U.S.C. 44809).

C. UNAUTHORIZED USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

School system employees shall reasonably attempt to monitor school property and school-sponsored events for the unauthorized use of unmanned aircraft. Employees must report any known or suspected unauthorized use of an unmanned aircraft as soon as practicable to the principal or other school official responsible for supervising the school property or school-sponsored event. If the unauthorized use poses a threat to the safety, security, or privacy of people or property, the employee should attempt to intervene directly if it is possible to do so safely and effectively and ask the operator to discontinue the use. If the employee is unable to identify the individual operating the unmanned aircraft, or if the unmanned aircraft is grounded and unattended, the employee should immediately notify the principal or other school official responsible for supervising the school property or school-sponsored event.

A student or school system employee who uses an unmanned aircraft in violation of this policy will be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including suspension or expulsion for students and termination for employees. A contractor or vendor, school visitor, or other member of the general public who uses an unmanned aircraft in violation of this policy will be asked to discontinue the unauthorized use and/or asked to leave school property or the school-sponsored event in accordance with policy 5020, Visitors to the Schools.

School officials may also report the unauthorized use of an unmanned aircraft to local law enforcement and/or the FAA, as appropriate.

D. GUIDELINES FOR ALL USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT

1. FAA Safety Guidelines

A student, school system employee, contractor or vendor, school visitor, or other member of the general public who is authorized by the superintendent or designee to operate an unmanned aircraft on school property or at a school-sponsored event must comply with all applicable FAA safety guidelines, including, but not limited to, the following.

- a. _____ The operator must follow FAA guidelines for registration. The unmanned aircraft, if registered, must be marked with the registration number.
- a.b. _____ No later than September 16, 2023, the unmanned aircraft must be equipped with remote identification unless flying within an FAA-recognized identification area.
- b.c. _____ The unmanned aircraft must have a maximum groundspeed of 100 mph or less.

- e.d. The operator ~~must fly the unmanned aircraft during daylight only and must~~ keep the unmanned aircraft within his or her visual line of sight at all times.
- d.e. The operator must not fly the unmanned aircraft above 400 feet in uncontrolled airspace and must not fly the unmanned aircraft in controlled airspace (e.g., near airports) without FAA authorization. The operator must comply with all other FAA airspace restrictions (e.g., near military bases).
- e.f. The operator must not fly the unmanned aircraft near other aircraft and must always yield the right of way to all other aircraft, especially manned aircraft.
- f.g. The operator must not fly the unmanned aircraft ~~over people, groups of people, public events, or stadiums full of people, or near~~ emergency response activities.
- g.h. The operator must not fly the unmanned aircraft under the influence of drugs or alcohol. In addition, the operator must not fly the unmanned aircraft if he or she knows or has reason to know of any other physical or mental condition that would interfere with the safe operation of the unmanned aircraft.
- h.i. The operator must not otherwise fly the unmanned aircraft in a careless or reckless manner.

2. Other Guidelines

A student, school system employee, contractor or vendor, school visitor, or other member of the general public who is authorized by the superintendent or designee to operate an unmanned aircraft on school property or at a school-sponsored event also must comply with the following guidelines established by the Board.

- a. The operator of any unmanned aircraft on school property or at a school-sponsored event must provide appropriate documentation of approval from the superintendent or designee immediately upon request by any school system employee.
- b. Students are prohibited from operating an unmanned aircraft on school property or at a school-sponsored event without appropriate faculty or other adult supervision whether or not such supervision is required under federal regulations.
- c. The superintendent or designee, as well as the principal or other school official responsible for supervising school property or a school-sponsored event, may require the operator of an unmanned aircraft to temporarily or permanently suspend further use of the unmanned aircraft on school

property or at a school-sponsored event at any time for any reason.

- d. The use of an unmanned aircraft to photograph or to record audio and/or video of the following is prohibited without the express written approval of the superintendent: (a) students, employees, visitors, or other individuals, (b) school- or school system-sponsored activities and other events, or (c) school buildings or other school system facilities. Any such photographs or other audio and/or video recordings obtained through the use of an unmanned aircraft may not be used for any marketing or other commercial purpose or otherwise distributed to a third party without the express written approval of the superintendent.
- d.e. Unmanned aircraft may not be flown over people or moving vehicles without the express written approval of the superintendent. As a pre-condition of receiving approval, the operator must provide the superintendent information sufficient to determine that the flight will be conducted in compliance with applicable FAA regulations.
- e.f. Any data or other information collected through the use of an unmanned aircraft may not be sold for profit.
- f.g. The use of an unmanned aircraft inside any enclosed school or other building on school property (including any school or other building under construction) or indoors at a school-sponsored event off school property is prohibited without the express written approval of the superintendent or designee.
- g.h. The use of unmanned aircraft within the physical confines of any stadium, field, arena, or other structure, including the playing area of the venue, during a North Carolina High School Athletic Association contest, including pre- and post-game activities, is prohibited.
- h.i. Any incident resulting in an injury to a person or damage to property caused by the use of an unmanned aircraft must be reported immediately or as soon as practicable thereafter to the principal or other school official responsible for supervising the school property or school-sponsored event where the incident occurred. This requirement applies whether or not the incident is also subject to the mandatory reporting requirements under federal regulations.
- i.j. Any unmanned aircraft owned by a school or the school system must be properly insured and must be scheduled (i.e., listed on the policy) and operated as required by the school system's liability coverage agreement.

The superintendent or designee may develop any additional administrative procedures or other regulations necessary to implement the requirements of this policy or to further protect the safety, security, and privacy of people and property.

Legal References: FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018, P.L. 115-254; 49 U.S.C. 44801 *et seq.*; 14 C.F.R. Part 89, Part 107; Federal Aviation Administration, Advisory Circular 91-57B (May 31, 2019), available at [https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory Circular/AC 91-57B.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/documentLibrary/media/Advisory%20Circular/AC%2091-57B.pdf); Federal Aviation Administration, Advisory Circular 107-2 (June 21, 2016), available at [https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/policy_library/media/AC 107-2 AFS-1 Signed.pdf](https://www.faa.gov/uas/resources/policy_library/media/AC_107-2_AFS-1_Signed.pdf); G.S. 14-7.45, -280.3, -401.24, -401.25; G.S. 15A-300.1, -300.2, -300.3; G.S. 63, art. 10; G.S. 113-295; North Carolina High School Athletic Association, Policy 2.2.3(c) (2019-20202021-2022), available at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook> <https://www.nchsaa.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2.2.3%20Facilities.pdf>

Cross References: Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Visitors to the Schools (policy 5020), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

Other Resources: Federal Aviation Administration, Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) website, available at <https://www.faa.gov/uas/>; North Carolina Department of Transportation, Division of Aviation, Unmanned Aircraft Systems website, available at <https://www.ncdot.gov/divisions/aviation/uas/Pages/default.aspx>

Adopted: August 12, 2020

Revised:

Attendance in school and participation in class are integral parts of academic achievement and the teaching-learning process. Through regular attendance, students develop patterns of behavior essential to professional and personal success in life. Regular attendance by every student is mandatory. The State of North Carolina requires that every child in the State between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 attend school.

Parents and legal guardians are responsible for ensuring that students attend and remain at school daily. School administrators shall communicate attendance expectations to parents and guardians and work with students and their families to overcome barriers to attendance.

A. ATTENDANCE RECORDS

School officials shall keep accurate records of attendance, including accurate attendance records in each class. Students will be considered in attendance if present at least half of the instructional day on-site in the school or at a place other than the school attending an authorized school-related activity.

To be in attendance during remote instruction days (with the exception of the initial enrollment day), students must: (1) complete their daily assignments, either online or offline; and/or (2) have a daily check-in through two-way communication with (a) the homeroom teacher for grades K-5 or (b) for all other grade levels, each course teacher as scheduled. School officials shall communicate the attendance procedures to students and their families before the first day remote instruction begins

B. LATE ARRIVALS ~~AND~~ EARLY DEPARTURES

Students are expected to be at school on time and to remain at school until dismissed. During the school day, students are expected to be present at the scheduled starting time for each class and to remain until the class ends.

When a student must be late to school or leave school early, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian should be presented upon the student's arrival at school. Tardies or early departures may be excused for any of the reasons listed below in Section C.

Any disciplinary consequences for unexcused tardiness or unexcused early departures from school or class will be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for such offenses. Consequences may not exceed a short-term suspension of two days.

C. ~~LAWFULLY~~ EXCUSED ABSENCES

When a student must miss school, a written excuse signed by a parent or guardian must be presented to the student's teacher on the day the student returns after an absence. Absences due to extended illnesses may also require a statement from a health care practitioner. An absence may be lawfully excused for any of the following reasons:

1. personal illness or injury that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
2. isolation ordered by the local health officer or the State Board of Health or isolation or quarantine that is a required state or local control measure;
3. death in the immediate family;
4. medical or dental appointment;
5. attendance at the proceedings of a court or administrative tribunal if the student is party to the action or under subpoena as a witness;
6. a minimum of two days each academic year for observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent or legal guardian;
7. participation in a valid educational opportunity, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page, with prior approval from the principal;
8. pregnancy and related conditions or parenting, when medically necessary; ~~or~~
9. a minimum of two days each academic year for visitation with the student's parent or legal guardian if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences and the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services as defined by policy 4050, Children of Military Families, and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting; or
- 9.10. any other reason as approved by the board in a board resolution.

D. SCHOOL-RELATED ACTIVITIES

While recognizing the importance of classroom learning, the board also acknowledges that out-of-classroom, school-related activities can provide students with valuable experiences not available in the classroom setting. The following school-related activities will not be counted as absences from either class or school:

1. field trips sponsored by the school;

2. job shadows and other work-based learning opportunities, as described in G.S. 115C-47(34a);
3. school-initiated and -scheduled activities;
4. athletic events that require early dismissal from school; and
5. Career and Technical Education student organization activities approved in advance by the principal.

____ In addition, students participating in disciplinary techniques categorized as in-school suspensions will not be counted as absent.

E. MAKEUP WORK

In the case of excused absences, short-term out-of-school suspensions, and absences under G.S. 130A-440 (for failure to submit a school health assessment form within 30 days of entering school), the student will be permitted to make up his or her missed work. (See also policies 4110, Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission, and 4351, Short-Term Suspension.) Assignments missed due to participation in school-related activities also are eligible for makeup by the student. The teacher shall determine when work is to be made up. The student is responsible for finding out what assignments are due and completing them within the specified time period.

F. UNEXCUSED ABSENCES

The principal shall notify parents and take all other steps required by G.S. 115C-378 for excessive, unexcused absences.

Any school disciplinary consequences for unexcused absences will be consistent with Section D of policy 4300, Student Behavior Policies. The superintendent or designee shall list in the Code of Student Conduct the specific range of consequences that may be imposed on a student for such offenses. Consequences may not exceed a short-term suspension of two days.

G. CHRONIC ABSENTEEISM

Because class attendance and participation are critical elements of the educational process, any absences, whether excused or unexcused, can have a negative impact on a student's academic achievement. Regular attendance must be prioritized within each school and encouraged throughout the community. School administrators shall monitor and analyze

attendance data to develop and implement strategies for reducing chronic absenteeism. Such strategies should involve engaging students and parents, recognizing good and improved attendance, providing early outreach to families of students missing school, and identifying and addressing barriers to attendance.

H. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Students with Chronic Health Problems

No penalties will be imposed for absences due to documented chronic health problems.

2. Students Experiencing Homelessness

–For students experiencing homelessness (see board policy 4125, Homeless Students), school officials must consider issues related to the student's homelessness, such as a change of caregivers or nighttime residence, before taking disciplinary action or imposing other barriers to school attendance based on excessive absences or tardies.

3. Attendance Requirements for Extracurricular Activities

Absences may impact eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities. Principals shall inform students and parents of the applicable attendance standards for the various types of extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics. See also policy 3620, Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations.

Legal References: McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, 42 U.S.C. 11431, *et seq.*; G.S. 115C-47, -84.2, -288(a), -375.5, -378 to -383, -390.2(d), -390.2(l), -390.5, -407.5; 130A-440; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0102, .0103, .0106; State Board of Education Policies ATND-000, -003

Cross References: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (policy 3620), Education for Pregnant and Parenting Students (policy 4023), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission (policy 4110), Homeless Students (policy 4125), Student Behavior Policies (policy 4300), Short-Term Suspension (policy 4351)

Other Resources: NC DPI Multi-Tiered System of Support Implementation Guide, available at <https://www.livebinders.com/play/play/2052295?tabid=180c26e7-0236-1ff0-3f53-291910458e28#anchor>

Adopted: February 9, 2015

Revised: March 14, 2016; August 14, 2017 (Legal references only); August 13, 2018; June 8, 2020; September 13, 2021; December 13, 2021;

Replaces: Policy 5.02.20, Attendance Requirements

Students and the educational program must be the focus of the school system. In order to maintain an educational environment conducive to learning and to minimize intrusions upon instructional time, advertising for and promotion of commercial products and services are discouraged during the instructional day. School officials shall screen and approve the distribution and display of advertising materials and messages publicized through school media or displayed on school property and at school events.

A. APPLICABILITY OF POLICY

This policy is intended to govern requests to advertise products, ~~or services, programs, or activities~~ on school ~~grounds property~~, at school events, or through school publications and ~~other electronic media~~ by:

1. individuals;
2. non-profit organizations not otherwise permitted to distribute or display materials or messages by policy 5210, Distribution and Display of Non-School Material; and
3. for-profit organizations and businesses.

B. PROHIBITED ADVERTISEMENT ~~AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES~~ MESSAGES

The Watauga County Board of Education (the "board") prohibits advertising, ~~commercial or promotional messages, and other items and materials~~ that (1) ~~are~~is vulgar, indecent, or obscene; (2) contains libelous statements, personal attacks, or abusive language, such as language defaming a person's character, race, religion, ethnic origin, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, and gender identity), family status, or disability; (3) ~~causes~~causes or clearly threatens to cause a material and substantial disruption of a school activity; (4) ~~encourages~~encourages the commission of unlawful acts or the violation of lawful school rules or regulations; (5) ~~are~~is inappropriate considering the age of the students in the school; (6) includes information that is inaccurate, misleading, or false; or (7) ~~advertise~~is for any product or service not permitted to minors by law.

C. SCHOOL FORUMS

Although permitting some advertising within the school system, the board does not intend to create a public forum or to open school facilities, including its electronic media, print publications, or school facilities, for unlimited access by outsiders and advertising by the general public.

D. REGULATIONS GOVERNING ADVERTISING IN THE SCHOOLS

The superintendent ~~shall~~may develop regulations governing advertising in the schools subject to ~~s~~Section B above and in accordance with the following guidelines.

1. ~~Advertising is permitted in school publications such as yearbooks, school newspapers, newsletters, and event programs. School officials may permit the publication of commercial advertisements for a reasonable fee or an in-kind contribution that advertises or promotes an outside organization's products, programs or services.~~
- 2.1. ~~School officials may allow for sell, for a reasonable fee or an in-kind contribution,~~ commercial advertisement space on stadium, athletic, and/or gymnasium billboards, banners, or signage or in school publications, such as yearbooks, school newspapers, newsletters, and event programs. Such space may be sold, for a reasonable fee or an in-kind contribution, to for advertisements or promotions of an outside organizations's or individuals for the purpose of advertising their products, services, programs, or activities.
- 3.2. School officials may permit boards, displays, or banners that acknowledge donations to or sponsors of a school or the school system.
- 4.3. School officials shall prohibit advertising through the school system employee and student e-mail system and the school system website.
- 5.4. Advertising in school publications, or other-in school media, in school facilities, and on school property will be limited to an advertiser's (a) name, ~~brand name,~~ and/or trade name; (b) logo; (c) location or place of business and contact information; (d) slogans that identify the advertiser but do not promote it; and (e) products, services, programs, or servicesactivities in a value-neutral description.
- 6.5. School officials have discretion to determine whether to may not use commercially sponsored materials or materials containing commercial advertising in school instructional programs and activities.
7. ~~Collection of student data for marketing purposes is governed by section B of policy 4720, Surveys of Students.~~
- 8.6. School officials may accept donations of equipment and supplies that contain advertising messages. However, such donations must comply with the requirements of policy 8220, Gifts and Bequests.
- 9.7. Advertising materials that are primarily or entirely commercial shall not be posted in schools or distributed to students or parents.
- 10.8. Advertising materials that are primarily or entirely commercial shall not be distributed to school system employees except for information about employee benefit plans provided by vendors on the approved list maintained by the Watauga County Schools Benefits Manager in the central office.

E. PROTECTION OF STUDENT PRIVACY

Collection of student data by the school system for marketing purposes is governed by Section C of policy 4720, Surveys of Students.

~~Neither the school system nor the school administrators at any school will~~No school system employees shall require students to provide marketing information to vendors either through the provision of personal information or through marketing surveys. In addition, neither the school system nor any school ~~system employee administrator~~ will enter into any contract for products or services, including electronic media services, in which students are asked to reveal personal information for collection by the providers of such services for marketing purposes. For the purposes of this ~~s~~Section, personal information includes, but is not limited to, the student's name, telephone number, e-mail address, and home address.

F. PROCESS TO REQUEST TO ADVERTISE

Any entity or individual interested in advertising ~~or promoting products, and services, programs, or activities~~ pursuant to this policy ~~or~~ and school system regulations must submit a request to the principal (for advertising specific to an individual school) or to the superintendent's designee (for system-wide advertising). The principal or superintendent's designee shall decide whether to may approve the advertising request~~that complies with board policies and regulations~~ and respond within 30 working days.

If the principal or superintendent's designee denies an advertising request for approval to advertise a product or service, the entity or individual seeking to advertise has five days to appeal the decision to may submit a request for the superintendent to review the decision made by the principal or the superintendent's designee within five working days. The superintendent shall ~~review the request and make a decision within 10 working days of receiving the appeal request for review.~~ As needed, the superintendent shall consult with the board attorney concerning a request to advertise.

Any request denied by the superintendent may be appealed to the board ~~of education~~ if the right to an appeal is mandated by G.S. 115C-45(c). A decision as to whether an appeal is mandated by G.S. 115C-45(c) will be made in consultation with the board attorney. If an appeal is not mandated by G.S. 115C-45(c), the board, in its sole discretion, may decide whether ~~or not~~ to review the superintendent's decision.

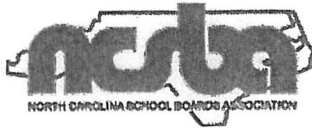
Legal References: G.S. 115C-36, -45(c), -98

Cross References: Surveys of Students (policy 4720), Distribution and Display of Non-School Material (policy 5210), Gifts and Bequests (policy 8220)

Adopted: February 8, 2016

Replaces: Policy 2.04.70, Distribution of Non-School Sponsored Materials (in part)

| Revised:



Ramona Powers
Director of Board Development & Technology

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rpowers@ncsba.org

MEMORANDUM

TO: Board Chairs & Superintendents
FROM: Ramona Powers, Director of Board Development & Technology
RE: 2022 Annual Conference for Board Member Development

VOTING DELEGATES FORM

Determination of the number of voting delegates to which your system is entitled should be made according to the following scale. Below, please check the range of total current expenditures (includes funds 1, 2, and 3 accounts and excludes capital outlay monies) appropriate for your school system:

- _____ \$1 million to \$5 million in total current expenditures - 2 Delegates
_____ \$5 million to \$25 million in total current expenditures - 3 Delegates
☒ Over \$25 million in total current expenditures - 4 Delegates

Below, list the names of your school board members that will serve as voting delegates. Please be sure to register your delegate(s) for the conference. In the absence of any official voting delegate or alternate, any member of the board may serve as a voting delegate at the Delegate Assembly on behalf of your board.

1. Dr. Gary Childers
2. Mr. Marshall Ashcraft
3. _____
4. _____

Alternate: _____

We hereby certify that the listed delegates officially represent this board on all voting matters at the 2021 NCSBA Annual Conference.

School System: Watauga County Schools
Board Chair: Dr. Gary Childers
Superintendent: Dr. Scott Elliott

Please return this information by October 7, 2022.

Complete online at <https://www.ncsba.org/training/delegate-assembly/>
Email to jljong@ncsba.org
Mail to:
NCSBA VOTING DELEGATE
7208 Falls of Neuse Rd, Ste. 301
RALEIGH, NC 27615

Agenda
Calendar Committee Meeting
22 September 2022
3:45P WHS Room 2202

Meeting Began at 3:45pm EST

Presiding Committee Member: Dr. Wayne Eberle, CO

Minutes Taken By: Natasha Lyons, VC

Welcome, Introductions and Sign-In

- In attendance: Dr. Wayne Eberle (CO), Charlena Townsend (PKY), Claudine Lovins (HP), Michele Lee (GV), Audrey Mikkola (GV), Amy Warren (CC), Natasha Lyons (VC), Jana Yount (VC), Susan Milhaupt (HP), Marshall Ashcraft (BOE), Anne Sukow (BE), Erin Strickland (BR), Laurie Nixon (WHS), Pamela West (BE), Amy Thomas (Mabel), Kari Riddle (PKY), Allyson McFalls (BR)

Information Sharing:

- Timeline for creating the 2023-2024 Calendar
 - Eberle: October 20, November 3, and December 1 beginning at 3:45P. If we feel like we have a calendar ready by the December 12th BOE meeting then we will present the calendar to the board and cancel the remainder of the meetings. Room 2202 at WHS has been reserved for these meetings.
- School Calendar Legislation, Waiver (No Waivers to be granted this year only “good cause” for start and end dates), and Guidelines (student days, holidays, workdays for teachers = 215 required days); Watauga county has received a weather waiver for 23-24.
 - Eberle: Went over the calendar legislation law as well as our weather waiver to be able to start/end early due to weather. We have a waiver to be able to start as early as August 21, 2023 with students.
 - Eberle: Paused for questions. No questions were asked.
 - Eberle: We have to have 185 student days or 1,025 hours of instruction when building the calendar.
 - Eberle: Went over Senate Bill 671 was going to expire but as of August 4, 2022 was repealed. Districts can have up to 5 remote days or 30 hours if they submit a remote instruction plan to the State BOE by July 1 of each year (we submitted one) and districts that have a good cause waiver (WCS is one of these districts) can have up to 15 remote days or 90 remote instructional hours.
 - Eberle: Paused for questions. No questions were asked.
- History of Inclement Weather Days/ Start and End Dates in WCS
 - Eberle: Reviewed the history of inclement weather days in WCS.

- Guidelines for Inclement Weather Days and Staff Time
 - Eberle: Reviewed the guidelines that WCS has in place for staff time when there are inclement weather days.

Discussion of Priorities from past meetings:

- WHS is willing to reduce number of days in 1st semester to as low as 84 to ensure 1st semester testing occurs or may begin before holiday break: *SY 22-23 testing will occur following the holiday break due to the limited number of days achieved with an August 22nd start date/ likely testing will occur following the holiday break for SY 23-24 as well*
- One full week at Spring Break
- Easter at the beginning of Spring Break (Easter is 31 March 2024)
- Support the use of Saturday school as early as possible (Note- Remote Days may significantly reduce to need for this option in the future)

Consideration/consensus on calendar choices/ options- what works and what does not

- Start with presented calendar as template with the following options to consider:
 - Wednesday before Thanksgiving either Early Release or Optional WD
 - First semester will not end until after the holiday break- this is due to the “good cause” waiver and earliest start date being pushed up to Aug 22nd (last time this happened was SY 16-17)
- Discussion
 - Eberle: Presented a calendar that mirrors that of the current school year’s calendar. Calendar law has not changed but we know that other districts are going against the calendar law but we do not put our BOE in the place where they would be breaking the law.
 - Eberle: Presented the “Blue” Calendar/Scenario B which is something that could be a possibility if the law were to be changed. Eberle did preface that this calendar is not even an option unless the law would be to change. BOE did say we could come to the table to have an alternate calendar for the “in case it happens.”
 - Eberle: Opened the floor for questions.
 - Lovins: What is the law between school years?
 - Eberle: At a minimum, there must be 42 consecutive calendar days between school years.
 - Milhaupt: What happened to the day before the Labor Day holiday being an early release day?
 - Eberle: This was intended to be used for professional development but wasn’t being used as one. So the calendar committee decided

that if they wanted a PD time frame during the school year that we would put it on a Wednesday instead.

- Pugh: Other districts have scheduled workdays at the end of the nine weeks, is that something that we can do?
 - Eberle: Yes we can do that but if we give a workday, we have to take a day from the end of the year. It also gets difficult with doing any in the third nine weeks due to the unknown weather.
- Townsend: The stretch from January to Spring Break was hard on not just teachers but for students as well - behavior issues increased, burnout was happening, etc. and the times we did have weather, most were remote learning days due to a mild winter. I think we need to do something to prevent this from happening in the future without knowing the weather. What if we were to move spring break up a little bit and do what ASU does around Easter and have a Friday and/or Monday as optional teacher workdays if possible? Instead of just throwing away a day can we turn it into a remote learning day if weather is an issue?
 - Eberle: We can do this but with some of this, the communication of getting out what the plan is gets difficult and confusing for families.
- Pugh: Would we ever actually use all 15 days of remote learning that we are allowed to use.
 - Eberle: I won't say never but it is unlikely
- McFalls: There is a sense of burnout for students and families in the time frame to have some work days for teachers to keep up with tasks, grading, progress monitoring, etc.
 - Eberle: Teachers have days that they can take (sick, personal, annual leave whens students are not in school)
- Ashcraft: I think if this group wants to put some parameters on the usage of remote learning days, that would be ok. And what is the concern with doing a Friday in March at the end of the third nine weeks for teachers to get time to close out the nine weeks?
 - Eberle: In the past, we have had to use optional workdays to make-up for inclement weather.
 - Ashcraft: Has this only been an issue in the past when we haven't had the option or remote learning days?
 - Eberle: Yes
 - West: I would rather have one day at the end and have some times during the school year.

- Eberle: If we schedule an optional teacher workday in the calendar, we cannot get them back. So we would need to use “no days” and push the calendar back.
- Pugh: Is there a way we can determine an appropriate number of days to have at the end of the year?
 - Eberle: We can if we want to.
- Lyons: Some of the conversation of what has happened in the past as we haven’t had access to remote learning days in some of those past calendars where we had to take days from the year to make them up?
 - Eberle: Every snow storm is different and we don’t want to use all of the remote days if we don’t need to.
- Sukow: I would be gracious for time to be able to get the third nine weeks closed out even if it is not exactly at the end of the third nine weeks but close to it if possible.

Next Steps for sharing with faculties, parent groups, community members

- Eberle: Take these calendars back to your staff (specifically the first scenario) and collect data from your staff on what input they want and continue this discussion on October 20th. Possible day at the end of the third nine weeks for a teacher workday - look at historical data and ASU schedule as you plan how to get information from your staff.

Future meetings in person or virtual?

- Group Conscious was In-Person

Questions/Concerns

- Meeting Adjourned @5:11pm

Next Calendar Committee meeting dates: October 20, November 3 and December 1 beginning at 3:45P. **BOE Meeting is December 12th at 6P at the Central Office**

Historical Information:

SY 12-13 180 days/ 1129 hrs.

SY 13-14 179 days/ 1120 hrs.

SY 14-15 178 days/ 1132.5 hrs.

SY 15-16 180 days/ 1131 hrs.

SY 16-17 180 days/ 1149 hrs.

SY 17-18 175 days/ 1080 hrs.

SY 18-19 180 days/ 1132 hrs.

SY 19-20 167 days/ 1061.5 hrs. (F2F/ Remote) COVID-19

 **13 March 2020- completed 123 days/ 775.5 hrs. before moving into remote

SY 20-21 180 days/ 1148 hrs.

SY 21-22 180 days/ 1156 hrs.