

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

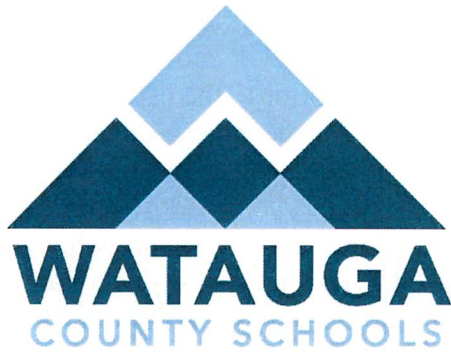
October 11, 2021

5:30 P.M.

- | | | | |
|------|-----|---|--|
| 5:30 | 1. | CALL TO ORDER | Board Chair |
| 5:32 | 2. | CLOSED SESSION | |
| | | A. Approval of Minutes | |
| | | B. 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/WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE | Board Chair |
| 6:05 | 4. | DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA | Board Chair |
| 6:08 | 5. | SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT | Dr. Scott Elliott |
| 6:13 | 6. | STUDENTS’ REPORT | Ms. Isabella Sibaja
Ms. Mia Shanely |
| 6:18 | 7. | PUBLIC RECOGNITION | |
| | | A Principals Recognition | Dr. Scott Elliott
Board Chair |
| 6:25 | 8. | PRESENTATION OF 2020-2021 AUDIT REPORT | Mr. Mike Wike |
| 6:35 | 9. | PUBLIC COMMENT | |
| 6:50 | 10. | COVID UPDATE | Dr. Scott Elliott
Ms. Jen Greene |
| 7:05 | 11. | CONSENT AGENDA | |
| | | A. Approval of the Minutes for 9/13/2021 | Dr. Scott Elliott |
| | | B. Field Trip Request | |
| | | C. Declaration of Surplus | |
| | | D. Policy regarding the use of face coverings by employees and students | |
| | | E. Personnel Report | |
| 7:20 | 12. | UPDATE ON VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL PLANNING | Dr. Scott Elliott |
| 7:30 | 13. | HUMAN RESOURCES UPDATE | Dr. Stephen Martin |
| 7:40 | 14. | CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION UPDATE | Dr. Scott Elliott |

--Break--

7:55	15.	BOARD OPERATIONS	Board Chair
8:05	16.	BOARD COMMENTS	Board Chair
8:15	17.	ADJOURNMENT	Board Chair
	18.	MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION	



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MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

DATE: September 13, 2021

TIME: 5:30 PM

PLACE: Margaret E. Gragg Educational Center

PRESENT: Gary Childers, Jay Fenwick, Marshall Ashcraft, Steve Combs, Jason Cornett, Dr. Scott Elliott, Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Martin, Assistant Superintendent

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. Steve Combs moved to enter closed session and Marshall Ashcraft seconded the motion. The vote to approve was unanimous.

A motion was made at 5:58 by Steve Combs and seconded by Jason Cornett to reenter open session. The vote to enter open session was unanimous.

WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE

Dr. Childers welcomed those attending the meeting. He began with a request to observe a moment of silence.

DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA

There were no adjustments to the agenda.

SUPERINTENDENTS REPORT

Dr. Elliott welcomed Dr. Childers and the board members, Ms. Sibaja, and the new Junior student representative, Ms. Mia Shanely. He welcomed staff members, parents and community members present. He welcomed Mr. Matt Snyder, the director of the Watauga County Board of Elections, and noted the good working relationship with Mr. Snyder and the Board. He noted the presence of school resource officer, Lt. Morrison, and thanked him for attending the meeting.

He commend the students and staff of Hardin Park, especially Ms. Emily Rothrock, for coordinating the sixth annual Patriot's Day program which commemorated the memory of those who were lost during the attacks of 9/11. It shows support for and recognizes the heroes in law enforcement, fire and rescue, and emergency services who serve us daily in our community.

He reminded everyone of the early release on Wednesday in order to give our teachers additional time for required professional development and collaboration in their professional learning communities.

He commended the staff at Watauga High School, particularly the district GEAR UP coordinator Laura Turner, for planning a conference for all high school students on Wednesday prior to the early release. Each grade level had a specific focus for the day to help prepare them for post-secondary education or pursuits.

He said a word of thanks to Dr. Stephen Martin and Mr. Jeff Trexler for coaching the middle school Golf team who had an overwhelming number of participants. He was pleased to announce a Skybest grant for \$3,700 to assist in paying for startup costs. He highlighted a thank you note from WAMY for allowing them to hold their summer camp at Cove Creek School. He commended the bus maintenance department for repairing a Burns High school bus, and who received a barbeque lunch as a thank you from the Cleveland County bus mechanics.

STUDENT REPORT

Freshmen orientation was held on August 12th, where students and teachers could get to know each other, and Pioneer Ambassadors assisted. This is one of largest Freshmen classes. In the first week, during Advisory, a club fair was held for students to learn more about them. Interact and Sustainability Club held a river cleanup. A college fair would be held in the coming week with over 60 colleges represented. GEARUP would host an all high school conference with activities for each grade to help discern goals for the students and a practice ACT to help prepare for the actual test.

PUBLIC RECOGNITION

Mr. Mat Snyder, Chair, Dr. Michael Behrent, and board member, James Hill recognized the Board, Dr. Elliott, Principals, and Mr. Trexler related to hosting the General Election on Nov 3, 2020. There was much problem-solving, and good work toward a solution-oriented and successful day. 30,000 plus people voted without COVID transmission.

COVID UPDATE

Dr. Scott Elliott provided an update regarding COVID. He introduced Ms. Shelly Klutz, Lead Nurse. He noted that due to budget approval, Watauga County Schools (WCS) now had 10 Nurses, 2 potential CNA candidates. During the first four weeks of school, 1,127 reports investigated. 83 students were positive, with 574 close contacts, and 299 were quarantined. Two hundred seventy-five students did not have to quarantine due to new NCDHHS rules. There had been some outdoor secondary transmission. There had been four cases of secondary transmission among staff. Twenty-two staff members had tested positive.

Many teachers were quarantined, and staff replacements had been difficult. Quarantine rules are mandated by DHHS and local Health departments. There is no flexibility. A vaccine clinic was held that day. Vaccines are only administered with parent permission. Parents may also receive vaccines at school clinics. A few classes were in remote learning for a few days, but the intent is to keep schools open with students and teachers in the classroom. He thanked Senator Ballard for efforts related to winter instructional flexibility. Senate bill 654 requires districts to vote monthly regarding their mask policy.

Nurse Shelly stated that 10% of students and staff will be randomly screened with parent permission. Thirty parents at Cove Creek, the pilot school, are interested in having their students screened. Testing is available with results available by 5PM the next day.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Consent Agenda was presented as follows:

- A. Approval of Minutes August 9, 2021
- B. Field Trip Requests
- C. Disposition of Surplus
- D. Mask policy
- E. Personnel Report

Steve Combs moved to approve the consent agenda items A through E. Marshall Ashcraft seconded the motion. Following discussion and the date correction of August 9th on the mask policy, and missing information on a field trip to Asheboro zoo which Dr. Elliott would complete with the Board's approval, the vote to approve was unanimous.

VALLE CRUCIS UPDATE

Chad Roberson, Eve Szentesi, Dr. Bonnie Smith, Jeff Trexler, Dr. Elliott, and Board members in two sessions, met to discuss a visualization of the school building. They were currently discussing queuing, providing renderings, and plans related to materials, colors, and roof pitch. The architects will meet on October 21st in the evening in the gym at Valle Crucis to present exterior finishes, roof pitch, and some preliminary renderings to Valle Crucis Historic Commission. This is pursuant to the issuance of a Certificate of Appropriateness necessary to begin construction and eventually having a ribbon cutting by June 1, 2024 to open the new school. There are many items still to explore regarding costs relating to mechanicals, and additional narrowing of floor plans and elevations.

WATAUGA VIRTUAL ACADEMY

Ms. Tamara Stamey presented information about the new Watauga Virtual Academy, which is an independently operating K-8 school. Ms. Stamey and the faculty have attempted to create an identity and sense of belonging for the students through many methods. The school currently has 87 students enrolled. The enrollment has 11 academically gifted (AIG) students and 12 Exceptional Children (EC). Middle school math and ELA is delivered for the middle school FOCUS students. The school has 9 teachers, with Sarah Cardwell serving as instructional facilitator, Kim Hall as Data Manager, and EC and AIG services provided from other district staff. Noting that consistency and routine are important, and the schedule contains synchronous and asynchronous instruction days, and optional flexible learning extension opportunities. Parents pick-up materials on Fridays. Thirty-five percent of families participated in the Back2School festival. An in-person orientation was held prior to the start of school. A behavior matrix was created to illustrate expectations for parents and students. Seesaw and Canvas platform pages help with consistency. Teachers have office hours during day and after 6PM for working families. Staff biographies are available on the website. Staff development is delivered in groups from across the district, and teachers have access to a wide range of materials. Parents have access to the teacher's learning management system, Canvas, and can view lessons, assignments and grades. Staff participate in faculty meetings and have specific professional development programs. Devices are provided to the students to connect online, as are hot spots if necessary. Workbooks are provided for math and the Letterland platform. Teachers are supplied with additional technology to support online teaching. The offices are housed behind the media center at Watauga High school. Ms. Stamey thanked the many Watauga County employees for their part in making the Virtual Academy a reality.

Dr. Elliott mentioned that Catherine Truitt, State School Superintendent would visit Boone on September 23rd and would tour several schools, including the WVA. He noted that minor remodeling would be needed to repurpose space for offices, conference space, and storage.

The Board took a break at 7:24 PM and reconvened at 7:30 PM.

POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ

3610 Counseling Program
4125 Homeless Students
4400 Attendance
6120 Student Health Services
6125 Administering Medicines to Students
7800 Professional and Staff Development

Dr. Eberle presented the above listed policies with no changes from first read. Following discussion, and clarification about policy 4400, Jason Cornett moved to approve the policies as written, which was seconded Marshall Ashcraft . The vote to approve was unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Two parents spoke during public comment:

Mr. Michael Ackerman indicated his concerns for children who are required to wear masks in school, and his belief that statistics didn't warrant this requirement.

Emily Smith indicated her concern schools were too focused on identifying and quarantining students with COVID. Her experience was that most had mild symptoms, and that kids have always gotten sick. She noted her concerns about the PCR test's accuracy and safety. She feels that masks are political.

BOARD OPERATIONS

NCSBA is soliciting for board of Directors from our region. Dr. Childers was willing as he is retired. Jason Cornett nominated Gary Childers to serve. Marshall Ashcraft seconded the motion, and the vote was unanimous in favor of Dr. Childers' nomination.

BOARD COMMENTS

There were no Board Comments at the September Board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Steve Combs moved to adjourn, which was seconded by Jay Fenwick. The Board unanimously approved the motion at 7:56 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 X 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) Brandon Winbush School: Watauga High School

Cell phone number: 336-255-9029 Grade(s): 11-12 Number of students: 3

Departure date: Saturday, November 6 2021 Return date: Sunday, November 7 2021

Departure time: 6:30 am Return time: 5:30 pm

Educational purpose:

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

Winston-Salem, NC: MC Benton Convention Center, Winston-Salem Embassy Suites/Marriott School of
the Arts Stevens Center, Hanes Mall

Purpose of trip and how it relates to the curriculum: Three students will be representing Watauga County Schools
at the North Carolina High School Honors Chorus clinic. They will join students from other NC high schools who have
been ranked the top high school choral singers, and will spend two days preparing a concert to be led by world-
renowned choral conductor, Dr. Julie Yu.

Supervision and Safety:

Names of all school staff chaperones: Brandon Winbush

Names of all non-school chaperones: _____

All chaperones have a background check completed: _____ Sponsoring teacher initials: _____

Are all site(s) accessible to students with disabilities? ☒ yes ☐ no How will students with disabilities be accommodated for site access and transportation? There are no students with disabilities going on this trip.

Sponsoring Teacher Initials _____ (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. **NA**

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) County Car

Name of charter bus company (if checked above) _____

(If applicable, bus request form must be attached)

Driver/s: Brandon Winbush Round trip mileage: 158 # of buses needed: _____

Total cost per student \$ 125 Source of funds: WHS Choral Department acct.

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

Approval/Signatures:

Sponsoring teacher signature:  Date: 10 / 5 / 2021

Principal approval: CABE Date: 10 / 5 / 2021

Required signatures if applicable:

Transportation Director approval:  Date: 10 / 6 / 2021

Superintendent approval:  Date: 10 / 7 / 21

Board of Education approval: Hay L. Childen Date: 10 / 11 / 21

Declaration of Surplus Items - October 2021

Date Approved:

Bethel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
28543	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28549	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28550	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28552	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28606	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28607	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28608	1	Samsung Chromebook 2		1
28597	1	ASUS Chromebook C300		1
26418	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
26409	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
26413	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
26417	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
26410	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100631	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100188	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100186	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100626	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100625	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100629	1	iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
	3	Green Rolling Cart	3	
	1	Microwave		1
	1	DVD/VCR- player		1
100328	1	Camera		1
	2	Rolling computer desk	2	
100229	1	Desktop Printer		1
	1	Wooden Chair	1	
100632	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100627	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100628	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100630	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100624	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
100633	1	Tablet -iPad 2 - 16 GB		1
	35		6	19

Blowing Rock

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	1	Computer Cart		1
200729	1	Cafeteria Table w/ 12 stools		1
200634	1	Sanitaire Upright Vac SC5815		1
28492	1	Proj- Epson Brightlink 575		1
200806	1	Proj- NEC np400		1
200957	1	Printer- 3-D Zeus		1
200156	1	Doc. Camera- Vizam Canon		1
201104	15	Lenovo Mirage Solo- VR Headsets	15	
28759	1	Doc.Camera- Ziggie HD+		1
	1	Wooden headphones stand	1	
	1	Apollo Concept Overhead Projector	1	
	1	TV	1	
	1	Sharp VCR	1	
200014	1	DVD player	1	
	1	Smart Podium	1	
	1	Headphones boxes with headphones	1	
	1	Headphones boxes with headphones	1	
	1	Headphones plug-in jack boxes	1	
200090	1	HP Scanner	1	
	33		25	8

Cove Creek

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
25170	1	Proj-Powerlit 98		1
800142	1	Smartboard -680		1
	2		0	2

Green Valley

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

Hardin Park

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
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500326	1	SmartBoard		1
500223	1	SmartBoard		1
51828	1	SmartBoard		1
80282	1	SmartBoard		1
	2	5' metal proj mounts	2	
	3	Large Book Cart	3	
Varies	4	HP Desktop Computers		4
		Floor Scrubber- Wrangler		
501100	1	2730	1	
25187	1	Proj- Epson Powerlite 98		1
28474	1	Doc Camera- Ipevo Ziggi		1
25094	1	CPU- HP Z220 Workstation	1	
500772	1	Amplifier- TOA Mixer BG235		1
		Amplifier- TOA Interated		
500789	1	BG115		1
500790	1	DVD player- Sony VHS	1	
	1	HP Monitor	1	
	1	Dell Monitor	1	
	1	Dell Monitor		1
322-18450	1	Proj- EIKI LC-ZB28	1	
500146	1	Proj- NEC NP400		1
500888	1	Proj- Sharp PG-D210U	1	
500222	1	SmartBoard	1	
	1	Speaker- Plye DryverPro		1
500751	1	eReader- Nook	1	
500752	1	eReader- Nook	1	
500753	1	eReader- Nook	1	
50268	1	Tablet- iPad 2	1	
	32		17	15

Mabel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
600267	1	Proj NEC VT-676E		1

	1	File Cabinet	1	
	1	Office Chair		1
	1	Student desk	1	
	1	Sm Brown Student chair	1	
	1	Med Blue Student chair		1
	1	Sm Student chair	1	
	1	Lrg Blue Student chair	1	
	8		5	3

Parkway

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
700240	1	Icom Radio		1
700245	1	Icom Radio		1
700241	1	Icom Radio		1
700020	1	HP Compaq DC 7900 Desktop		1
700386	1	Dell Optiplex 755 Desktop		1
	5		0	5

Valle Crucis

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
301316	1	Lenovo N22 Chromebook	1	
301211	1	DVR- Security Sys		1
28596	1	Laptop -Chromebook		1
900666	1	SmartBoard		1
28060	1	Carts / Charging Cabinets	1	
28063	1	Carts / Charging Cabinets	1	
28062	1	Carts / Charging Cabinets	1	
903326	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28031	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28029	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28032	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28036	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28030	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28024	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28028	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28035	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28033	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28027	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28026	1	Tablet - iPad		1
28025	1	Tablet - iPad		1

600866	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903334	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903330	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903351	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903323	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903333	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903324	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903331	1	Tablet - iPad		1
903207	1	Tablet - iPad		1
<hr/>			<hr/>	
29			4	25

Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
902927	1	Dell CPU-Optiplex 380		1
	1	Desktop - HP Compaq 7900		1
30785	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N23		1
900696	1	Proj- Powerlite 460		1
903819	1	Printer- HP Office Jet- 6310		1
903535	1	DVD/VCR player		1
80121	1	Printer- 3D		1
900168	1	SmartBoard	1	
900378	1	SmartBoard	1	
900584	1	SmartBoard	1	
900626	1	SmartBoard	1	
903079	1	SmartBoard	1	
900570	1	SmartBoard	1	
900172	1	Doc. Camera-Elmo TT-02		1
30168	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N23		1
301316	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N24		1
30452	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N25		1
31066	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N26		1
30825	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N27		1
903601	1	CPU- Dell- Precision T3500		1
903999	1	SmartBoard-680	1	
50183	1	SmartBoard-680	1	
500198	1	SmartBoard-680	1	
900775	1	SmartBoard-680	1	
903835	1	Proj- Powerlite 460		1
903613	1	Proj- Powerlite 460		1
900796	1	Proj- Powerlite 460		1
30940	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N23		1

30859	1	Laptop- Chromebook- N23		1
	29		10	19

Central Office

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
732	1	Desktop- HP Compaq 7900		1
984	1	Desktop- HP Compaq 7900		1
	2		0	2

Technology Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
Varies	33	Access Point- HiveAP 330		33
900555	1	Proj- Epson Powerlite 460		1
904748	1	Proj- Epson Powerlite 460		1
904779	1	Proj- Epson Powerlite 480		1
900379	1	Proj- Epson Powerlite 460		1
903152	1	Laptop- Dell Latitude E5420		1
28511	1	CPU- mini Chromebox		1
51787	1	Laptop- Chromebook N23		1
	40		0	40

Transportation Department

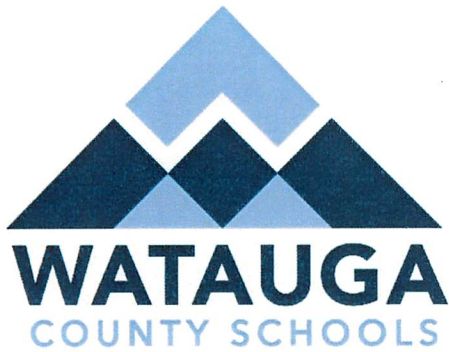
<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	0		0	0

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>
732	1	Desktop -Computer Compaq		1
984	1	Desktop -Computer Compaq		1
	2		0	2



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On August 30, 2021 Governor Cooper signed Session Law 2021-130 (Senate Bill 654). The law, called “an Act to Provide Relief to Public Schools in Response to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic,” includes the following provision:

Effective immediately, all school boards must:

1. “Adopt a policy regarding the use of face coverings by employees and students.” And
2. “Vote at least once a month on whether the face covering policy should be modified.”

Pursuant to this requirement, the policy of the Watauga County Board of Education is to direct the Superintendent of Schools to implement and enforce the decision of the Board as adopted by unanimous vote on August 9, 2021.

The policy of the board is as follows:

The Board will require indoor masking for all teachers, staff, students, volunteers, and visitors when inside any school-owned facilities and vehicles, regardless of vaccination status. Exceptions will be made for employees and students while eating and socially distanced; and for employees who are in their offices, classrooms, or school-owned vehicles while alone or only with members of their own households. Face coverings will be strongly encouraged but optional for middle and high school athletes during practice and competitions. The Superintendent may further restrict this flexibility for athletes if necessary to protect students.

This shall be the policy of the Watauga County Board of Education until amended or rescinded by a vote of the Board during an open session.

Agenda (and Minutes)
Calendar Committee Meeting
30 September 2021
3:45P WHS Media Ctr.- Changed to Virtual- Link to Meet

Welcome, Introductions and Sign-In

- In Attendance: Wayne Eberle, Natasha Lyons, Sue Walker, Marshall Ashcraft, Claudine Lovins, Charlena Townsend, Kim Shockey, Pamela Shirley, Pace Cooper, Susan Milhaupt, Lindsey Gough, Kimberly Dunnagan, Amy Warren, Melanie Randolph, Allyson McFalls, Chris Blanton, Michele Lee, Laurie Nixon, Audrey Mikkola

Information Sharing:

Timeline for creating the 2022-2023 Calendar

- We will meet a few times to develop a calendar together that works best for students and students learning.
 - Meeting dates are noted below.
- Once we have developed a calendar, we will present it to the Board of Education for approval or comments around either the November/December or January/February timeline.
 - Legislation changes may have us hold off on presenting a calendar too early in case of major changes in what we are able to accomplish.

School Calendar Legislation, Waiver (No Waivers to be granted this year only “good cause” for start and end dates), and Guidelines

- Dr. Wayne Eberle, reviewed the legislation with the members in attendance.
- Watauga County has an approved Early Start Date Waiver due to inclement weather conditions that cause us to miss many days of school.

History of Inclement Weather Days/ Start and End Dates in WCS

- Dr. Wayne Eberle, reviewed the history of inclement weather days/start and end dates with the members in attendance.

Guidelines for Inclement Weather Days and Staff Time

- Dr. Wayne Eberle, reviewed the inclement weather days and staff time. Asked the members in attendance to make sure the rest of their school staff members have access to this document.

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 20-21 we were able to start testing before the holiday break*
- One full week at Spring Break
- Easter at the beginning of Spring Break (Easter is 9 April 2023)
- 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)
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: There are only 80 days between the early start date and before the holiday break in December.
- Dr. Wayne Eberle presented a proposed calendar that mirrors that of the calendar we are working on for the current school year.
- Dr. Wayne Eberle opened the floor for discussion for feedback.
 - Claudine Lovins: With the current calendar, when would the semester end for the high school?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: January 17th
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: We have to build in 5 remote learning days and can use up to 10 more remote learning days (total of 15) with the calendar we are building for the 2022-2023 school year.
 - Sue Walker: Getting out on the 16th seems a little early to me, Dr. Blanton does the 2-3 days help make a difference to push it to the week of Christmas?
 - Chris Blanton: It would help but I don’t know if that is a popular opinion.
 - Claudine Lovins: Something a lot of people have asked for is two weeks for the Christmas break which getting out on the 16th gives us.
 - Claudine Lovins: If making the Wednesday before Thanksgiving an early release day, does that help us end the semester for the high school on January 13th?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: We can still leave that day before Thanksgiving an Optional Teacher Workday and end the semester on January 13th which would be an 89/91 split for the high school.
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: We could go to school up until December 21st as well as have the day before Thanksgiving be an instructional day which gives the high school a chance to get their first semester in before the Christmas Break.

- Discussion surrounding two weeks at the Christmas break in regards to travel for our schools communities
- Dr. Chris Blanton: The early release before the Christmas break isn't helpful for the high school from a testing perspective because they cannot do much testing on an early release day.
- Laurie Nixon: Isn't doing 84 too risky? One day missed could bump testing back to after the Christmas break?
 - Dr. Chris Blanton and Dr. Wayne Eberle: We have had fewer days at times (fewer than the 84) and started testing before the Christmas break but it is not ideal.
- Kim Dunnagan: Is there a reason we do not mirror ASU's spring break?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: We try to use the Easter Holiday as our mark since sometimes the ASU Spring Break is much earlier or much later than the Easter Holiday but sometimes it lines up.
 - Claudine Lovins: ASU Spring Break is March 13-17th
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: We can move Spring Break there if that is what the group would like to do.
- Dr. Wayne Eberle: I can build additional calendars for us to look at with different scenarios.
- Dr. Chris Blanton: If we don't do anything else than stay with this model, can we move the end of the semester to January 13th instead of the 19th to allow for a smoother end to the semester?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: Yes we can do that no problem.
- Lindsey Gough: To extend 1st semester to be done by Christmas: make the 23rd a school day and we could move the 2 weeks at Christmas December 22nd- Jan. 6th can be a teacher work day since we wouldn't want to bring students back on a Friday when they return Jan. 9th. Just thinking.
 - Claudine Lovins: ASU returns on January 17th
- Dr. Wayne Eberle pauses the discussion at 4:43pm and asks the members in attendance to go back to their stakeholders to get feedback to bring back to the October meeting to get a better idea of what our stakeholders are wanting to make sure we have their input to feel more comfortable with moving forward.

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

- Dr. Wayne Eberle pauses the discussion at 4:43pm and asks the members in attendance to go back to their stakeholders to get feedback to bring back to the October meeting to get a better idea of what our stakeholders are wanting to make sure we have their input to feel more comfortable with moving forward.

Questions/Concerns

- Sue Walker: Will we continue to have the waiver if we implement more virtual days in the future?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: There is a chance if we are not closed for 8 days (fully closed for students) for 4 of the last 10 years, there is a chance that we could lose that waiver if the legislation doesn't change. We have to balance the remote days and the quality of the instruction as well moving forward.
- Charlena Townsend: Are there built in virtual days in the calendar like last year?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: Not as of this moment. We do have to have remote learning days but they are TBD due to weather being unknown right now.
- Charlena Townsend: There were weather days that were remote correct?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: Yes, there was last year.
- Charlena Townsend: Does there need to be another column added if we continue to do that?
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: No, since they are instructional days for students.
- Parent Representative from Valle Crucis Kim Shockey noted after the official meeting adjourned that as a parent, the two weeks at Christmas are important for students and they are so tired and needing a break, especially for the littles. She understands the importance of the exams and learning but also thinks that time is so important for families overall.
 - Dr. Wayne Eberle: I think the high school still having a full week before exams is beneficial for the high school students.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:46pm but Wayne Eberle noted he would stay on if anyone needed to ask questions or comments to him before he logged off.

Next Calendar Committee meeting dates: October 28, December 2 beginning at 3:45P in the WHS Media Center. ****BOE Meeting is December 13th 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.

2022-2023 Calendar Scenario **For Discussion Only** 22nd

July 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
August 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
September 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30				
October 2022						
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28	29	30	31			
November 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				
December 2022						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30	31			
January 2023						
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28	29	30	31			
February 2023						
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28	29	30	31			
March 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30	31			
April 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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28	29	30				
May 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
June 2023						
Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
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14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

Key Holidays for SY 2022-23:

September 5- Labor Day
 November 11- Veteran's Day
 November 24- Thanksgiving Day
 December 25- Christmas Day
 January 1- New Year's Day
 January 16- MLK Day
 May 29- Memorial Day
 April 7- Good Friday
 April 9- Easter Sunday

August- 8 (# of student days in month)	16-19	Mandatory WD	22	First Day of 180-day term
September- 21	5	Labor Day Holiday	14	Early Release/ PD Day
October- 21	24	End of 1 st quarter (45 days)	27-28	Early Release
November- 18	11	Veteran's Day Holiday	23	Opt Work Day
	24-25	Thanksgiving Holiday	December- 12	16
				Early Release Day (80 days)
			19-21	AL
			22-23, 26-27	Holiday
			28-30	AL
			Student Days 180	Instructional Hours 1160 Hrs.
January- 20	2	Holiday	3	Students return
	16	Opt WD (MLK Day)	17	End of 2 nd nine weeks/ 1 st Semester Ends
February-20	21	End of 3 rd quarter (45 days)	April- 15	10-14 Spring Holiday (1 Holiday/ 4 AL)
March- 23	29	Memorial Day Holiday	31	Last Day of 4 th quarter/ 2 nd Semester Ends
			June- 0	(45/ 90/ 180 days) Early Release Day
	1	MWD	2, 5-9, 12	Opt WD
	Opt WD- 9	Holiday- 11	ER Day- 5	AL- 10