

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

August 22, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office Boardroom, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
Abigail Clayton
Kim Moore
Dr. Lynn Dillard

Also present were Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent; Jacob Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Teri Walawender, Director of Human Resources; Greg Stewart, Chief Technology Officer; Ashley Leonard, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Wes Jamison called the business meeting to order.

Mr. Jamison led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

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

- A. Draft Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 25, 2023.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Dana L. Ayers presented a Certificate of Recognition to Angie Dills. Dr. Ayers nominated Ms. Dills for recognition in K-12 Dive's Rising Leaders, a nationally recognized publication and website that covers topics such as leadership, school models, technology, curriculum, professional development and more. An article about Ms. Dills will be featured during the month of September.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. Last week was a near-perfect start to the school year. A successful first week hinges on the safe pick-up and delivery of students as well as ensuring that everyone is fed. I'd say we succeeded. I want to shout out, our bus drivers, school nutrition and custodial staff for ensuring our students were cared for in a safe, clean and positive manner!
2. August has allowed us to have more than adequate time for teachers and administrators to prepare for the opening of school. The school calendar for this year had seven days designated as work and professional development days. This has been extremely helpful in our preparation to welcome students on August 16th.
3. In addition to the excitement of the first day of school, we cut the ribbon on our second SMES preschool classroom with our grantor, Dogwood Health Trust, attending. The classroom was busy and fun, and we are proud to have so many opportunities for our "littles" in Jackson County. The preschool program has grown exponentially over the last two years, and I am pleased to also have Cassie Rogers, our new preschool coordinator, to manage all aspects of the preschool program.
4. Our athletics programs from Blue Ridge all the way across the county to Smokey Mountain Elementary are fully in action. The SMHS varsity football team competed Friday night and came away victorious over Cherokee High School. This Friday night, the Mustangs will host Swain. I love seeing our student-athletes and coaches bring their love and passion to the fields, courts and tracks.
5. The Back to School Bash held on Saturday, August 5th was a monumental success! The weather was ideal, and we were blessed to serve so many families in Jackson County and beyond. Here are a few statistics:
 - Backpacks distributed: 826
 - Haircuts given: 30
 - Sports physicals: 20
 - Meals served: around 1000
 - Vaccines: 7 school-required vaccines and scheduled others to come inWe have already set a date for next year, Saturday, August 3, 2024!
6. Finally, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction will be releasing assessment data about our schools in the next few weeks. Though I cannot share specifics because the data is still embargoed, I will share how proud I am of many aspects of this data. Our schools are making progress. I'll repeat what I shared last year. With common curriculum materials, our solid instructional practices and the knowledge of our dedicated teachers, we will see a positive growth trajectory over the next several years. We are yet to be where I want but we are growing!
7. Thank you to our families, community, businesses, Jackson County Sheriff's Office, the Sylva Police Department and staff for making the beginning of the year a great one!

B. Agenda Item: Memorandum of Understanding with Mountain Projects Head Start

Presenter: Laura Dills, Executive Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the updated Memorandum of Understanding with Mountain Projects/Head Start for the 2023-2024 school year.

- C. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding with College Advising Corps - Appalachian State

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the Memorandum of Understanding with College Advising Corps - Appalachian State for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

- D. **Agenda Item:** 4th Quarter Internal Audits and Bank of America Audits

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker informed the board that the 4th quarter internal audit and Bank of America purchase card audits have been completed with no findings.

- E. **Agenda Item:** Parent Organizations

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the list of recognized parent organizations for the 2023-2024 school year.

- F. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of August 22, 2023.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Consolidated Federal Programs Application for 2023-2024

Presenter: Laura Dills, Executive Director of Federal Programs

Mrs. Dills presented the Consolidated Federal Programs Application for the 2023-2024 school year and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Consolidated Federal Programs Application for 2023-2024.*

- B. **Agenda Item:** Hello Hero Contract renewal

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented a Contract Addendum from Hello Hero for EC and Psychological Services for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board voted unanimously to approve the Hello Hero Contract renewal for 2023-2024.*

- C. **Agenda Item:** Physical Therapy Contract renewal

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Mrs. Doppke presented the contract renewal for Physical Therapy Services and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Physical Therapy Services contract for 2023-2024.*

D. Agenda Item: Beautifully Intertwined Contract for Therapy Services

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the contract renewal from Beautifully Intertwined for Therapy Services for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Beautifully Intertwined contract for Therapy Services for 2023-2024.*

E. Agenda Item: Field Trips

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. FES, Grade 5 - Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN, 04-26-2024, TT8662.
2. CVES, Grade 3 - Ripley's Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, 09-08-2023, TT8682.

Dr. Ayers presented the above-listed field trip requests and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the above-listed field trips.*

F. Agenda Item: Facility Use Fee Proposal

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated facility use fees for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the updated Facility Use Fees for 2023-2024.*

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-32 and (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Upon a motion by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

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

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of June 28, 2023.
- B. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of July 25, 2023.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Action: Upon a motion made by Mrs. Abigail Clayton and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Dana L. Ayers. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:

Employee Recommendations:

- 1. Alcantar, Elena - School Nutrition Assistant Manager, BRS
- 2. Ammons, Stephanie - Teacher, FES
- 3. Bennett, John - School Nutrition Assistant, FES
- 4. Brown, Megan - Athletic Director, CVES
- 5. Clawson, Gail - Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
- 6. Cope, Clarissa - Teacher Assistant, FES
- 7. Coyne, Tamara - High Impact Tutor, SMES
- 8. Ellenburg, Jeremy - Athletic Director, FES
- 9. Flintoff, Amy - School Nutrition Assistant, FES
- 10. Frese, Jamie - Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
- 11. Hall, Gregory - Part-time Band Instructor, BREC
- 12. Hansen, Debbie - Teacher, FES
- 13. Higgins, Molly - High Impact Tutor, SMES
- 14. Houtzer, Deborah - Summer Custodian, BRS
- 15. Houtzer, Deborah - Part-time Custodian, BRS and BREC
- 16. Kurr, Tim - Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
- 17. Manning, Samantha - Instructional Support Assistant, SMES
- 18. Martin, Candy - School Nutrition Assistant, FES
- 19. Mathis, Anthony - EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
- 20. Mathis, Brandon - Fuel Truck Driver, Bus Garage
- 21. Mulligan, Tyler - Teacher, SMHS
- 22. Pippio, Shaina - Bookkeeper, CVES
- 23. Plaster, Mica - School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
- 24. Rainwater, Erin - Teacher, CVES
- 25. Roth, Natalie - School Mental Health Clinician, SCES
- 26. Silvers, Danielle - Teacher, JCS
- 27. Smith, Kelsey - Teacher Assistant, FES
- 28. Smithdeal, Erica - Part-time Custodian, BRS and BREC
- 29. Steinel, Ashley - Summer Custodian, BRS
- 30. Stewart, Samantha - School Nurse, FES
- 31. Sutton, Russell - Custodian and Bus Driver, CVES
- 32. Ward, Charlene - EC Teacher, BREC
- 33. Watkins, Susan - Part-time Custodian, BRS and BREC
- 34. Watty, Andy - School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
- 35. Whitaker, Stefanie - Afterschool Assistant, CVES

36. Wyatt, Pauline - EC Bus Monitor, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Bailey, Doug - Bus Driver and School Nutrition Assistant, FES and SMHS
2. Buchanan, Amy - Bus Driver and Custodian, FES
3. Drake, Lindsay - Speech Language Pathologist, SMHS
4. Eckard, Stefanie - Teacher, SMHS
5. Marshall, Joan - School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
6. Reece, Elijah - Teacher, SCES
7. Reece, Gretchen - EC Teacher, CVES
8. Sheppard, Mark - Behavior Management Specialist, SMES
9. Sparks, William - Teacher, JCS
10. Tallent, Natasha - Teacher Assistant, SMES
11. Walker, Logan - Custodian, Central Office

Employee Retirements:

1. McKee, Jennifer - Teacher, BRS

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Buenting, Abby - Head Coach Varsity Women's Soccer, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
2. Gray, Cole - Head Coach MS Soccer, FES - New Non-Staff
3. Hansen, Debbie - Head Coach MS Volleyball - Returning Staff
4. Jamison, Jack - Assistant Coach MS Volleyball, FES - Returning Non-Staff
5. Johnson, Alexandra - Head Coach Women's Cross Country, SMHS - New Staff
6. Long, Michelle - Assistant Coach MS Volleyball, SCES - Returning Staff
7. McMahan, Luisa - Head Coach MS Volleyball, SCES - Returning Staff
8. Schiele, Brittany - Assistant Coach MS Volleyball, BREC - Returning Staff
9. Shull, Heather - Assistant Coach Varsity Cheer, SMHS - New Staff
10. Steinel, Ashley - Head Coach MS Volleyball, BREC - Returning Staff
11. Stephens, Chelsea - Assistant Coach MS Soccer, SCES - Returning Staff
12. Swartzwelder, Katie - Head Coach MS Soccer, SCES - Returning Staff
13. Trivette, Todd - Assistant Coach District MS Soccer, SMHS - New Non-Staff
14. Watkins, Rebekkah - Head Coach MS Soccer, BREC - New Staff

General Discussion - CEP

The board discussed the Community Eligibility Provisions for free breakfast and lunch and how it is being implemented in other districts in the area. The CEP has been put in place for the 2023-2024 school year in five JCPS schools: BREC, BRS, CVES, SMES and JCS. Adding the remaining four schools to the CEP would result in a budgetary shortfall. The board discussed asking the County Commissioners for additional funding to cover the shortfall but came to consensus that items on the capital projects list should have priority before requesting additional funding. Dr. Ayers said that she will investigate possible ways that the community can assist with the funding issue.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Vice Chairperson Wes Jamison adjourned the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary