

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

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

September 26, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office Boardroom, 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; Christopher Z. Campbell, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chairperson Wes Jamison called the business meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Upon a motion by Dr. Lynn Dillard and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

**SPECIAL RECOGNITION**

Dr. Ayers recognized Mrs. Brittany Boaz who was selected as the JCPS 2023 - 2024 EC Teacher of Excellence. One EC teacher will be selected as the NC EC Teacher of Excellence in November.

**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 August 22, 2023.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. Happy second month of school! We have had a fantastic month in JCPS as students and staff have settled into a structured routine. I am pleased with the instructional rigor I am seeing in classrooms and grateful for the focus of our staff. Mr. Holt will be presenting data during this meeting that will highlight strengths and areas to improve upon. Many improvement strategies are already in place and making a difference in academics.
2. My central office leadership team has spent much time in the schools over the last month. It is my goal to increase their presence and support administrators and teachers at school campuses. Likewise, I continue to visit every school every week and have the chance to visit classrooms and interact with staff and students. This has been my plan since I began in JCPS and I am proud to be able to keep this as a priority. Some of our recent visits to the schools have involved quarterly data review meetings and principal professional development plans. I, along with some of my team, have had intentional and sometimes difficult conversations about the changes that need to be made to improve the instructional and academic needs in our schools. These meetings and my individual principal meetings have proven to be productive and will directly impact student achievement.
3. A huge celebration is the award of the Dogwood Health Trust grant for the Career and Technical Education program. Angie Dills has worked diligently to grow the CTE program in JCPS, purchase new equipment and hire a staff member to work with middle grade students and the program. She wrote and submitted the grant in the spring. Dogwood graciously awarded \$411,000 for the goals outlined by Mrs. Dills. We are proud to offer programs to students that will prepare them for the workforce and beyond.
4. September is Attendance Awareness month. This is a time to celebrate good attendance and focus on the importance of showing up to school every day. More importantly, it's aimed to raise awareness about chronic absenteeism. Studies have shown that students who keep a consistent attendance rate are more likely to succeed academically, so it's important for parents and guardians to make sure their children attend school regularly. Our schools and staff have been sharing information, making parent calls and rewarding students for attendance achievements.
5. Finally, my sincere plea is that our community will support our fundraising efforts to install lights at the SMHS baseball and softball fields. This is an effort that will benefit our small community and our school system without diverting our focus on large capital projects like the Fairview cafeteria and a new middle school. Our student-athletes deserve what others in our conference have, the ability to play ball under the lights!
6. As always, thanks to each board member and our community for the love, appreciation and support of JCPS!

**B. Agenda Item:** State Accountability Data Release

**Presenter:** Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Accountability

Mr. Holt presented the NCDPI State Accountability Data for the 2022-2023 school year.

**C. Agenda Item:** School Mental Health Plan

**Presenter:** Megan Crews, Mental Health Director

Mrs. Crews presented the 2023-2024 School Mental Health Plan.

**D. Agenda Item:** Purchase A/V Equipment for Central Office Boardroom

**Presenter:** Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the bid for the purchase of Audio/Visual Equipment for the Central Office Boardroom.

E. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary

**Presenter:** Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of September 26, 2023.

### **OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Ms. Crystal Jones spoke to the board about Child Abuse and the support that AWAKE of Jackson County can provide to students and families in Jackson County.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Resolution

**Presenter:** Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Budget Resolution 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 2023-2024 Budget Resolution.*

B. **Agenda Item:** Board of Education Meeting Schedule date change for November 2023

**Presenter:** Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers requested the November Board of Education meeting date be changed from the 28th to the 14th, due to the state requirement for stakeholder input to the 2022-2023 Accountability report 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 November BOE meeting date change.*

C. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates

**Presenter:** Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the following Board Policy for First Reading:

1. Parental Involvement (1310/4002)
2. Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials (3210)
3. Comprehensive Health Education Program (3540)
4. Criminal Behavior (4335)
5. Surveys of Students (4720)
6. Student Health Services (6120)
7. Staff Responsibilities (7300)

**Action:** *No Action Taken.*

**D. Agenda Item:** Field Trips

**Presenter:** Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. Blue Ridge Early College, Grade 8 - Charleston, SC, 04-22-24 to 04-24-24, TT8685.
2. Blue Ridge Early College, Grade 12 - Historic Banning Mills, Whitesburg, GA, 04-30-24 to 05-03-24, TT8688.
3. Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Grade 3 - Young Harris College, Young Harris, GA, 12-06-23, TT8690.
4. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 3 - Young Harris College, GA, 10-26-2023, TT8759.
5. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 4 - Ripley's Aquarium, Gatlinburg, TN, 03-21-24 to 03-22-24, TT8680.
6. Fairview Elementary School, Grade 5 - Knoxville Zoo, Knoxville, TN, 10-06-2023, TT8704.
7. Smokey Mountain Elementary School, Grade 1 - Pigeon Forge, TN, 10-27-2023, TT8749.
8. Smokey Mountain Elementary School, Grade 6, 7, 8 - Dollywood, Pigeon Forge, TN, 10-19-23, TT8764.

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.*

**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 Mrs. Kim Moore, 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 August 22, 2023.

**PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA**

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

**Employee Recommendations:**

1. Ammons, Stephanie - Substitute Bus Driver, FES
2. Bonano, Joana - Instructional Support Assistant, FES
3. Beam, Michael - Afterschool Tutor, SMES
4. Beck, Paula - School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
5. Beck, Tyler - School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
6. Block, Melissa - Part-time Custodian, FES
7. Brown, Megan - Teacher, SMHS
8. Brown, Virgle Cody - Substitute Bus Driver, CVES
9. Bryson, Melanie - Substitute Bus Monitor, SMHS
10. Burchette, Marissa - Bus Monitor, SMES
11. Campbell, Jennifer - EC Teacher Assistant, FES
12. Coggins, Anita - Substitute Bus Driver, BRS and BREC
13. Conlin, Sharon - District MS Assistant Athletic Director, SMHS
14. Cooper, Michaela - School Nutrition Assistant Manager, SMHS
15. Davis, Trisha - EC Teacher Assistant, SMHS
16. Dills, Monica "Brooke" - Teacher, SCES
17. Dodson, Kaitlyn - Homebound Teacher, SMES
18. Doyle, Jessica - Instructional Support Assistant, SMES
19. Frese, Jamie - Bus Monitor, SMES
20. Gribble, Corina - District MS Assistant Athletic Director, SMHS
21. Haigler, Melissa - Homebound Teacher, SMHS
22. Howell, Wendy - Part-time Custodian, FES
23. Hoyle, Elizabeth - Speech Language Pathologist, SMHS
24. Hummer, Suzanne - Bus Monitor, SMES
25. Hyatt, Danyiele - Teacher, SMHS
26. Jamison, Charity - Afterschool Tutor, SMES
27. Jamison, Samantha - Speech Language Pathologist, FES
28. Khan, Dylan - Afterschool Assistant, CVES
29. Maney, Emma Miller - Homebound Teacher, SMHS and FES
30. Marcus, Cecilia - Substitute Bus Monitor, SMHS
31. McCall, Cheryl "Aprille" - Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
32. McCue, Gretchen - Bus Monitor, SCES
33. McGrew, Tucker - Substitute Bus Driver, SMES
34. McGrew, Tucker - Bus Monitor, SMES
35. McGuinn, Alexis - Afterschool Assistant, CVES
36. Miller, Ashley - Part-time Custodian, FES
37. Miller, Scott - Athletic Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, SMES
38. Montesano, Stefani - Afterschool Assistant, FES
39. Moody-Bumgarner, Mary - Athletic Director, SMES
40. Morris, Anthony - Technology Technician I, Central Office
41. Morris, Iris - Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, SMHS
42. Mull, Jim - Athletic Bus Driver, BREC
43. Naegler, Charae - Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
44. Neely, MacKenzie - Afterschool Assistant, FES
45. Nordmann, Clare - Afterschool Assistant, CVES
46. Nordmann, Clare - Bus Monitor, CVES
47. Penny-Nicholson, Olivia - Part-time Custodian, FES
48. Pero, Joseph - Teacher, JCS

49. Powell, Nathaniel "Caleb" - HVAC Mechanic, Central Office
50. Pruett, Tonya - Afterschool Tutor, SMES
51. Sisk, Emily - Afterschool Assistant, FES
52. Smith, Matthew - Teacher Assistant, SMES
53. Smith, Sheila - Afterschool Tutor, SMES
54. Solomon, Kenneth - Bus Driver, FES
55. Steinel, Ashley - Assistant Athletic Director, BREC
56. Sutton, Brandi - Bus Monitor, SMES
57. Sutton, Brandi - Afterschool Tutor, SMES
58. Taylor, Tiffany - Bus Monitor, SMES
59. Thompson, Robert "Mark" - Athletic Director, CVES
60. Watson, Tracy - Bus Monitor, SMES
61. Weinzierl, Melody - School Nutrition Assistant, CVES
62. Winship, Kimberly - School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
63. Winship, Kimberly - EC bus Monitor, CVES

**Employee Resignations:**

1. Cherbony, Herman Adam - Bus Driver, SMHS
2. Corallo, Adam - Maintenance, Central Office
3. Dezarn, Megan - Teacher and Coach, SMHS
4. Jenkins, Megan - Teacher, SMES
5. Johnson, Alexandra - Teacher, SMHS
6. Mathis, Anthony Austin - EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
7. Mathis, Stephanie - Pre-K Teacher, SMES
8. McGuinn, Alexis - Afterschool Assistant, CVES

**Employee Separations:**

1. Doyle, Jessica - Instructional Support Assistant, SMES
2. Robertson, Raymond - Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS

**Staff, Non-Staff, and Returning Coach Recommendations:**

1. Albury, Tiffany - Assistant Coach Volleyball, SMES - New Staff
2. Allred, Alexis - Assistant Coach Soccer, FES - New Staff
3. Bonen-Clark, Michael - Assistant Coach Soccer, CVES - Returning Staff
4. Conley, Sydney - Head Coach Volleyball, CVES - Returning Staff
5. Davis, Thomas - Assistant Coach Varsity Women's Golf, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
6. Gribble, Corina - Assistant Coach Varsity Women's Soccer, SMHS - Returning Staff
7. Hawken, Danielle - Head Coach Volleyball, SMES - Returning Staff
8. Kostak, Abigail - Head Coach Soccer, CVES - Returning Staff
9. Macke, Stacy - Head Coach Varsity Women's Golf, SMHS - New Staff
10. Melton, Dustin - Assistant Coach Volleyball, CVES - Returning Non-Staff
11. Messer, Willow - Head Coach JV Women's Soccer, SMHS - New Non-Staff
12. Miller, Scott - Head Coach Soccer, SMES - Returning Staff
13. Sutton, Alyssia "Niki" - Assistant Coach Soccer, SMES - New Staff

**Special Requests: Leave of Absence:**

1. Hammer, Kelly - EC Teacher, CVES

**General Discussion - Capital Projects Priority List**

The board discussed the status of the Capital Projects Priority List. Dr. Ayers informed the board that the county funded Facility Study is nearing completion. This study will determine the adequacy of classroom and athletic spaces at each school based on the Department of Public Instruction parameters for school facilities. The Fairview cafeteria and classrooms remain the number one priority and will be taken into consideration when determining the conversion of an existing school into a Middle School or the building of a stand-alone complex. The board voiced their concern for the students, parents and staff at Fairview if it is recommended for conversion to a middle school.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is October 24, 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 8:43 p.m.

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Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

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Dr. Dana Ayers, Secretary