

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

251 Big Orange Way, Sylva

June 28, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Fairview Elementary School, 251 Big Orange Way, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
Dr. Lynn Dillard

The following member was present via telephone and/or online platform:

Abigail Clayton

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper called the business meeting to order.

Mrs. Cooper led the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers presented a Certificate of Recognition to Kieran Foxx in honor of her nomination for the NCSPA Practitioner of the Year Award.

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 23, 2023.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. We have closed out the 2022-2023 school year successfully and are diligently preparing for the upcoming school year. The past year has provided us with many opportunities to celebrate students and staff. I am incredibly proud of our students and their decisions to be employed in the workforce, enrolled to further their education or enlisted in the military. JCPS has confidently prepared our students to travel the next leg of their journey.
2. Speaking of our graduates, let me share a little data with you. JCPS graduated nearly 300 students this year. Two graduates have enrolled in the military and the collective group received approximately two million in student-reported scholarship awards. This is a fantastic testimony to the hard work, perseverance and focus our students had and the commitment our educators have for student success!
3. I also want to address one of my five superintendent goals, that of creating more options for high school students such as internships, expanded CTE and other programs. Mrs. Dills is implementing several new ideas across the district along with ways to expand at the middle school level. We are excited to add a middle school Career Development Coordinator role to assist our middle grades students in becoming familiar with options as they prepare for high school. We have also sought out additional internship opportunities and recently applied to house an Army JROTC program at Smoky Mountain High. I am thrilled at this possibility and believe our community will eagerly support a JROTC program in Jackson County. I am awaiting a response from our application.
4. These goals continue to be my focus as I also work on related projects. I am investigating several ideas to address athletic needs and am currently working on those for the near future. I believe that we must focus on an array of improvements to keep excelling and growing our students, staff and school system.
5. More than anything, I want to remind our community of the focus on growing strong, confident, educated and well-rounded young adults who are prepared to leave school and make an impact on our world. Our students leave their public preschool-12 system and are prepared to tackle the world whether they are enrolled (in college), enlisted (in the military) or employed.
6. Lastly, the Second Annual Back to School Bash is set for Saturday, August 5th at the Cullowhee Recreation Center from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. School supplies, food, haircuts, immunizations and a variety of other services will be provided for FREE. We are still accepting donations for this event and you can find that information on our www.jcpsnc.org website.

B. Agenda Item: Curriculum Adoption
Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented information about the proposed Mental Health curriculum for the 2023-2024 school year.

C. Agenda Item: EC Programming and Recruitment

Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke informed the board that the Hello Hero Contract for EC and Psychological services has delivered excellent support by providing one EC Teacher, one additional Psychologist and two full-time interns during their first year of contracted services with JCPS.

D. Agenda Item: Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of June 28, 2023.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mrs. Cora Fields read two written public comments that were received via email as follows:

1. Laura Davis-Apel on Tuesday, June 13, 2023, at 9:52 a.m. – I find myself compelled to write this email; despite the fact I have never contacted the JCPS board previously. I do not have a child in JCPS, nor are any of my relatives involved in the situation involving the senior prank. However, to allow this Superintendent to act as "judge, jury and executioner" to these students is wrong. As I understand it, the District Attorney has no interest in pursuing criminal charges on these students, so why does Dr. Ayers continue to push this issue? By all accounts there was no damage done to the school, so why does Dr. Ayers continue to push this? It surely appears to be a power trip on her part, and her belief that she has "a right" to teach these children a lesson on her terms. I think she has shown unequivocally that her desire is not to enrich the lives of the students of JCPS, but to yield her perceived power. I use the term "perceived power", because the school board has the full authority and obviously a lot of community support to remove her as Superintendent and end this nonsense. It's not a good look for our schools or community. I would encourage the school board to think about if this is what they want in a leader for JCPS and recognize that you were elected to protect the best interest of the JCPS students. If you do not act to remove Dr Ayers, I hope you are held accountable at the polls, and many members of this community will campaign tirelessly against you. Remember, the **voters** of Jackson County are watching, even the ones without a "dog in the fight".
2. Anna Fariello on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 3:27 p.m. - As a mother, grandmother, and retired professor, I wish to express my dismay at the charges leveled against the Smoky Mountain High School students. Yes, what they did was wrong, but the punishment should fit the crime. To saddle these students with a criminal record is just that—criminal. I am ashamed that our superintendent has dug in her heels and is defending her position after hearing the overwhelming response from the community.

ACTION AGENDA

A. Agenda Item: Budget Amendments

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers for the Capital Outlay Fund, State Public School Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments and transfers to the Capital Outlay Fund, State Public School Fund, School Nutrition Fund, Local Current Expense Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.*

B. Agenda Item: Interim Budget Resolution for FY 2023-2024

Presenter: Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the board with the Interim Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Interim Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2022-2023.*

C. Agenda Item: Purchase of Staff Laptop Computers

Presenter: Mr. Jeremiah Jackson, Chief Technology Officer

Mr. Jackson presented the bids for the purchase of Staff Laptop Computers and asked for board approval to purchase from Y&S Technologies

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of staff laptop computers from Y&S Technologies.*

D. Agenda Item: Proposed Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2023-2024

Presenter: Dr. Dana Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the proposed Board of Education meeting schedule for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Board of Education meeting schedule for 2023-2024.*

E. Agenda Item: Authority for Superintendent to Approve Fuel Purchases

Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan requested the board to authorize the Superintendent to approve fuel purchases in excess of Board Policy 6430 limits due to the uncertainty of rising fuel costs.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to grant the Superintendent authority to approve fuel purchases in excess of the amount required by Board Policy 6430 limits.*

F. Agenda Item: NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement renewal

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted to approve the NC Vocational Rehabilitation Services Third Party Agreement.*

G. **Agenda Item:** Memorandum of Understanding between Communities in Schools and JCPS – Jackson Community School for 2023-2024

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the MOU between Communities in Schools and JCPS – Jackson Community School for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU between Communities in Schools and JCPS – Jackson Community School for 2023-2024.*

H. **Agenda Item:** MOU between WCU College of Education and Allied Professions and JCPS 2023–2028.

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the MOU between WCU College of Education and Allied Professions and JCPS 2023–2028 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU between WCU College of Education and Allied Professions and JCPS 2023–2028.*

I. **Agenda Item:** MOU between Southwest Child Development Center and JCPS 2023-2024

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Elementary Education

Mrs. Dills presented the MOU between Southwest Child Development Center and JCPS 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU between Southwest Child Development Center and JCPS 2023-2024.*

J. **Agenda Item:** Purchase and Install Front Doors for Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the bid for the purchase and installation of front doors for Cullowhee Valley Elementary School and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase and installation of new doors for CVES.*

- K. **Agenda Item:** ClarkNexsen JCPS System-wide Facilities Master Plan
Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the ClarkNexsen Architectural Proposal for the JCPS System-wide Facilities Master Plan and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton the board voted unanimously to approve the ClarkNexsen Architectural Proposal for the JCPS System-wide Facilities Master Plan.*

- L. **Agenda Item:** 2023-2024 Meal Prices and Community Eligibility Options
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented the board with the 2023-2024 Meal Price proposal and information about the Community Eligibility plan options and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 Meal Prices and Option 1 of the Community Eligibility Plan that includes BREC, BRS, CVES, SMES and JCS.*

- M. **Agenda Item:** 2023-2024 School Nutrition Bid Approval
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented the board with the 2023-2024 School Nutrition Bid list and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 School Nutrition Bids.*

CLOSED SESSION

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

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Dr. Lynn Dillard, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of May 23, 2023.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

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

Employee Recommendations:

1. Adams, Savita – Extended Employment Pre-K DHH Teacher, District
2. Ainsley, Wendy – Teacher, FES
3. Austin, Kayla – Extended Employment Occupational Therapist, CVES
4. Bledsoe, Pam – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
5. Boud, Denise - Instructional Support Assistant, FES
6. Boud, Denise – Summer Custodian, FES
7. Brindley, Richard – Extended Employment Head Coach Varsity Football and PE Teacher, SMHS
8. Brown, Laura – School Social Worker, CVES
9. Buchanan, Amanda – PE Teacher Assistant, SCES
10. Debord, April – Extended Employment EdTech Coach, CO
11. Drake, Lindsay – Homebound Teacher, CVES
12. Draper, Samantha – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
13. Emmons, Crystal – Teacher, SCES
14. Foxx, Kieran – Extended Employment School Psychologist, District
15. Frady, Dillon – Part-time Temporary Custodian, CVES
16. Frese, Jamie – Assistant Principal, SMES
17. Gaspard Powers, Alana – EC Teacher, JCS
18. Giles, Petra – Extended Employment Pre-K Coordinator, District
19. Greene, Heather – Summer Custodian, BREC
20. Gribble, Corina – MS CTE Career Development Coordinator, District
21. Hall, Madelyn – Teacher, CVES
22. Houtzer, Deborah – Summer Custodian, BRS
23. Howell, Wendy - Summer Custodian, FES
24. Hughes, Daphne – Homebound Teacher, SMHS
25. Jeleniewski, Paige – Extended Employment School Counselor, SMHS
26. Jenkins, Joy – Teacher, SMES
27. Jones, Ronald – Field Trip Bus Driver, SCES
28. Kennedy, Paula – Extended Employment School Counselor, BREC
29. Knight, Mandi – Custodian, Bus Driver, and Field Trip Bus Driver, SMHS
30. Langford, Matthew – Band Director, SMHS
31. Lipan, Nita – Academic Intervention Specialist, SMHS
32. Lovedahl, Kassidy – Extended Employment Speech Language Pathologist, CVES
33. Luker, Allison – Extended Employment Student Data Manager, CVES
34. Macke, Stacy - Extended Employment School Counselor, SMHS
35. Massingale, Shealyn – Pre-K Lead Teacher Assistant, CVES
36. Mayse, Tim – Extended Employment Athletic Director, BREC
37. McAllister, Carla – Extended Employment EdTech Coach, CO
38. McCardle, Judy - Extended Employment School Psychologist, District
39. McRight, Nicole - Extended Employment Pre-K Speech Language Pathologist, District

40. Mills, Jordan – Substitute Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, SMHS
41. Naegler, Charae – Homebound Teacher, CVES
42. Nordmann, Clare – Extended Employment Certified Occupational Therapist Assistant, CVES
43. Norman, Natalie - Extended Employment Speech Language Therapist, District
44. Owen, Kristina – Lead Teacher Assistant, FES
45. Parham, Carleen – Extended Employment Student Data Manager, FES
46. Phillips, Adam - Extended Employment HS Athletic Director, SMHS
47. Pippio, Brian – Custodian and Bus Driver, CVES
48. Price, Karen – Bookkeeper and Student Data Manager, JCS
49. Reece, Gretchen – Homebound Teacher, CVES
50. Rhoads, Kelli – Extended Employment Instructional Coach, District
51. Robertson, Rebecca – Teacher, SMES
52. Rogers, Cassie – Pre-School Coordinator, CO
53. Santoyo Sandoval, Jesus – Substitute Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, SMES
54. Sink, Barbra – Homebound Teacher, SMHS
55. Smith, Kelsey – Instructional Support Assistant, FES
56. Smithdeal, Erica – Summer Custodian, BREC
57. Stiffler, Kerstin – Extended Employment School Counselor, SMHS
58. Sutton, Brandi – Teacher, SMES
59. Teem, Allison – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, FES
60. Tidwell, Wendy – Teacher, SMES
61. Watkins, Rebekkah – Summer Custodian, BRS
62. Watkins, Susan - Summer Custodian, BRS

Employee Recommendations – Summer Employment:

1. Alcantar, Elena – Summer Feeding, BRS
2. Austin, Kayla – Summer Academic Program Occupational Therapist, CVES
3. Bates, April – Summer Feeding, CVES
4. Beam, Michael – Summer Paint Crew Lead, District
5. Broom, Anita – Summer Academic Program Bus Driver, CVES
6. Brown, Matthew – Summer Bus Cleaning, Bus Garage
7. Brown, Megan – Summer Bus Cleaning, Bus Garage
8. Chastain, Michelle – Summer Academic Program Bus Driver, CVES
9. Cope, Brandon – Summer Feeding Program School Nutrition Manager, CVES
10. Dodson, Kaitlyn – Summer Paint Crew, District
11. Evans, Kayla – Summer Feeding, CVES
12. Haney, Teresa – Summer Paint Crew, District
13. Hill, Janice – Summer Academic Program School Nurse, CVES
14. Ledford, Stephanie – Summer Feeding, CVES
15. McFadden, Kathy - Summer Feeding, CVES or BRS
16. Mills, Jordan – Summer Paint Crew, District
17. Rigdon, Danny – Summer Academic Program Bus Driver, CVES
18. Sexton, Jennifer – Summer Paint Crew, District
19. Sizemore, Brenda – Summer Paint Crew, District
20. Steinel, Ashley – Summer Academic Program Bus Driver, BRS
21. Steinel, Ashley – Summer Academic Program Custodian, BRS
22. Sutton, Alyssa – Summer Academic Program Teacher Assistant, CVES

23. Taylor, Mike – Summer Academic Program Bus Driver, CVES
24. Turnmire, Cheryl – Summer Academic Program Custodian, CVES
25. Watkins, Rebekkah – Summer Academic Program Teacher, BRS

Employee Resignations:

1. Capote-Mata, Alondra – Afterschool Assistant, FES
2. Capps, Kathryn – Custodian, BRS
3. Carnes, Scotti- Head Coach Varsity Cheer, SMHS
4. Cauley, Cleis – Teacher, FES and SMES
5. Cherry, Gina – Teacher, SMES
6. Cleaveland Jr., James – Teacher and Head Coach Varsity Basketball, SMHS
7. Colton, Rachel – Teacher, SCES
8. Eden, Zachary – Assistant Principal, BRS and BREC
9. Farmer, Tina – EC Teacher, BREC
10. Hernandez Gatay, Keyshla – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
11. Green, Melinda Brynn – Teacher, SMES
12. Hudson, Laura – Teacher, SMES
13. Lathers, Claire – Teacher Assistant, SCES
14. Marr, Michelle – Interim Principal, SMES
15. McKee, Kelly – Admin Finance Assistant, CO
16. Myers, Melody – Afterschool Assistant, FES
17. Parson, Stephen – PE Teacher Assistant, SCES
18. Phillips, Adam – Athletic Director and Teacher, SMHS
19. Phillips, Angela – Teacher, SMHS
20. Reagan, Christy – Lead Nurse/School Nurse, SMHS
21. Santoyo Sandoval, Jesus – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMES
22. Sudia, Lee – Teacher, BREC

Employee Retirements:

1. Anders, Jo Ann – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
2. McMahan, Sammy – Custodian and Bus Driver, CVES

Special Requests – Leave of Absence:

1. Ensley, Cynthia – Teacher, SMHS
2. Mulligan, Lara Rebekah – EC Teacher, FES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Arnst, April - Assistant Coach MS Women’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
2. Arnst, April – Assistant Coach Varsity Volleyball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
3. Brown, Megan – Head Coach District MS Volleyball, SMHS – Returning Staff
4. Collins Jr., Joseph – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
5. Crus-Ramos, Jose – Assistant Coach JV Men’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff
6. Dean, Eliza – Head Coach Varsity Women’s Tennis, SMHS – New Non-Staff
7. Elkins, Brittany – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
8. Henson, Brandon – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
9. Jones, Jared – Head Coach District MS Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff

10. Larch, Catherine – Head Coach District MS Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Staff
11. Lathers, Claire – Assistant Coach District MS Cheer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
12. Madden, James – Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
13. Mayse, Timothy – Athletic Director, BREC – Returning Staff
14. Mayse, Timothy – Head Coach Varsity Girl’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Staff
15. Metcalf, Jonathan – Assistant Coach District MS Football, SMHS – New Non-Staff
16. Mills, Jordan – Head Coach District MS Cheer, SMHS – New Staff
17. Mireles, Cristian – Head Coach District MS Men’s Soccer, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
18. Pressler, Nickalus – Head Coach Varsity Men’s Soccer, BREC – Returning Staff
19. Pressley, Jennifer – Assistant Coach District MS Volleyball, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
20. Scifers, Jonathan – Assistant Coach District MS Cross Country, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
21. Steinel, Ashley – Assistant Coach Varsity Girl’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Staff
22. Steinel, Ashley – Assistant MS and HS Athletic Director, BREC – Returning Staff
23. Steinel, Ashley – Head Coach Varsity Volleyball, BREC – Returning Staff
24. Stewart, Anna – Head Coach MS Girl’s Basketball, BREC – Returning Non-Staff
25. Stockton, Bailey – Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS – New Non-Staff
26. Stockton, Jordan – Assistant Coach JV Football and Assistant Coach Varsity Men’s Basketball, SMHS – New Non-Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Board of Education Administrative Office.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary