

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

404 College Drive, Sylva

July 26, 2023

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at Jackson County Early College, 404 College Drive, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

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

The following board members were 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; 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. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

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 June 28, 2023.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. July has slipped by too quickly with much time spent planning and preparing for the opening of school on Wednesday, August 16th. Though the summer has been short, we will all reap the benefits next summer when the final day of school is prior to the Memorial Day holiday.
2. This week is our summer District Leadership Retreat where all administrators and directors meet for training, professional learning and a little fellowship. I am pleased with the direction our district is heading with continuous improvement and expanding various programs. As I have shared before, we will open our second preschool classroom at SMES with a ribbon-cutting on the first day of school at 10:00 with students, families, staff and Dogwood Health Trust, the grantor. JCPS now has eight preschool classrooms serving our “littles” and their families across Jackson County.
3. Also, of importance is the JROTC application I submitted last month. It has been received by the Army office and placed on the list. It is my hope that by next year, we will have the program running to serve students at SMHS. This is exciting news as it will create another path for high school students. Our state superintendent has a goal of ensuring that every graduate is enrolled, enlisted or employed. My goal mimics this for our JCPS students.
4. Athletic teams are in full swing as they focus on first games while bands are conducting band camps and various other practices are taking place. In fact, the first SMHS soccer match is on the first day of school. I cannot wait to see our student-athletes compete and our musicians perform.
5. Open house events are occurring in the coming weeks. Please visit our website at jcpsnc.org or social media pages to find a complete list of dates and times for Open House/Meet the Teacher events that are scheduled.
6. Lastly, the 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 have more than 60 groups and schools participating in this event. I am overwhelmed by the support of our community in making sure we have a great event that provides items and services to students and their families. As of now, the weather looks to be a typical mountain day with the chance of scattered thunderstorms in the forecast. We were blessed with fantastic weather, though hot, last year so I hope for the same next Saturday.
7. Thank you to the Jackson County community for supporting public schools. We definitely feel the love!

- B. **Agenda Item:** School Nutrition Program and School Health Advisory Council Update
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Mrs. Cabe presented an update on the School Nutrition Program and School Health Advisory Council.

- C. **Agenda Item:** Pediculosis Procedures and Protocols
Presenter: Mrs. Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented information and provided a copy of the procedures and protocols that school nursing staff will follow when dealing with pediculosis (lice).

- D. **Agenda Item:** Employee Benefits - Request for Proposals

Presenter: Mrs. Teri Walawender, Human Resources Director

Mrs. Walawender informed the board about a Request for Proposals for Employee Benefits that are additional benefits available to each employee in addition to the state health care benefits. RFP's will be reviewed and a decision will be made by October.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** MOU with Communities in Schools for SMES 2023-2024

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated MOU with Communities in Schools for implementation at Smokey Mountain Elementary school this year and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU with Communities in Schools at SMES for 2023-2024.

B. **Agenda Item:** MOA with Jackson County for School Resource Officers 2023-2024

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated MOA with Jackson County Sheriff's Office for School Resource Officers for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOA with Jackson County for School Resource Officers for 2023-2024.

C. **Agenda Item:** MOU with NC Center for Resilience and Learning 2023-2026

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the MOU with UNC Center for Resilience and Learning for 2023-2026 and asked for board approval.

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with UNC Center for Resilience and Learning for 2023-2026.

D. **Agenda Item:** Replace Rooftop AC Unit at Jackson Community School

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the bid for the replacement of the rooftop HVAC unit at Jackson Community School and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the replacement of the rooftop HVAC unit at Jackson Community School.*

E. Agenda Item: Character Strong Curriculum Adoption

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the Character Strong Curriculum that is aligned with the state required mental health policy and asked for board approval to adopt this curriculum.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Character Strong Curriculum adoption.*

F. Agenda Item: MOU with UNC for Sources of Strength implementation at JCS

Presenter: Meagan Crews, Mental Health Director

Mrs. Crews presented the Memorandum of Understanding with UNC for Sources of Strength implementation at Jackson Community School and asked for board approval. Mrs. Crews stated that JCPS was one of ten school systems to be selected for this program from across the state.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU with UNC for Sources of Strength implementation at Jackson Community School.*

G. Agenda Item: MOU between SCC and BREC and JCEC for 2023-2024

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the updated MOU between Southwestern Community College and Blue Ridge Early College and Jackson County Early College for the 2023-2024 school year and asked for board approval. Mrs. Dills informed the board that the state required this single MOU that will take the place of the two separate MOU documents that were presented previously. She said that it also covers the Cooperative Innovative High Schools and Career and College Promise programming at Smoky Mountain High School.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the MOU between SCC and BREC and JCEC for 2023-2024.*

H. Agenda Item: Code of Conduct - All Grades

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the updated Code of Conduct for All Grades and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the updated Code of Conduct for All Grades.*

I. Agenda Item: Student Handbook for 2023-2024

Presenter: Mrs. Angie Dills, Chief Academic Officer

Mrs. Dills presented the updated Student Handbook for 2023-2024 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2023-2024 Student Handbook.*

- J. **Agenda Item:** Alternative School Modified Accountability Model Option B
Presenter: Mr. Adam Holt, Director of Testing and Accountability

Mr. Holt presented the Alternative School Modified Accountability Model Option B and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the Alternative School Modified Accountability Model Option B.*

- K. **Agenda Item:** Updated 2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the updated 2023-2024 Board of Education Meeting Schedule and asked for board approval. The meeting date during the month of March was changed due to the Spring Break schedule.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the updated BOE monthly meeting schedule.*

- L. **Agenda Item:** Facility Use Fees
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented information about facility use fees for JCPS facilities. She said that we have researched what local facilities are charging and will bring an updated fee schedule to the August board meeting for discussion and/or approval.

Action: *NO ACTION TAKEN. Tabled for additional discussion.*

- M. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates
Presenter: Mr. Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Updates:

1. Drug Testing of Students (4326)

Ms. Buchanan presented the update to the above-listed policy and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the above-listed policy update.*

- N. **Agenda Item:** Field Trips
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

1. FES, Grade 6 - Black Mountain YMCA, Black Mountain, NC, 09-27-2023 to 09-29-2023, TT8597.

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

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to approve the above-listed field trip.*

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison 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 Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Kim Moore, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

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

Employee Recommendations:

1. Albury, Tiffany - Pre-K Teacher Assistant, SMES
2. Alich, Daniel - Teacher, BREC
3. Alvarez, Geisha - Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
4. Ashe, Jimmy - Athletic Bus Driver, SMHS
5. Bailey, Rebecca - School Social Worker, JCS
6. Brindley, Ricky - Athletic Director, SMHS
7. Chastain, Crystal - Finance Administrative Specialist, Central Office
8. Cody, Anna - Lead Pre-K Teacher Assistant, BRS
9. Crawford, Nancy - Teacher, FES
10. deRivera, Linda - School Nutrition Assistant, FES
11. Dimery, Lauren - Behavior Support Assistant, Central Office
12. Douglas, Elizabeth - Teacher Assistant, SCES
13. Flora, Kayla - Teacher, CVES
14. Forsythe, Cristina - Teacher, SMHS
15. Galloway, Carlene - Substitute Bus Driver and Field Trip Bus Driver, SMHS
16. Holden, Josie - Teacher, SCES
17. Haerton, Caleigh - Part-time Temporary Custodian, FES
18. Inestroza, Leann - Bus Driver, JCEC
19. Kinsland, Joseph - Maintenance Supervisor, Central Office
20. Larch, Catherine - Part-time Temporary Custodian, FES
21. Logan, Jeffrey - Substitute Bus Driver, JCEC
22. Long, Aaron - Teacher, SMES
23. Long, Julie - Afterschool Assistant, FES
24. Mathis, Stephanie - Pre-K Teacher, SMES\

25. McCall, Allison - Pre-K Teacher Assistant, BRS
26. McCall, Aprille - EC Teacher, SMHS
27. McMahan, Luisa - Teacher, SCES
28. Morgan, Cynthia - Teacher, BRS
29. Murajda, Amanda - Pre-K Teacher Assistant, FES
30. Plemmons, Shauna - Intervention Specialist, SMES
31. Raming, Caryn - Teacher Assistant, CVES
32. Repreza, Evelyn - Teacher, FES
33. Robertson, Raymond - Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS
34. Robinson, Laura "Kim" - Lead EC Teacher Assistant, BRS
35. Sheppard, Mark - Behavior Management Specialist, SMES
36. Stewart, Greg - Chief Technology Officer, Central Office
37. Sutton, Sarah - Pre-K Teacher Assistant, SMES
38. Tallent, Kirby - Part-time Receptionist, SCES
39. Touzel, Rebecca - Teacher, SMES
40. Valentine, Rebekah - School Nutrition Manager, BRS
41. Valentine, Rebekah - Summer Feeding School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
42. Woodring, Leah - School CNA, SMES

Employee Resignations:

1. Bollinger, Anthony - Technology Technician I, Central Office
2. Bowers, Amanda - School Nurse, FES
3. Cameron, Taryn - Teacher Assistant, CVES
4. Cherry-Beck, Kim - Instructional Support Assistant, CVES
5. Jackson, Jeremiah - Chief Technology Officer, Central Office
6. Jorgenson, Leah - Teacher, CVES
7. Naef, Brittney - EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
8. Sutton, Kelli - Teacher, JCS

Employee Retirements:

1. Watson, Jason - Director of Operations and Logistics, Central Office

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Boone, Jerrod - Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Staff
2. Brindley, Richard - Head Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Staff
3. Buenting, Abby - Head Coach JV Men's Soccer, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
4. Burch, Madison - Head Coach Varsity Cheer, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
5. Capps, Zeb - Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Staff
6. Chambers, Angela - Assistant Coach Varsity Volleyball, SMHS - Returning Staff
7. Conlin, Brylen - Assistant Coach District MS Football, SMHS - New Non-Staff
8. Danner, Colton - Assistant Coach JV Football, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
9. Danner, Kelli - Head Coach JV Cheer, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
10. Dengler, Ty - Head Coach JV Football, SMHS - Returning Staff
11. Dezarn, Megan - Head Coach Women's Golf, SMHS - Returning Staff
12. Hill, Melissa - Head Coach Varsity Volleyball, SMHS - Returning Staff
13. Melton, Daniel - Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
14. Nelson, Gabby - Head Coach JV Volleyball, SMHS - Returning Staff
15. Nicholson, Amanda - Assistant Coach District MS Cheer, SMHS - New Non-Staff

16. Patten, Daquan - Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
17. Phillips, Adam - Head Coach Men's Cross Country, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
18. Rhoads, Emory - Head Coach Varsity Men's Soccer, SMHS - Returning Staff
19. Shuler, Tiffany - Assistant Coach JV Volleyball, SMHS - Returning Staff
20. Stephens, Dustin - Assistant Coach District MS Football, SMHS - New Non-Staff
21. Stockton, Bailey - Assistant Coach JV Men's Basketball, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff
22. Winchester, Travis - Assistant Coach Varsity Football, SMHS - Returning Non-Staff

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is August 22, 2023, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 8:10 p.m.

Elizabeth K. Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary