

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

WORK SESSION

July 10, 2023

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, July 10, at 1:00 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Vennie Beggarly, Gladys Garland, Tracy Stanley, Joel Lillard, and Trudy Blackwell. Nicole Smith participated remotely. Others present include Interim Superintendent Dr. Douglas Barker. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes. (*Note: Others may have been present but did not sign the roster or names were not legible*).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mel Battle.

CLOSED SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board (NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(6); and for the purpose of discussing information that is privileged, confidential or not a public record (NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1) and to confer with legal counsel. Gladys Garland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

AGENDA TOPICS

A listing was shared of topics/questions from the board. Dr. Barker has addressed some of these previously. Those that had not been discussed were on the agenda for review.

- Need for Pre-K Principals - updates on Pre-K rules
Concerns were shared at South Elementary and discipline in classroom and Principal not understanding. It was shared that the discipline was not handled. Other concerns included the income for Pre-K and meal requirements.

Dr. Barker will look into the guidelines and communicate this to the Pre-K staff and students. He will bring information back to the board.

- Athletic Eligibility
The responsibility is on the Athletic Director. Concerns were shared with home school students participating in which this should not have occurred. Dr. Barker shared it is the athletic director's responsibility; however, the principal should be checking and it still falls on the principal.

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- Respect / students no longer have respect for staff members
Concerns were shared with the discipline and this not being handled. It was shared that the principals must earn respect. Dr. Barker will review this at the principals meeting and they will be aware that this year things will be different. Other concerns included how the substitutes are being treated by students.

- Before and After School Care
At the end of school, North was the only school with an outstanding balance. A letter was sent out. Dr. Barker shared this should be a self-sufficient program and upon inquiring it does not appear than any one person is over this program. Concerns were mentioned regarding North and due to the income of the program the teachers were told they could not use the large tv and students were having to watch a very small tv. It was shared that funding was not available to pay the Directv bill. There were 21 students watching a very small tv screen. Concerns included if the students leave the system and an unpaid balance is left it is a problem.

Dr. Barker shared that once school is started he will look into this more and get the numbers for each site and access the program.

- Field Trip for all grade Levels
Discussion was had on field trips for specific grades and are we providing opportunities for our students.
- Crisis Intervention / Training
Nelson Showalter is working on this and has a team at every school which will implement.
- Stoney Creek / Bus Routes
Discussion was had on bus routes and restructuring for Stoney Creek and if this was feasible. Dr. Barker shared that it doesn't benefit anyone to move district lines around. Years ago, it was an option to close Stoney Creek and it has become a very small school over the years. The biggest concern we have currently is finding bus drivers. We may need to look at pairing jobs in the future as well as entice middle and high school employees who have their bus license to drive a bus.
- Procedures for new personnel
Mel Battle shared that currently staff and board members do not know who new employees are referencing the new transportation director, maintenance, etc. New employees should be introduced at board meetings.
- Convocation
Dr. Barker shared concerns with the seating at the civic center and the timing. Mel Battle shared he would like to see some form of convocation put back in place. All members felt it would be good to start the new school year off on a positive note and try and bring the trust

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back and get the protocols back in place when issues arise. The trust needs to be rebuilt as well as building relationships.

In regards to the civic center the rentals will not handle the amounts needed to update the lighting, seats, and safety features if we do it the correct way.

- **Administrative Offices from Whitley to Central Office**
It was questioned if there is enough room at central office to move the Whitley staff. Dr. Barker shared there is definitely enough room; however, it doesn't make sense to move maintenance or transportation as they need to work closely with their staff and you would not gain anything by moving those individuals. Child Nutrition can definitely be looked at.
- **School Resource Officers (SRO)**
Discussion took place on the placement of offices for the SRO's and shared that if a lockdown occurred at some of the schools, the officer would not be able to get to the front office depending on where they were at the time. They felt now would be a good time to make changes before school starts and with the new staff coming into the schools.
- **ESSER Funds**
It was shared that the school receive a little over \$6 Million in ESSER funds and there is approximately \$4 Million left but it had to be earmarked/categorized on how it would be used. Dr. Barker shared, in his opinion, more of it should have been spent on the students noting a lot went to employees. He shared school systems will most likely not receive this type of funding again. Once the final numbers come in we should be able to provide exact amounts in the next two to three weeks.

Dr. Barker questioned if there was any feedback from the community regarding the buyout. Discussion was had and Dr. Barker shared an option in which the funding could have been used and will look into this to see if it is still an option in which you could have used indirect costs from the ESSER funds and not have to use fund balance. It was questioned why Mr. Teetor could not have suggested options and give the board the best option to use. Dr. Barker will check with finance to see if this can be done. It was questioned who authorized the check to payout Dr. Carter as the board was under the understanding a final number would be shared with them prior to a check being cut. Dr. Barker shared he felt the finance officer acted under the advisement of the board attorney and Jeremy Teetor. The board felt that going forward the board attorney should inform the board of what he is doing. Dr. Barker will look into this.

- **Lawn Care**
Dr. Barker shared with the board that he has sent a portion of the lawn contract to the principals as in the past they have not been informed of what the lawn contractor should be doing at their individual schools. The contract is broken down per school and principals have been informed to alert the maintenance director and the superintendent if things are not being handled at their schools.

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Discussion took place on the next scheduled meeting and agreed to change the time from 6:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on July 24, 2023.

ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:00 p.m., Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on July 24, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Dr. Douglas Barker
Interim Superintendent