

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

February 13, 2023

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 23, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Vennie Beggarly, Gladys Garland, Tracy Stanley, Joel Lillard, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Jennifer O'Briant, Carla Murray, Medina Jones, Carol Boaz. Board Attorney Ron Bradsher was present. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes. (*Note: Others may have been present but did not sign the roster or names were not legible*).

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mel Battle. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the January 23, 2023 work session as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Carter recommended approval of agenda. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Carter shared the event for Mr. Ronald Amos went very well on Friday and expressed thanks to Connie Kimrey for the work she did to make the reception and recognition a success. Mr. Amos was recently inducted into the NC Bandmasters Hall of Fame. The event was very nice and Mr. Amos seemed genuinely appreciative.

Congratulations were extended to Medina Jones and CTE teachers on the proficient scores which outscored the region and the state.

An informational scholarship meeting will take place on Thursday at the high school to share scholarship opportunities. The meeting will take place from 4:30 to 6:00 p.m. A Google meet will also be available. Written information is going out to the students as well.

Congratulations to the BYSHS wrestling team. We have two students who will be advancing to the regionals.

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Mel Battle read aloud a thank you note from the family of Thelma Corbett Lea. Mr. Battle also shared if board members are aware of recent deaths of former school employees to let Connie Kimrey know.

Mel Battle shared that the board will recess at 11:00 a.m. to attend Stoney Creek for lunch.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Kimrey, Mebane, NC, 27302

As an employee of CCS for almost 16 years I have seen many things take place. There are often times that things occur and go unnoticed or only bad news is shared. As most of you were in attendance for the recognition of former band teacher Ronald Amos, I'm sure you were able to see first-hand the admiration for Mr. Amos.

I would like to express, on behalf of my classmates, a sincere thank you for the recognition you bestowed upon Ron Amos. As a member of the marching band under the direction of Mr. Amos, it was a delight, to see someone that we thought so highly of receive such a well-deserved recognition. Mr. Amos truly loved his students and the band parents. He was always quick to share that the band would not function without the support of parents. It takes a village to make things a success and it was apparent that the love and respect by his students he gained years ago is still evident today, as many were in attendance along with teachers who he worked with.

As a former band member from 1981 to 1984 it was almost as if we had a band reunion on Friday night as many of us had not seen each other in decades.....the smiles, hugs, and laughter shared made a lasting impression in our memory books. At the conclusion of the evening, Mr. Amos had indicated he would be leaving right after the recognition in the Page Gym; however, he came back to the cafeteria. Several band members arrived back in the cafeteria and as time slipped away Mr. Amos said "I need to leave, but I just don't want to" - I think this truly summarizes how special this night was to him. It also meant a lot to every band member that served under him. He is truly a remarkable man, teacher, and as you can see, someone who is still loved today. He was most impressed with the new high school and shared that it was his hope that with the new band director and support from the board that the BYSHS band will one day be back in all of its glory.

I applaud you, the Board of Education and Dr. Carter, for making the effort to honor Mr. Amos and for band members to have the opportunity to be included in this special night. We are forever grateful.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

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III. REPORTS

QAI Update

Dr. Carter reviewed the QAI process and shared a handout. She noted that we are moving in the right direction and aligning our needs. Dr. Carter answered questions from the board on the process and how things are handled. Upon review, Joel Lillard shared that at the point we are he felt the QAI's could be suspended for now as our teachers are struggling with the amount of work that is on them and being pulled. He does not agree with it at this current time and would like to see it suspended for now.

Mel Battle shared an incident that occurred while he was working in which DPI brought in leadership teams and there was not an option. He shared it was unwelcoming at first but after the first year it worked out and growth occurred.

Mel Battle shared that help is needed and the more we can do to help will elevate what we do.

It was shared that teachers feel they do not receive any data when the QAI visits take place and felt they should be provided something. Dr. Carter shared that the QAI visit is not to evaluate teachers but more about continuous school improvement.

Nicole Smith suggested taking a quarter off from the QAI visits and have those same individuals, who normally would participate in the QAI, go into the classroom and help the teachers in whatever role they may need. Gladys Garland questioned if the mentoring program still occurs. Dr. Carter shared that this program stopped due to the cost; however, Dr. Murray is going into the classrooms and working with teachers. Trudy Blackwell questioned how many times the QAI visits occur. Dr. Carter shared they take place once in the fall and once in the spring with each visit only lasting a half day.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda:

- Fundraising Requests (spring)
- Request for Transfer

Fundraising Requests (2nd semester)

BYSHS

FFA	March (raffle)
FCCLA	February (Candy)

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HOSA March (Candy)

Stoney Creek Elementary
March = Y-Ties
April = Cap/Gown pictures
May = Yearbooks

Request for Transfer = 2023/2024 School Year
Vernon, Sarah M. Caswell to Alamance-Burlington (9th)

2. Resolutions

Board member Nicole Smith read aloud resolution for former employee who recently passed away. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Sarah Mitchell Long*

WHEREAS, Sarah Mitchell Long, was born on January 14, 1940, and resided at 422 Hudson Road, Milton, NC, 27305, at the time of her death on January 23, 2023, and

WHEREAS, Sarah Long, was a faithful and loving wife, mother, sister, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Long was a member of Chestnut Grove Baptist Church in Semora, NC; and

WHEREAS, Sarah Long was employed by the Caswell County Public School System until her retirement. She will be remembered for her commitment to education; and being known for her benevolence and servant's heart to children; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Sarah Long and expresses its sympathy to her family by causing a copy of this Resolution to be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education and a copy forwarded to the family.

This the 13th day of February 2023.

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Mel Battle, Chairman

Vennie Beggarly, Vice Chair

Trudy Blackwell

Gladys Garland

Joel Lillard

Nicole Smith

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

3. NCSBA (North Carolina School Boards Association) Policy Transition

Mel Battle shared he suggested to Dr. Carter that when our current policy serves the purpose we need to have the school board just suggest what is not in compliance for updating. He asked that board members be aware of this going forward in the process.

Dr. Carter reviewed the policies.

- ❖ 5026/7250 – Smoking and Tobacco Products
- ❖ 5027/7275 – Weapons and Explosives Prohibited
- ❖ 5028/6130/7267 – Automated External Defibrillator
- ❖ 5030 – Community Use of Facilities
- ❖ 5031 – Use of School Facilities: Civic Center
- ❖ 5040 – News Media Relations
- ❖ 5050 – Emergency Closings
- ❖ 5070/7350 – Public Records – Retention, Release & Disposition
- ❖ 5071/7351 – Electronically Stored Information Retention
- ❖ 5100 – Relationship with Other Governmental Agencies
- ❖ 5110 – Relationship with County Commissioners
- ❖ 5120 – Relationship with Law Enforcement
- ❖ 5210 – Distribution and Display of Non-School Material
- ❖ 5220 – Collections and Solicitations
- ❖ 5230 – Participation in Research Projects
- ❖ 5240 – Advertising in the Schools

Those with changes or additions include:

- 5210 = Option #2 was suggested and will add a sentence to include Superintendents' discretion.
- 5220 = Information to add pertaining to online requests (i.e. teacher wish lists) would need to seek approval by Superintendent prior to posting.
- 5030 and 5031 = it was shared that these policies serve the purpose and only need to confirm if there is anything we are not in compliance with.

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Upon review, Dr. Carter recommended approval of policies as listed with the omission of Policy # 5030 and #5031 as presented for first reading and to lie on the table. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Dr. Carter shared she is working with Amanda Hodges on information for the art's program and grant.
- Dr. Murray has found information with Frontline, a substitute calling system. They have reduced the rate for us to approximately \$9,000. This will take a few months to get this up and running and it is the hope to have it start in August.

Discussion was had regarding if current substitutes who are called on a regular basis would be included and the answer was yes. This will purge the substitute listing and give an account of those that are called but do not participate. When this goes in effect, teachers will no longer have to call their own subs. All burden will be off the teacher; however, lesson plans are still a requirement.

- Dr. Carter shared that Mel Battle had mentioned the LETRS training noting that teachers are working hard and with state funding there are certain restrictions to adhere to. Mr. Battle had inquired if there were additional funds with ESSER to use to help pay teachers for the extra work they have had. Dr. Carter shared that in talking with Jeremy Teetor, we have set aside approximately \$775,000 for summer school and we could look at using a portion of these funds as a bonus; however, if needed to offset if funds are short with summer school that fund balance would need to be used. Mel Battle suggested a payment for the first semester and second semester of this year only.

It was agreed to discuss this at the February 27th work session. Dr. Carter will have numbers for the board to review.

- Dr. Carter shared that a folder with information requested by the board was at each board members place. Mel Battle also shared that some of this information will be discussed at the work session.

VI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

Trudy Blackwell shared she visited North and South and the principals were working diligently with academic data and shared strategies. She also attended the event for Mr. Amos and felt it spoke highly of how his students were affected by him. It is always good to have

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that rapport with teachers. She also noted she stayed for the senior night recognition and both events were well attended.

Tracy Stanley shared she was a judge at the spelling bee and enjoyed participating.

Vennie Beggarly shared she was also a judge and enjoyed it as well. Mrs. Beggarly requested that the cell phone policy and food policy be brought to the next work session for discussion. She also requested information regarding employees and pay scales be reviewed at the next work session.

Mel Battle shared he was most impressed with the number of students who were present for the recognition for Mr. Amos especially due to the fact of the length of years Mr. Amos has been away. He felt this spoke highly of Mr. Amos and was very glad that the students showed up to support him in this way.

Nicole Smith shared she also was present for the recognition for Mr. Amos and noted it went very well. She was at the ballgames also and shared the students behaved. She also would like the cell phone policy and food policy to be discussed at the work session. Also, she wanted to clarify that in regards to QAI statement made earlier, it is not the intent to pick on anyone but to help boost morale. If we can let our teachers see we are willing to help she felt this will be an asset.

Gladys Garland shared she also was in attendance for Mr. Amos and felt it went very well. She thanked Dr. Carter for sharing the things that are occurring in Caswell County Schools and questioned if volunteer forms are still being handled. Dr. Carter confirmed that they are.

Joel Lillard also shared sentiments on the recognition for Ron Amos and thanked Connie Kimrey for doing a great job in setting things up. He shared that he is still hearing that menu for school lunches are not being sent home in a timely manner to provide parents planning time and wanted to confirm if they are posted online timely. It was suggested to add a link to the home page to take you to the menu. Joel Lillard also shared he would like to be aware of the events at the schools noting DARE graduation, etc. so he and other board members can attend.

VI. CLOSED SESSION

Vennie Beggarly 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.

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VII. OPEN SESSION

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to return to open session. Gladys Garland seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PERSONNEL LISTING

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the amended personnel listing as presented which added termination for Patricia Lindsey and remove Section 2, Item "L". Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly to approve the amended personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of Section 2, Item "L". Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The vote failed 4-3 with Blackwell, Stanley, Beggarly and Lillard voting "No."

Resignation	
Central Office / District	Dean Southern, Behavioral Support Asst. = Eff. 1/30/23
Oakwood Elementary	Deborah Coleman, EC Teacher = Eff. 3/4/23
Retirement	
NL Dillard Middle School	Jacqueline (Jackie) Wade = Eff. 2/1/23
District	Troy Nevells, Substitute = Eff. 2/1/23
Transfer	
Central Office	Tyisha Cobb - Office Support III: Student Services & Secondary Curr. To Licensure & Public Information Specialist = Eff. TBD
Termination	
North Elementary	Patricia Lindsey, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 2/13/23
Substitutes	
	Rebecca Nelson
	Jacklyn Lipscomb
	Chuvola Johnson
	Jenny Benson
	Lakisha Lee
	Amy Hundley
	Kristal Hutson
	Whitney Boone
	Stephanie Hollifield
	Deana Murphy
	Samantha McCraw

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	Teresa Perkins
	Jerry Settle
	Desera Placer
	Qua0Iveon Muldrow
	Connie Gibbs

Dr. Carter recommended approval to amend Policy # 825, Use of School Facilities: Civic Center, to include that the large and small auditorium cannot be rented at the same time to two different groups. Changes will be made to our current policy. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the amendment to Policy # 825. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. COMMUNICATIONS

- February 20th = Joint meeting with Commissioners @ 6:00 (dinner @ 5:00 p.m.) at the Gunn Memorial Library
- February 27th - Work Session to begin at 4:00 p.m. Please submit items to Mr. Battle and suggestions for Master Board training. It was requested for Jeremy Teetor to be at the work session.
- February 27th = pictures for board members at 5:30 p.m.

X. ADJOURN

Gladys Garland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:35 p.m., Joel Lillard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 27, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent