

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
Joint Meeting with Caswell County Board of County Commissioners
June 7, 2022

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a joint meeting on Tuesday, June 7, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Gunn Memorial Library in Yanceyville, NC. Members present: Chairman Wayne Owen, Vice Chair Gladys Garland, Trudy Blackwell, Vennie Beggarly, Mel Battle, and Tracy Stanley. Donna Hudson and Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter were absent. Others present include Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell, Medina Jones, Carol Boaz, Jeremy Teetor (Finance Consultant) and Dr. Carla Murray. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes for the Board of Education. *(Note: Others may have been present but did not sign the roster or names were not legible).* Board of Commissioners present include: Nate Hall, Jeremiah Jeffries, Rick McVey, Vernon Massengill, Steve Oestreicher, and County Manager Bryan Miller. Commissioner John Dickerson participated remotely. David Owen was absent.

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of County Commissioners was called to order by Rick McVey. The meeting of the Board of Education was called to order by Wayne Owen. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. QUESTIONS FROM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

County Manager Bryan Miller opened up the meeting referencing questions that were submitted by the Board of Commissioners to the Board of Education. The meeting was turned over to Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell who reviewed information shared through a presentation. Handouts were given to all in attendance. Jeremy Teetor, financial consultant for Caswell County Schools, Medina Jones, and Carol Boaz reviewed the presentation and answered questions from the Board of County Commissioners. Mr. Tyrrell noted that if there were additional questions after the meeting and review of presentation to submit those questions to Connie Kimrey.

Questions include:

1. Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School had/has an average reading proficiency of 30 to 34% and an average math proficiency of 30 to 34%; how many students will graduate with those proficiencies?
2. What is the district doing to correct these proficiencies?
3. NL Dillard has even lower proficiency rates. What is being done to correct NL Dillard's problems? How many students graduated from NL Dillard?
4. Why does Stoney Creek Elementary not have a Pre-K?
5. How many teaching vacancies does the school system have? Please include any positions currently filled with full time temporary workers.
6. How many Caswell County students are attending school outside of our county?
7. Please explain the K-12 Summer Learning program and the cost of the 3 million of ESSER monies.
8. Please explain indirect cost associated with ESSER monies.

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9. Please explain the ESSER monies for HVAC. What are used from ESSER II and then 1,000,000 for HVAC from ESSER III?
10. Why do you need \$140,000 in additional monies from the county for HVAC?
11. Please explain \$2,000,000 in ESSER III monies for teacher retention/supplements.
12. Have any or all of ESSER II monies been spent and if so what are the outcomes on such items as dropout prevention and after school tutoring.
13. What are your plans for these programs and employees after the federal monies run out?

Presentation shared from the Caswell County Board of Education included the following information as a response to the questions submitted. Information is listed below.

Question # 1

- As required by Caswell County Schools Board of Education, students must earn 27 credits to graduate. Students earn credits when courses are passed. When students meet the graduation requirements set by the NC Board of Education and the CCS Board of Education, they are permitted to graduate. Caswell County Schools continue to celebrate increased graduation rates at the highest since we researched which is 2006. The graduation rate is currently 85.4%.
- Traditional high school students in Caswell County and high school students in public schools and public charters across the state must complete required reading state summative assessments. This assessment is regularly given during a student's sophomore or junior year. Students will receive additional instruction to support reading proficiencies levels after the first test administration.
- There is not a senior state proficiency assessment to determine the proficiency levels of reading for a state percentage report. Therefore, the reading proficiency levels are not demonstrative of graduating senior levels. Caswell County Schools' seniors are graduating from Caswell County Schools and not dropping out of Caswell County Schools at a higher rate than previous years which is indicative of collaborative support for CCS employees, parents, and community members.

Question # 2

- Caswell County Schools continue to provide support to teachers by providing an aligned curriculum, instructional practices, resources, and assessments in preparation for increasing mastery of skills and increasing proficiency percentages from elementary, middle, and high school. Professional development in reading instruction, content areas and how students acquire reading skills is prioritized. Professional development for the 2022-2023 school year will focus on rigor, literacy, analyzing student data for differentiation of student needs. All elementary teachers will participate in Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) coursework. This professional learning provides educators and administrators with deep knowledge to be literacy and language experts in how students acquire reading skills. CCS staff will use this information to plan appropriate instruction, intervention, and remediation to meet student needs.

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- Students also have the opportunity to participate in tutoring sessions during the regular school year to support their mastery of essential skills to increase proficiency levels.
- CCS will continue to provide remediation and tutoring as well as summer learning opportunities for students to increase skill acquisition. Summer learning provided from June 13 to June 28 and July 11 to July 28, Monday through Thursday, include 6 weeks of math, science, and reading learning opportunities in grades K-12. Eligible K-8 students can receive up to six weeks of support. Eligible students in grades K-3 are able to receive reading support from the integrated summer reading camp all 6 weeks. High school students are afforded opportunities for credit recovery and credentialing opportunities throughout the summer programming. To afford students more opportunities for success, CCS has written additional grants and planned Summer Bridge Academy and a Summer Career Accelerator Program. In the Summer Bridge Academy, CCS will provide a 3 week learning academy with integrated STEM to eligible rising sixth and rising ninth grade students. Priority consideration for enrollment is to students who are at-risk and/or disproportionately impacted by COVID. CCS will also provide 10th - 12th grade students with priority considerations to students who are at-risk and/or disproportionately impacted by COVID to participate in the Career Accelerator Program. The Summer Career Accelerator program will focus on career development plans and summer credentialing. CCS will extend 6th and 9th grade students invitations based on availability.

Question # 3

- Caswell County Schools continue to provide support to teachers through aligned curriculum resources; research based instructional practices, and assessments which provide student data to assist teachers in preparing instruction to increase student mastery of skills and to increase proficiency percentages.
- CCS will continue to provide summer learning opportunities for students to assist with learning loss and proficiency of essential skills to increase proficiency levels.
- Students also have the opportunity to participate in tutoring sessions to support their mastery.
- There are approximately 170 eighth grade students who are “promoted” from Dillard Middle School to the ninth grade.

Question # 4

- Caswell County Schools does not receive state funds from NCDPI to provide universal preschool services. Caswell County Schools completes/renews an annual application with the Caswell County Partnership for Children to receive preschool funding support utilizing state NC Pre-K funds. Being a public school system, the district receives less NC PreK funding per child than a private school setting (\$511/child/month vs. \$650/child/month). Therefore, to sustain the necessary services of staffing, instructional

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supplies, transportation, and free meals/snacks, CCS also supplements the program with Title I funds to provide 3 teacher assistants for the classes.

- CCS is granted funding for 54 slots in the district by Partnership for Children. Our NC PreK preschool classroom must meet the DCDEE licensure requirements for the preschool facilities and services. Caswell County Schools has developed three approved sites at North, Oakwood, and South. Each site must have a ratio of 1 teacher & 1 assistant per 18 students.
- There are special requirements for the students to be placed in the NC PreK classrooms. The student/family must complete an application that provides required documentation that there are risk needs (family level of household income - primary eligibility requirement ... additional secondary requirements include military status, ESL status, and documentation of educational/developmental risk needs). Once the applications are completed, they are reviewed by Partnership for Children. Families that meet the eligibility requirements have the option to select any of the school preschool sites (or other private/Head Start NC PreK) in the district.
- CCS does not house a licensed preschool classroom at Stoney Creek Elementary at this time. The challenges to develop a NC PreK classroom at SCES under the DCDEE licensure requirements include: limited facility space and challenges to recruit enough NC PreK eligible children to appropriately support the program. NC Prek has a prescribed eligibility standard that does not allow all preschool children to receive services in the NC PreK classroom. However, children/families that meet NC PreK eligibility requirements are able to participate in any of the NC PreK sites. Historically, there are about 4-6 families that meet the NC PreK eligibility requirements. These families from SCES have enrolled their child in the NC PreK sites for South, Oakwood, Head Start and Rainbow Daycare.

Question # 5

- Summer Learning opportunities can not only increase student skill and knowledge but they can also eliminate summer learning losses that occur every year for all students who are not engaged academically over the summer. Summer learning opportunities are also essential to increasing student skills and mitigating learning loss due to Covid. Therefore, utilizing ESSER funds to provide learning opportunities to mitigate learning loss is a requirement of public school units receiving ESSER funds.
- The CCS summer learning program gives eligible K-12 student the opportunity to receive instruction and socio-emotional support, grade acceleration opportunities, and credentialing opportunities. In 2021, CCS summer learning incorporated two learning sessions totaling 28 days for students. In 2022, the summer learning program will occur during two (2) three-week sessions. The first session will be held June 13th to June 30th and the second session will occur from July 11th through July 28th. Summer school will occur Monday through Thursday and includes transportation, instructional materials and supplies with all meals for all students. Summer supplements are included for all

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employees working with summer school over the summer. Summer school funding is also used to recruit and retain certified teachers throughout the summer allowing CCS to be competitive with surrounding districts.

- A bonus has been added this year for continuous working at each session for classroom certified instructional teachers. This will provide continuity to our students and hopefully allow a benefit to recruit teachers to work during this program. Needs assessments and feedback from 2021 and 2022 summer learning programs will drive planning and implementation for the summers of 2023 and 2024.

Question # 6

- Programs and positions are evaluated annually and prioritized based on needs assessments and available funds. CCS staff also seeks and applies for grants in areas of opportunity for the district where local and state funding is not made available, such as the athletic facility grants recently sought.
- This is critical to meeting many of our district needs. This same system of prioritizing need would be in place as any funds are consumed and expire.
- We would also seek other funding sources such as local funding for priorities such as teacher supplements to assist in making teacher salaries remain competitive with other districts. Local supplements are provided in surrounding counties and throughout North Carolina.

Question # 7

School	Total Vacancies
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	10
NL Dillard Middle	9
North Elementary	2
Oakwood Elementary	3
South Elementary	0
Stoney Creek Elementary	0
Total	24

Question # 8

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Charter School	County	Number of Students
Alamance Community School	Alamance	9
Bethany Community	Guilford	6
Bethel Hill	Person	11
Clover Garden	Alamance	130
Greensboro Academy	Guilford	1
Guilford Charter School	Guilford	1
Hawbridge School	Alamance	1
Eno River Academy	Orange	10
NC Connections Academy	N/A	11
NC Virtual Academy	N/A	4
Piedmont Classical High School	Guilford	1
Research Triangle Academy	Durham	1
River Mill Academy	Alamance	10
Roxboro Community School	Person	36
Triad Math & Science Academy	Guilford	1
Voyager Academy	Durham	1
Total		234

Question # 9

- School Systems permitted to assess most federal grants indirect cost to account for the use of local labor and facilities to administer the grants and related programming.
- Caswell County Schools' indirect cost rate for the 2021-2022 school year is 5.428%.
- Will assess this at the end of June - approximately \$172,000.

Question # 10

- ESSER funding can only be expended on HVAC for purposes of improving air quality – not mechanical or electrical failures.
- The school system still needs support from capital reserves for unit repairs and replacements.
- ESSER III - \$550,000 budgeted and \$315,750 expended for efforts to improve indoor air quality.
- Example: ventilation assessment, coil sanitation, and filter installation.

Question # 11

- ESSER funds used to award a supplement equivalent to 10% of base pay
- This amount aligns us with neighboring districts and makes us relevant in recruiting efforts.
- Acceptable use of ESSER funds due to staffing shortages, particularly in education, stemming from effects of the pandemic.

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Question # 12

Category	Amount Spent to Date	Remaining
ESSER I	\$763,719	\$11,742
ESSER II	\$1,944,955	\$1,078,819
ESSER III	\$1,504,053	\$5,287,013
Total	\$4,212,727	\$6,377,674

Data is analyzed regularly. Student achievement, dropout rates and other data is analyzed to determine program effectiveness and prioritize needs going forward. Caswell County Schools' dropout rate is lower than the state dropout rate. Currently, at the secondary level, after school tutoring is being offered.

At the elementary level, funds provide certified tutors during the school day. Each elementary school provides small group instruction and remediation based on student needs during the school day.

We will continue to investigate after school tutoring opportunities for the elementary schools considering staff availability. ESSER II funds are available to be used through September 30, 2023.

Additional question was asked by Nate Hall as to the need to keep Stoney Creek Elementary open. Mel Battle shared that in 1991 when North and South were opened approximately \$300,000 was spent on the septic system at Stoney Creek. This was one of the main reasons it remained opened along with the distance that students would have to travel from that area. Although the numbers are small at Stoney Creek, it is imperative to look at the overall picture and the impact it will have on students; therefore, Stoney Creek remains open.

Vernon Massengill questioned how many teachers are at the high school and how many are certified. Personnel Director Dr. Carla Murray did not have an actual number at this time. Carol Boaz also shared that currently teaching vacancies is a statewide problem. The percentage of teachers/educators is not as high as it once was and it is difficult to compete with high wealth districts. Medina Jones shared that the teacher cadet program is starting back again and is excited to encourage students to pursue this. This is not the same as the teaching fellows program.

Action: Information will be provided to the Board of Commissioners.

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A short break was held at 8:30 p.m.

Rick McVey questioned where the Board of Education stood with principals. Mr. Tyrrell shared that at this time we are in transition. A new principal has been named at North which will open an Assistant Principal position up at NL Dillard Middle. A new principal has been named at Oakwood. The principal vacancies are still open at NL Dillard and South Elementary. Rick McVey questioned if this is the most turnover in recent years? Mr. Tyrrell shared that it is and noted that these positions have been consistent for the past several years.

Rick McVey questioned the contract regarding the HVAC. Mr. Tyrrell shared that a contract was made with Brady to do the air quality tests, coils and changed filters.

Steve Oestreicher questioned if the planning board had been in contact with the Board of Education. It was shared that they have not.

Rick McVey shared that it is up to the Board of Commissioners to give a pot of money to the Board of Education and, in his opinion, it was up to the Board of Education to determine how the money is spent. It is not up to the commissioners to fund the teacher supplements.

Mel Battle shared that depends on how big the “pot” of money is as well as capital outlay and current expense funds.

Steve Oestreicher shared that transparency helps by receiving a line by line item on how the budget is built. He would like to see how the money is appropriated.

Vernon Massengill shared that he did not feel that the request included enough of a breakdown.

Jeremy Teetor shared that in July he will begin working with the school system on a contractual basis two days a week. He shared he can develop reports to build transparency and show everything that the school spends and provide this on a monthly basis. He would like to put things in place to better share the budget with the Board of Commissioners.

Transparency was discussed and felt that it will go a long way in building the relationship between the two boards.

ESSER funds were discussed and at this time is being used to provide teacher supplements; however, it will not be sustainable and concerns were noted that when the funding is depleted additional monies would be needed to be competitive with supplements for our teachers.

Vernon Massengill shared his concerns with the questions submitted by the Board of Education in which all were regarding money/supplements and nothing in relation to safety. He felt that somehow this needs to be addressed. He shared a situation he was made aware of at North

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Elementary with doors been accessible. If this is true, where does the children's safety come in when the only questions included money.

Gladys Garland shared that the funding will be used towards a social worker as well as the school resource officers.

Jeremy Teetor shared that a joint facilities plan could be looked at in the future and possibly use Davenport which could provide an analysis of resources available.

Wayne Owen shared that the school system continually looks at ways to keep our students safe sharing that key access cards have been installed as well as locks on doors. Grants continue to be written for school safety to assist with the school resource officer(s) for the schools. Safety is an issue that the Board of Education continues to look at.

Steve Oestreicher shared he would like a review of school long-term security plan. County Manager shared this would need to be discussed in a closed session if the Board of Education wishes to share.

Rick McVey questioned if the boards wanted to schedule another meeting at this time. It was agreed that each board would look at dates and schedule quarterly meetings.

ADJOURN

Nate Hall made a motion, seconded by Jeremiah Jeffries, to adjourn the Board of County Commissioners meeting. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Mel Battle, to adjourn the Caswell County Schools Board of Education meeting at 9:20 p.m.

Wayne Owen
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent