

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 22, 2021

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 22, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Wayne Owen, Vice Chair Gladys Garland, Trudy Blackwell, Donna Hudson, Tracy Stanley, and Vennie Beggarly. Mel Battle was absent for the meeting. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter and Board Attorney Ron Bradsher. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes. Meeting was livestreamed via Zoom.

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

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

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2021 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None at this time.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Kimrey read aloud the public comments that were submitted (in the order in which they were received).

Katherine Pinkleton, acting president, 635 Rocky Ridge Rd., Leasburg, NC 27291
Caswell County Association of Educators (CCAIE)

As always, we DO want our students back.....but safely!

But:
“The CDC is crystal clear. Schools need six feet of social distancing “to the greatest extent possible.” And in counties with a rate of more than 50 new COVID cases per week per 100K residents, the CDC says 6 feet should be “required.” As of Feb. 21, Caswell County has recorded 186 cases per week per 100,000 residents (please see below). Six feet of social distancing should be required. If we open under Plan A, we are NOT COMPLYING with CDC guidance during a pandemic.

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The CDC also said counties with SUBSTANTIAL or HIGH TRANSMISSION of COVID should “REQUIRE” 6-feet of social distancing.

New Indicators and Thresholds for Community Transmission of COVID-19*
 (reported over 7 days) (from CDC’s New Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools
 through Phased Mitigation)

Indicator	Lowest Transmission	Low Transmission Blue	Moderate Transmission Yellow	Substantial Transmission Orange	High Transmission Red
Total new cases per 100,000 persons in the past 7 days**	Category no longer exists. It has been merged into one low transmission (blue) category.	0-9	10-49	50-99	≥100
Percentage of NAATs that are positive in the past 7 days***		<5.0%	5.0%-7.9%	8.0%-9.9%	≥10.0%

[CDC Says Proper Social Distancing in Schools is SIX FEET](#)
[North Carolina’s Plan A Full Reopen Rules Do NOT Comply with CDC Guidance.](#)

To be very clear, [North Carolina’s Plan A guidelines do not have a social distance requirement.](#) North Carolina’s full-enrollment rules DO NOT comply with CDC guidance. Parents should know this. School districts in Plan A full reopen mode should acknowledge this. North Carolina’s school reopen plans don’t take community spread of the COVID virus into account AT ALL when making decisions on whether or not to reopen schools. When school boards decide to fully reopen elementary schools without guarantees of 6-feet of social distancing, parents should know [those reopen plans do not follow CDC guidance.](#) It’s no surprise that [elementary schools have recorded the most clusters of 5 or more COVID infections in North Carolina](#) and the worst clusters.

If six feet is the standard for social distancing in all workplaces across America during a pandemic, then it should be the standard for our school employees as well.

There is a solution.

If the board insists on sending public school employees during a pandemic into buildings that do not comply with CDC guidance, there is a reasonable compromise. Vaccinate all employees in those buildings without six feet of social distance before students return. If you are going to reopen schools against CDC guidance, you should vaccinate the school employees first.

Has anyone from the main office communicated with the CC health department about vaccinating CCS staff this week? As of this coming Wednesday, according to the governor, teachers are prioritized. So are there plans to set aside vaccines for staff for the next several weeks until everyone has been vaccinated? Could we set up some kind of event (drive-through, etc., or have sites set up in the schools)?

What is the plan for accommodating teachers and staff as recommended below (senate bill 37)?

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- (3) In accordance with the requirements of the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit, local boards of education shall create a process for teachers and staff to self-identify as high-risk from COVID-19 and have a plan in place to address requests for alternative work reassignments. For teachers and staff who self-identify as high-risk from COVID-19, local boards are strongly encouraged to enable them to minimize face-to-face contact and to allow those teachers and staff to maintain a distance of six feet from others, modify job responsibilities to minimize exposure risk, or allow them to telework if possible. For the purposes of this subdivision, a teacher or staff member may also self-identify as high-risk from COVID-19 if that teacher or staff member is the direct caretaker of a minor with an underlying condition identified as high-risk from COVID-19.

For those teachers who are at high risk from Covid and request an alternate work assignment, we have an obligation to address and honor this. Do we have a plan in place for this situation, or are we planning to deal with it on a case-by-case basis? We have all spoken to teachers and staff who are contemplating early retirement or otherwise leaving the profession due to high-risk status of themselves or a family member.. As one teacher put it: "Choosing between teaching or living should not be a choice any of us have to make."

In closing, we are asking that you reconsider Plan A for our elementary schools. Failing that, that you find a way to prioritize and expedite vaccination of teachers and staff in these unsafe settings (where social distancing of 6 feet is not possible), and that teachers who request alternate assignments due to high risk have those requests honored.

As always, we thank you for considering the well-being of students, staff and teachers!

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Community Foundation Scholarship Rubric

Discussion took place regarding the draft fund agreement with the Community Foundation and the rubric. Dr. Carter noted that if changes were to be added they would need to be included to the fund agreement.

After reviewing, the board was in agreement to include the following stipulations to the agreements:

1. A current graduating senior from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School
2. A resident of Caswell County
3. A student will attach a letter to explain rationale if they did not participate in community service work or extra-curricular activities due to extenuating circumstances
4. Entering a 2 or 4 year educational program
5. Writing prompt: "Why you want to become a teacher in Caswell County"

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Question was asked what occurs if no one applies or meets the criteria for that school year? It was shared that the funds would go back and not be given out that year and continue to build the amount in the scholarship.

It was also discussed that if a student had received a different scholarship they would not be disqualified from this scholarship.

Upon no further discussion, Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve additions as listed below to the fund agreement with the Community Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.

1. A current graduating senior from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School
2. A resident of Caswell County
3. A student will attach a letter to explain rationale if they did not participate in community service work or extra-curricular activities due to extenuation circumstances
4. Entering a 2 or 4 year educational program
5. Writing prompt: "Why you want to become a teacher in Caswell County"

Once these are included, an updated copy will be shared with the board.

Master Board Training

Discussion took place regarding scheduling training for the board members. It was agreed to wait until April or early May and the first session will include "Building Our Team." Dates and times will be brought back at the next meeting for the board to finalize a date.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

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

Request for Transfer = 2021/2022

Briggs, Lucas	Caswell	to	Person (K)
Briggs, Larry	Caswell	to	Person (5 th)

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Budget Amendments #10

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS								BUDGET AMENDMENT # 10				
Caswell County Board of Education made the following resolution: Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021.												
#	Account Code							Description	Debit	Credit		
1	3	3600	165	000	000	000	00	Revenue - ESSERF Digital K-8 Curricula		17,204.00		
	3	5100	165	000	000	000	00	Regular Instructional Services	16,241.00			
	3	8100	165	000	000	000	00	Indirect Costs	963.00			
2	3	3600	114	000	000	000	00	Revenue - EC Risk Pool		30,325.00		
	3	5200	114	000	000	000	00	Special Population Services	30,325.00			
									47,529.00	47,529.00		
Justification(s):												
1	Allotment Revision #41 - DPI approved plan (Increase in Revenue).											
2	Allotment Revision #43 - Children with Special Needs-Risk Pool; DPI approved Plan (Increase in Revenue).											
Funding Source: Federal												
Total appropriation in current budget:										\$ 3,317,627		
Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:										\$ 47,529		
Total appropriation in amended budget:										\$ 3,365,156		

2. Resolution for Carol Hill

Vice Chair Gladys Garland read aloud the resolution for Carol Hill. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the resolution for Carol Hill as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

***Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
 Of the Life of
 Carol Ann Hill***



WHEREAS, Carol Ann Hill, was born on June 29, 1960, and resided at 1648 John Oakley Road, Prospect Hill, NC, 27314, at the time of her death on February 1, 2021, and

WHEREAS, Carol Hill, was a faithful and loving wife, mother, and friend and her family’s welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Carol Hill was a very active member of Grace Independent Baptist Church where she taught the young girls Sunday School Class for many years, served as bus driver when needed, and most importantly, was a witness for Christ; and

WHEREAS, Carol Hill was a faithful and loyal employee of Caswell County Schools with twenty-seven years of service. She was employed as a Bus Driver at South Elementary and a substitute teacher. She will be dearly missed and never forgotten by her family and friends as well as her co-workers and 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 Carol Hill 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.

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This the 22nd day of February 2021.

Wayne Owen, Chairman

Gladys Garland, Vice Chairman

Mel O. Battle

Vennie Beggarly

Trudy Blackwell

Donna R. Hudson

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

V. REPORTS

None at this time.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Dr. Carter shared that Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell has been in close communication with Caswell County Health Department and Jennifer Eastwood. A vaccination clinic has been setup for Friday, February 26, 2021 at the Parks and Recreation Department for all Caswell County School employees who wish to participate. An email with details will be sent out today. Principals will also share with all their staff so those that do not have access to email will be aware.

Dr. Carter shared that Mr. Tyrrell has also been looking into cleaning services and she will email the quotes for the board to review and poll the board later in the day. She shared she will recommend Red Coats. This will be brought back to the next meeting for official approval. This will assist the cleaning in the schools once we return to in person learning and the schools will receive a deep cleaning twice a week when students are not in the building.

Questions were asked in reference to returning to schools if the ventilation systems are sufficient. Dr. Carter shared that Mr. Tyrrell has purchased items for older classrooms that have no access to windows or outside doors. It was also stressed to inform the public that we are following all Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

VII. CLOSED SESSION

Gladys Garland 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-

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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. Tracy Stanley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. OPEN SESSION

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to return to open session. Tracy Stanley seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Note: Gladys Garland left the meeting during Closed Session.

IX. PERSONNEL LISTING

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation	
NL Dillard Middle School	Taylor Gannaway, 7 th Grade Math Teacher = Eff. 3/5/21
Oakwood Elementary	Sonya Holman, K-5 EC Teacher = Eff. 2/26/21
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Michelle Inge, 9-12 Social Studies Teacher = Eff. 2/26/21
Central Office	Brandi Teetor, School Social Worker = Eff. 2/26/21
Employment	
North Elementary	John Cochran, K-5 Teacher = Eff. 2/23/21
NL Dillard Middle School	Cassandra Graves, Office Support I = Receptionist = Eff. 2/23/21 (10 month position)
Substitutes	
	June Akers = Eff. 2/23/21
	Charity Freeman = Eff. 2/23/21
	Sara Tomlinson = Eff. 2/23/21

X. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

XI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

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- Question was asked regarding the Governor's order for spectators at athletic games. Dr. Carter shared we are following the North Carolina High School Athletic Association guidelines.
- A board member questioned if a student wanted to stay virtual, was approval required. Dr. Carter shared that parents had the choice for their students to remain virtual if they so choose; however, concerns were with students who had been using flash drives and no sufficient internet service.
- A board member requested to have principals share a short presentation to the board of what's occurring in their school. A date was shared as the possible second meeting in April.
- A board member asked what the plan was for students who get out of school and will stay to participate in sporting practices. Dr. Carter shared that due to the staggered times for buses there will be a small gap and felt this would be a good time for a student to work on homework or remediation. Dr. Carter also shared that the coaches may have something as well.
- Question was asked would there be a possibility for the softball games to be filmed. Dr. Carter shared the company that will be filming the football will also have the capability to film softball it will just be a matter of moving the cameras over.

XII. ADJOURN

Tracy Stanley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:30 p.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 8, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Wayne Owen
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent