

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**November 23, 2020**

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 23, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chair Wayne Owen, Ross Gwynn, Donna Hudson, Vennie Beggarly, Mel Battle, and Tracy Stanley. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Board Attorney Ron Bradsher, Rylie Webster, Michelle Webster, Troy Smith, Nicole Smith, Lauren McFarling, Carol Boaz, Marcellus Abbott, Danielle Flores, Clarence Garrett, Katherine Pinkleton, Rebecca Foster. 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 Garland. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2020 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Carter recommended approval of agenda as presented. Ross Gwynn moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Carter expressed congratulations and thanks to Mr. Ross Gwynn for serving on the Board of Education for 15 years. She shared he will be missed and appreciation was given for the service and commitment he has provided while serving on the Board of Education.

**I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Nicole Smith, 10918 S NC Hwy 62, Burlington, NC, 27217

Nicole Smith shared that she hoped the members of the board took her suggestion from the last meeting and sat down with a student to see how the remote learning is going. She shared that her child, who is typically an "A" student, has received nine "F's" in science and continues to have issues with submitting assignments. When sharing her concerns with the teachers they are unaware of how to fix the technical issues. Mrs. Smith shared that there is not a designated technology person at the middle school and the teachers cannot help with computer issues. She has opted to use the flash drives and has finally switched to paper. She shared that kids are failing and it is not because they are not doing their work. Mrs. Smith shared that the flash drives are not updated and there is no answer as to why this cannot be corrected. She shared concerns with the board pursuing Caswell Online when there are so many issues with remote learning. Mrs. Smith shared data and statistics of Caswell and expressed her desire for students to return to school.

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Troy Smith, 10918 S NC Hwy 62, Burlington, NC 27217

Troy Smith shared his concerns with students not in school and having a brand new high school being built for no reason. His other concern included athletics and shared that he was told that the middle school did not have a batting cage. The Athletic Director shared that his son was planning on doing this as a Boy Scout project. Mr. Smith shared he took it upon himself to purchase one for the school and donated it. The batting cage cost \$400.00 and it is still sitting in the gym. He asked if it would be possible to have someone from the maintenance department to assemble it so it could be used.

Michelle Webster, 391 Oakview Loop Road, Yanceyville, NC, 27379

Michelle Webster shared that she works in a medical facility every day and that the virus is not spreading at her office. It appears that staff are not doing what they are asked to do and the virus continues to spread. Instead, they are attending large gatherings, weddings, etc., as well as adults who opt to not wear face masks. She felt that most teachers are scared of retaliation if they express their true feelings on returning to school and asked that the board members do some homework before taking a vote regarding returning to school. She shared that if the decision is made not to return to school that parents are going to continue to seek other options such as private schools and if they move out of the county for school, parents will opt to spend their money out of county (grocery, dining, etc.) Mrs. Webster also shared concerns with the lack of internet in the county and the time that is spent on surveys for Caswell Online when remote learning is not successful.

Riley Webster, 10918 S NC Hwy 62, Burlington, NC 27217

Riley Webster shared she is a student at the high school and has addressed the board at a previous meeting. The reason she is here tonight is to emphasize how the student athletes are being affected by not returning to school. She shared the concern of her teammates and their disappointment in not being able to play sports noting that this is how many of the students are able to attend colleges through sports scholarships. In her opinion, our athletes need to be back in school at least for two days a week. She assured the board that the student athletes will do whatever is required for safety guidelines in order to play. She asked the board to please take the student athletes seriously when making a decision for spring semester.

## II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

## III. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. Consent Agenda

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

A question was asked regarding why computer carts were not purchased at the same time the Chromebooks were and also noted a deadline was listed for the price which expired on Friday, Nov. 20<sup>th</sup>. Concerns included the timing and felt it did not make

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sense. Other questions asked included what grade levels the reading materials were for. Dr. Carter shared that the reading material was for elementary grade levels. Question was asked if the K-2 teachers were involved in making this decision and Dr. Carter shared they were. Another question included what are the School Resource Officers doing. Dr. Carter shared that they are supporting the wellness checks for students and safety audits and are pulled by the Sheriff's office if needed.

Dr. Carter rescinded her recommendation to approve the consent agenda as presented. Donna Hudson rescinded her motion and Vennie Beggary rescinded her motion to approve consent agenda.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda of Items A-D as listed. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Vennie Beggary. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda for Item E as listed. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley. The motion carried 5-2 with Battle and Beggary voting "No."

Consent Agenda:  
Budget Amendment # 2

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS								BUDGET AMENDMENT # 2				
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	1	3100	000	000	000	000	00	Allocations from State Public School Fund		22,560.00		
	1	5800	000	000	000	000	00	School Based Support Services	22,560.00			
2	1	3100	000	000	000	000	00	Allocations from State Public School Fund	16,626.00			
	1	5100	000	000	000	000	00	Regular Instructional Services		13,125.00		
	1	5200	000	000	000	000	00	Special Population Services		163.00		
	1	5800	000	000	000	000	00	School Based Support Services		1,056.00		
	1	6500	000	000	000	000	00	Operational Support Services		2,282.00		
3	1	3100	000	000	000	000	00	Allocations from State Public School Fund		108,619.00		
	1	5100	000	000	000	000	00	Regular Instructional Services	835.00			
	1	5200	000	000	000	000	00	Special Population Services	107,784.00			
									147,805.00	147,805.00		
<b>Justification(s):</b>												
1	Allotment Revision #23 - CRF PPE Allocations (Increase in Revenue)											
2	Allotment Revision #24 -LEA Reduction for Charter Schools 1st month ADM (Decrease in Revenue)											
3	Allotment Revision #26 - CTE Credentials/Behavioral Support Allocations (Increase in Revenue)											
Funding Source: State												
									Total appropriation in current budget:	\$ 19,039,369		
									Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:	\$ 114,553		
									Total appropriation in amended budget:	\$ 19,153,922		

Request for Transfer

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Carter, Samuel Luke Danville-Pitt. County to Caswell (8<sup>th</sup>)

School Resource Officer Invoices

FY 2020-2021 School Resource Officers - Grant Funding \$49,000.00  
\$33,333 = 1.5850.039.311.000.000.00 (Safety & Security Grant Contracted Svcs.)  
\$15,667 = 2.5850.039.311.000.000.00 (Local Match)

FY 2020-2021 School Resource Officers \$82,432.00  
1.5850.069.311.000.000.00 (At Risk Contracted Services)

Instructional Reading Materials / Elementary (Jumpstart)

Heinemann \$18,971.93  
Budget Code: 1.5350.121.411.000.000.00 (Jumpstart money)

Chromebook Carts for K-2 Classrooms

Global Industrial (Charging Cart for Chromebooks and Tablets)  
Budget Code: 3.5330.050.462.XXX (School location).00

North \$5,253.16  
Oakwood \$4,619.06  
South \$4,651.51  
Stoney Creek \$2,055.99  
Total: \$16,579.72

2. Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan

Personnel Director, Nicole McGhee, reviewed the changes made to the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan on page 3. We are required to implement a plan for first year teachers for the first three years. The revision to page 3 was provided by the State and we need to update the plan to submit back to the State.

A board member asked if the board could get a copy of the survey form. Mrs. McGhee shared she will ask if one can be obtained.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the updated Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan for 2020-2021 as presented. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve the Beginning Teacher Support Program Plan for 2020-2021 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Changes to Page 3:

“Completion of the recent graduate survey by the Beginning Teacher (BT) and the employer survey by the principal of the school during the BT’s first year of teaching as part of the requirements to measure the performance of Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs) stated in GS 115C-269.35. The surveys must be completed at the end of the first year of teaching.”

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### 3. Caswell County Schools: School Your Way

Dr. Carter shared a PowerPoint with the board and reviewed options for the board to consider regarding returning to school or continuing with remote learning. Information was shared on what next steps would look like, safety measures, updated Covid information and data for Caswell County as well as surrounding districts.

Question was asked if a decision is made to go back to school, how long it would take to get things ready. What timeframe would we be looking at? Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell responded that he felt approximately three weeks would be needed to get everything together and look at staggered entry as well as all safety precautions and also noted this is an especially busy time at the high school with class schedule changes being implemented. Another question included if we returned, would the start time of school remain the same? Mr. Tyrrell responded that the start time would most likely stay the same; however, the dismissal may change at the end of the day.

Another board member questioned the staggered entry and questioned if this would be done to make it easier on us or the parents? Mr. Tyrrell shared that new protocols will be put in place and students have been out for so long that this will be a new learned behavior and will allow us to have safety protocols put in place. Mr. Tyrrell noted that when students return to the high school it will not be the same as when they left due to the construction and also shared that some students have not been in the building and it will be a new environment for them. Factors to consider include becoming familiar with surroundings, social distancing, new procedures and protocols for students. The staggered entry would allow students in the building two days per week, if on Plan B. Some districts are looking at the transition grades (6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>) noting these students have never been in the buildings. Mr. Tyrrell shared that the transportation aspect will take the longest to get in place.

Dr. Carter reviewed Plan A (only elementary), Plan B (AABCC), and Plan C (total remote). She shared that one consideration for the board to consider would be waiting until the January 11<sup>th</sup> meeting which would be after the holidays to make a decision.

Discussion took place and board members felt that a decision needed to be made at the December meeting and if a massive increase in Covid numbers occurs the decision could be revisited but this would allow time to get things in place and share information with parents for planning purposes.

All were in agreement to vote on returning to school at the December 14, 2020 meeting.

Dr. Carter recommended waiting until December 14, 2020, to vote on returning to school. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley to approve the recommendation to make a decision on returning to school at the December 14, 2020 board meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

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4. Athletics

Dr. Carter shared information regarding athletics and the safety risks. Currently we have one sport (basketball) that a decision would need to be made in order to move ahead with eligibility tryouts and practice. Information was shared regarding the strict guidelines that would need to be followed as well as contest limitation of 25 which includes the coaches and officials. When discussing with the principal and athletic director no recommendation was shared but they both were unanimous and felt if students are not back in school that they should not be participating in sports.

A decision can be made regarding basketball at the December meeting; however, it would create some conflict with tryouts. Conditioning would start on December 7<sup>th</sup> and includes paperwork, physicals, concussion protocol, eligibility with grades, etc. Mr. Tyrrell shared this usually would require five days to complete. Tryouts usually occur over a three to four day period. As of now, School of Science and Math are not participating in sports and the Durham School of the Arts has decided not to participate in basketball. This reduces the number of games our students would participate in and looking at the possibility of eight games. Time constraints are needed for playoff dates. Other safety concerns included no locker room usage, spectators are limited, costs as reduced attendance and activity bus use, etc.

Upon no further discussion, Dr. Carter recommended holding off on athletics until the students are back in school. Tracy Stanley made a motion to approve. The motion died for lack of a second. No further decisions were made at this time.

Dr. Carter stated that direction was needed for athletics since basketball tryouts begin in December. A board member suggested if a decision is made at the December meeting to return to school that they did not have a problem letting the tryouts begin; however, it would be under the understanding that if numbers increase that it may be cancelled.

5. Resolutions

Resolutions were read aloud for Evelyn Mae Henderson and Brenda Hylton Williamson. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve the resolutions are presented for Evelyn Mae Henderson and Brenda Hylton Williamson as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation  
Of the Life of  
Evelyn Mae Henderson*



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**WHEREAS**, Evelyn Mae Henderson, was born on April 6, 1930, and resided in Henderson, NC, at the time of her death on October 27, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, Evelyn Henderson, was a faithful and loving daughter, sister, God-mother, and friend and her family’s welfare was her major and constant concern; and

**WHEREAS**, Evelyn Henderson was a graduate of Henderson Institute High School, Bennett College, North Carolina Central University and NC A&T University; and

**WHEREAS**, Evelyn Henderson was a teacher until her retirement on July 1, 1993, at NL Dillard Middle School where she taught Career Awareness/Vocational Health. She was employed with Caswell County Schools for 26 years and employed with the State of North Carolina for 36 years. She will be dearly missed and never forgotten by her family and friends 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 Evelyn Henderson 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2020.

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Gladys Garland, Chairman

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Wayne Owen, Vice Chairman

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Mel O. Battle

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vennie Beggarly

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ross Gwynn, Jr.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Donna R. Hudson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tracy P. Stanley

\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

*Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation  
Of the Life of  
Brenda Hylton Williamson*

**WHEREAS**, Brenda Hylton Williamson, was born on September 25, 1943, and resided at 2480 NC Hwy 62 South, Yanceyville, NC, at the time of her death on November 2, 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, Brenda Williamson, was a faithful and loving daughter, mother, and friend and her family’s welfare was her major and constant concern; and

**WHEREAS**, Brenda Williamson was a faithful member of Pearson Chapel AME Church where she sung in the choir. Her favorite pastime was drawing, completing crossword puzzles, calligraphy, and watching scary movies with family and friends; and

**WHEREAS**, Brenda Williamson was a graduate of Roanoke Virginia School Systems. Following High School, she graduated from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina; where she pursued her studies as a School Teacher. Prior to her retirement Brenda taught at Cobb Memorial School, Stoney Creek Elementary, North Elementary, and South Elementary schools in Caswell County. She will be dearly missed and never forgotten by

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her family and friends 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 Brenda Williamson 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 23<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2020.

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Gladys Garland, Chairman

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Wayne Owen, Vice Chairman

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Mel O. Battle

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Vennie Beggarly

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Ross Gwynn, Jr.

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Donna R. Hudson

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Tracy P. Stanley

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Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

**IV. REPORTS**

None at this time.

**V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES**

None at this time.

**VI. CLOSED SESSION**

Mel Battle 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. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**VII. OPEN SESSION**

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to return to open session. Ross Gwynn seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**VIII. PERSONNEL LISTING**



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Dr. Carter recommended leave without pay for Deborah Bradshaw to be denied. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded Donna Hudson to approve recommendation to deny request for leave without pay for Deborah Bradshaw. The motion carried 6-1 with Gwynn voting "No." (Board was polled on November 9<sup>th</sup>).

No other personnel was required for approval.

<b>Resignation</b>	
NL Dillard Middle School	Deborah Bradshaw, Receptionist = Effective 11/9/2020
	Lisa Cates, 6 <sup>th</sup> grade English teacher = Effective 11/25/2020

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Topics for upcoming work session (December 16<sup>th</sup>) were turned in.
- Chair Gladys Garland recognized Mr. Ross Gwynn and thanked him for his 15 years of service with the Caswell County Board of Education. She shared a lot has been done with strides to move forward during his tenure. She thanked him on behalf of the board for his service. Mr. Gwynn shared his thanks to the board and hoped that the board would continue to move forward and noted that Caswell County is a nice place and he has confidence in the group that things will continue to move forward.

**XI. ADJOURN**

Ross Gwynn made his final motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:33 p.m., Mel Battle seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 14, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Gladys Garland  
Chairman

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Dr. Sandra Carter  
Superintendent