

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**March 11, 2024**

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 11, 2024, at 9:00 am in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Gladys Garland, Nicole Smith, Tracy Stanley and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Dr. Douglas Barker, JoAnna Gwynn and Brook Underwood. Elaine McAdams 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**

None at this time

**I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of agenda as presented. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Nicole Smith to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**I.D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None at this time

**I.E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time

**II. REPORTS**

None at this time

**III. Unfinished Business**

None at this time

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approval of Contract for Surazal Systems, Inc.**

Dr. Barker said we have to have this contract to maintain the computer systems/switches and

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the units they have to maintain. Vennie Beggarly asked on Page 4 in regards to the prices, how does it align with us for paying? Brook Underwood said she has never seen these cost elements as mentioned on Page 4 charged on any of our invoices in the past. Motion was made to approve Surazal Systems, Inc. contract by Joel Lillard, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, motion carried unanimously.

## **2. Approval of Contract for Fresh Fruits And Vegetable Program**

Dr. Barker said this program has never been implemented for this 23-24 school year. This is an attempt to get it in approved and implemented for the next 24-25 school year. Joel Lillard asked who paid for the fruits and vegetables we had this year, Dr. Barker responded it was just covered in our budget. Joel Lillard also commented to look at No. 5 of the handout in regards to "What are the requirements for FFVP Implementation?" Joel Lillard questioned when and where the kids are getting and eating foods as snacks. Motion was made to approve the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program contract by Joel Lillard and seconded by Vennie Beggarly, motion carried unanimously.

## **3. Approval of School Calendar for 2024-2025**

Dr. Barker noted we will start school on August 26<sup>th</sup> and the week before all five days will be required work days. This will help Ms. Gwynn with her implementation for the new year. Vennie Beggarly asked about the end date of school and conflicting with the days the board members will be at the Summer Conference, June 9-14. Joel Lillard commented that the conference is usually always within the same time frame during the same week. Dr. Barker said that's the way it is, with having to get a certain amount of student days and instructional hours in. Trudy Blackwell commented that they'll just have to leave the conference early. Mr. Battle also noted that there was a two-year contract and this is the second year so then going forward dates could possibly change. Nicole Smith commented that the calendar had the work days on Mondays or attached to a Holiday, which was a good thing. Dr. Barker said they tried to take that into consideration and thought the calendar committee did a great job and worked well together getting this calendar done. Vennie Beggarly asked if we were doing the ice cream welcome back to school event and if so to please let them know the date as soon as possible. Motion to approve the School Calendar for 2024-2025 was made by Trudy Blackwell and seconded by Nicole Smith, motion carried unanimously.

## **4. Revision of Policy 2130 Board Member Compensation And Expenses**

Dr. Barker commented that there is a limit to board members can go to over an extended period of time. Do you change your policies as of that date? Or at the beginning of the school year? Said this is just the first reading, you can make changes or leave it as it is for now. Do you want to have it as if there's a meeting and it's five months before a member will go off the board, that the person couldn't attend that meeting unless it was virtually? Joel Lillard commented that we have meeting now and they don't always go to all of them. Mr. Battle commented that there are three major meetings before the terms are over this year, Summer Conference at the beach, Law Conference in

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Asheville and State Conference in Greensboro. Vennie Beggarly said she feels like if her term is up in December, she should be able to go to all meetings up until that time. Gladys Garland noted that she felt that if it would be beneficial to them, they should be able to attend at any time. Beggarly asked if we were still going to check into changing the election time to November, and Mr. Battle added that he felt like we should do that the next election time. Joel Lillard said he believed the wording should be (on Page 2 under No. 2) changed to "A board member should not be eligible to attend professional development activities at school system expense in their final (6) months." Tracy Stanley commented that at the second reading we can decide if it goes into effect, or other changes be made at that time. It was noted that Board Members have to be sworn in, in order to go these conferences. The first meeting in December board members are sworn in at that time. Dr. Barker commented that if someone leaves and their funds aren't all used, it will go back into the board "pot" of money to be re-allocated in the new year. Joel Lillard commented that when he came on the board, he got a piece of paper showing his allocation for what Wayne Owen didn't spend, and that was his money at that time. Mr. Battle said if you spend all your money, a Budget Amendment has to be done to approve expenditures. New allocations come out in July for what each board member will get. Gladys Garland said why would she even want to vote on anything in December that wouldn't even affect her? Battle said if you don't vote, it's a "Yes" vote anyway. Dr. Barker suggested to look at this again at the March 25<sup>th</sup> meeting as the second reading. Additional changes can be made then and you can decide when you'll want changes to take effect. Kathy Boyd, who is with the NC School Board Association recommended 3 rather than six-month time for board members attending conferences when knowing members will be going off the school board. It would look better not spending tax payer money. Motion made by Joel Lillard to make changes as stated above, to (6) months, seconded by Gladys Garland. No vote was taken. Further discussion will be made at the next meeting on March 25, 2024.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Update for Summer School: Dr. Barker said Raleigh has been notified to let them know that we will be holding summer school this year. The time frame/day will be from 9:00-2:00 Monday-Thursday. The focus will be on Math and Reading Skills. One will be taught in the morning and then swap off and teach other in the afternoon. There will be another activity worked in as well, be in Art, PE or Health. Teachers hours will be 8:00-3:00, with one-hour planning at the beginning and at the end of the day. With Middle School, if kids have a grade between 50-59 classes will be offered to them to attend. We'll need to have ten students in each class in order to offer a class to be taught. Joel Lillard stated he thought that teachers weren't giving out grades any lower than 55 anyway, Trudy Blackwell also agreed she'd heard the same. Dr. Barker said once teachers and kids agree to summer school they need to commit to attend every day, and not be expected to be out for vacations, etc. Trudy Blackwell asked for the Middle School, if they will go to BYSHS or to Dillard and Dr. Barker replied that it will be held at BYSHS for middle and high school grades and at Oakwood Elementary for elementary grades. Joel Lillard asked if there is extra funding set aside and if we need to re-allocate this funding? Dr. Barker verified that we have ESSA funds, and have additional Title I funds as well that we can use if we need to. If needed, we can hire other teachers to help with summer school for example in elementary, for groups of five or more students. Dr.

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Barker said we are not doing testing except at the end of summer school maybe for reading. We will rely on teacher to pass or not pass each student. We are trying to be very specific and make each child better prepared for their next school grade level. It will be better having smaller groups and more teachers to work with kids on a break out session basis.

The Multiplication Madness Event was held in the large PD room here at the Central Office. This was a great place for this to be held, buses could pull right up to doors and kids get in and out easily Dr. Barker said. There was plenty of space in the PD room. Students got very excited and Dr. Barker said he was surprised how sharp and quick kids were with their multiplication tables. Stoney Creek won 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade and North won 4<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Signature School Breakfast – This was held in Greensboro, Dr. Barker said he was able to attend and also Trudy Blackwell and Gladys Garland. Dr. Barker said that you could pick up a lot of good ideas from other schools in attendance there. We need to get the word out better than we do, about all the good things Caswell County is doing. Need to sell our success!

Purchase of School Food Service Equipment – The equipment has been ordered Dr. Barker said. We were hoping to put a hot and a cold line at each school, North and South. There is only enough money for one line at each school. We will have to put one at North and one at South.

Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the Mobile School-Based Health Center – This will be held on Monday March 25<sup>th</sup> at 4:00. Caswell County Chamber of Commerce will serve snacks in our large PD room and the Mobile Health Unit will be parked outside in our parking lot for touring.

Oakwood- Ms. Robinson sent an email (didn't get it in time for packet) stating on March 28<sup>th</sup> a K-2 Music Program will be held in the gymnasium at 1:30 p.m.

**VI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS**

Vennie Beggarly shared she got to tour the Medical Mobile Unit, and shared it was a very nice set up. She has helped at North Elementary also with their Art Program.

Gladys Garland shared she attended the Multiplication Madness and noted what a great atmosphere it was! She also enjoyed attending the Signature School Breakfast. Congratulations to Stoney Creek! She also said Congrats to the NAACP, their event was very nice as well! She attended that on Saturday March 9, 2024.

Nicole Smith shared she had attended various games and also attended the NAACP Banquet. Stated it was very nice! She said there was three Scholarships they noted. One student spoke on the fly, and told how very grateful he was for receiving the scholarship and how much the money had helped him and his family.

Joel Lillard shared he attended the Multiplication Madness, and was amazed at the excitement

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and participation with all the kids. It was mentioned that on Sunday night,

March 10<sup>th</sup>, there was a wreck at the Co-Square building and it also caught fire. He said it was nice to have Caswell County Schools also represented there with Alan Poteat helping out, as everyone tried to help in any way they could. It was also mentioned that the 5<sup>th</sup> Graders are going to Dillard on the 28<sup>th</sup> for the Beta Club Induction recognition.

Tracy Stanley attended several softball games and they were very interesting.

Trudy Blackwell shared she attended the Signature School Breakfast and said there were a lot of good ideas there and shared congratulations to Stoney Creek. She also attended the NAACP Banquet, and the board had very good representation there. She mentioned too, how teachers are continuing to reach out to parents and maintain that good contact. This is a good thing!

**VII. CLOSED SESSION**

Mr. Battle moved to go into closed session, Nicole Smith 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.

**VIII. OPEN SESSION**

Mr. Battle moved to come out of closed session, Nicole Smith made a motion to return to open session. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

**IX. PERSONNEL**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the personnel listing as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Resignations</b>	
NL Dillard Middle School	Valerie Swann (Teacher Asst.)
<b>Retirement</b>	
North Elementary School	Janice Castle, Principal = Eff. 8/2/24
<b>Employment</b>	

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Elementary Schools	Elizabeth Bradley, Admin. Specialist for all four elementary schools (floater) = Eff. TBD
Substitutes	Christine Shelton

**X. COMMUNICATIONS**

None at this time.

**XI. ADJOURN**

Gladys Garland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:40 a.m., Joel Lillard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 25, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle  
Chairman

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Dr. Douglas Barker  
Interim Superintendent