

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**March 25, 2024**

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. 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 Board Attorney Ron Bradsher. 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**

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2024, and March 11, 2024 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

**I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Barker recognized the boy scouts who were in attendance and welcomed them to the meeting.

Mel Battle welcomed Connie Kimrey back and welcomed Nicole McGhee and Lisa Knight-Johnson who were recently elected to fill seats on the Board of Education.

**I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None at this time.

**II. REPORTS**

None at this time.

**III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Mel Battle suggested moving the information for athletics to closed session and then bring back for discussion.

Policy # 2130, Board Member Compensation and Expenses

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This policy was discussed at the last meeting; however, a vote was not taken so it is being brought back as a first reading under New Business.

The suggestion was to change the length on page 2 (authorization to attend professional development activities) to six months and clarification was needed on the paragraph below on which opportunities would be included.

Joel Lillard suggested changing the wording from six months to three months. Dr. Barker shared that this was also the recommendation from Kathy Boyd with the North Carolina School Boards Association.

Discussion included mixed feelings on the timing of this policy and why not wait until the new board begins. Joel Lillard shared that in his opinion he felt that it is a waste of taxpayer money to use funds on travel if the individual is going off the board.

### IV. NEW BUSINESS

#### 1. Request for Transfer

It was requested to hold request for transfer until after closed session.

#### 2. Surplus Property Declaration

Dr. Barker reviewed the diagram provided of the property in question. Discussion took place on where the exact location is. Dr. Barker felt that the individuals should be informed first to see if they have any interest in purchasing as the land adjoins their property if the property is deemed surplus.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to table this item until more information is gathered.

#### 3. Contract for Lawn Maintenance

Dr. Barker reviewed information from lawn maintenance bids and shared that this was sent out earlier in the year than in the past and also noted that several companies were contacted to see if there was any interest.

Upon review of the contracts, Dr. Barker recommended approval of lawn care with Custom Cuts Outdoor Maintenance at a cost of \$163,800 per year. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith.

Vennie Beggarly shared she was pleased to see how the quote was broken down and itemized and questioned the information regarding ball fields and if additional maintenance is needed they are to go to the maintenance director and asked if the athletic

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director could not be included. Dr. Barker shared this is the same process as was done this past year and was not aware of any issues.

Joel Lillard questioned if the areas at North and South could be included for the overgrowth near the driveways. He shared he agreed with the contract and if there needs to be an additional charge for this to bring back for consideration. Dr. Barker will follow-up with the board on this condition.

The motion by Vennie Beggarly, seconded Nicole Smith, to approve Custom Cuts Outdoor Maintenance at a cost of \$163,800 was approved unanimously.

Custom Cuts Outdoor Maintenance  
741 Rudd Ridge Road, Yanceyville, NC 27379

Lawn Maintenance - Combines all Landscape & Maintenance  
(Includes Quote 29721, 29901, 29902, 29903, 29904, 29005, 29906, 29907)

NL Dillard	\$2400 per month	\$28,800 yearly
South	\$2300 per month	\$27,600 yearly
North	\$2300 per month	\$27,600 yearly
Stoney Creek	\$1600 per month	\$19,200 yearly
Oakwood	\$2000 per month	\$24,000 yearly
BYSHS	\$2400 per month	\$28,800 yearly
Central Office	\$650 per month	\$ 7,800 yearly
Totals:	\$13,650 per month	\$163,800 per year

4. Contract for Boiler and Pump Replacement

Dr. Barker reviewed the information regarding the current boiler and pumps at North and South Elementary and shared current pictures. He shared that at the beginning of the school year the boilers passed inspection; however, since that time both boilers have failed and on cold days someone from the maintenance department has to sit in the building at South and basically babysit it to make sure the water is functioning. The current situation is not going to continue for many more days but it is the hope to get us through the remainder of the cold days for this year. Dr. Barker shared the low bid was with American and he recommended repairing both boilers as the same situation is about to occur at North and this will allow time to have them fixed over the summer when students are out of the building. He shared that they will not last through another year and will require using fund balance at this time to make these purchases. Dr. Barker shared that this is something to include in the budget with hopes that the Board of Commissioners would be willing to assist with. Dr. Barker shared that the boilers have made it for many years due to the diligence of the maintenance department but eventually they will need to be replaced and we are currently at that point.

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Dr. Barker recommended approval of contract with American at a cost of \$132,682.00 per school using fund balance to replace boilers at North and South Elementary as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve contract with American as presented to replace boilers at North and South Elementary at a cost of \$132,682.00 per school using fund balance. The motion carried unanimously.

American

PO Box 16224, Greensboro, NC

Cost: (Total price with controls add) = \$132,682.00 per school

Total Cost = \$265,364

Fund Source = Fund Balance

### 5. Policy # 2130, Board Member Compensation and Expenses

Dr. Barker recommended approval of first reading of Policy # 2130 with the wording to indicate “three months” on Page 2, Paragraph 2 (Authorization to Attend Professional Development Activities) and the wording will be listed as “including” for the portion for professional development opportunities.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve first reading of Policy # 2130 as presented with changes as noted. The motion carried unanimously. The policy will lay on the table for second reading.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Dr. Barker shared updates on the following:

- Ribbon Cutting for Mobile Health Bus was held earlier today and was a nice turnout.

## VI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- Trudy Blackwell and shared she participated in the ribbon cutting for the mobile health bus and encouraged sharing information with parents as this is just like going to the doctor office. This is a very nice addition to our school system. She also shared reports cards will be coming home soon.
- Tracy Stanley also shared she attended the mobile health bus ribbon cutting and noted this will be a great addition to our system. She shared report cards should be going home on Tuesday.
- Joel Lillard echoed the same regarding the mobile health bus and shared this is an awesome addition for our students and staff. He attended the BETA induction and noted this was a fantastic event and was impressed with the number of students involved.

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- Mel Battle also had similar comments with the mobile health bus and noted the BETA club was well represented and extended congratulation to students and staff who coordinated this event.
- Nicole Smith requested if something could be shared at the next meeting regarding the athletic report information.
- Gladys Garland attended the mobile health bus ribbon cutting and the BETA club event and noted both were very nice events.
- Vennie Beggarly shared she also attended the ribbon cutting and had actually used the mobile health bus for an ear infection and was very impressed. She noted that a student or staff member can use the bus even though it is not at their designated school if they have access to get to the site it is located. She had lunch at NL Dillard and also attended ballgames at the middle and high school.

**VI. CLOSED SESSION**

Joel Lillard 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**

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

**VIII. PERSONNEL LISTING**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

<b>Retirement</b>	
NL Dillard Middle School	Ella Jones, Eff. 7/1/24
Central Office / District	Tammy Zylka, Speech Language Pathologist = Eff. 7/1/24
North Elementary	Shirley Shive, Teacher = Eff. 7/1/24
<b>Employment</b>	
North Elementary	Lisa Ranzo, K-6 Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24
South Elementary	Breya Corbett, K-6 Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24
	Jane Sorrell, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 4/8/24

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**Request for Transfer**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the first three transfer requests as presented for the remainder of the school year. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the last request on the list as presented for the remainder of the school year. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried 5-2 with Beggarly and Smith voting "No."

Dixon, Karson	ABSS	to	Caswell (BYSHS = 9 <sup>th</sup> grade)
Gattis, Keegan	ABSS	to	Caswell (South = K)
Irvin, Kynslay	ABSS	to	Caswell (South = 1 <sup>st</sup> grade)
Barnwell, Jaylah	ABSS	to	Caswell (Stoney Creek = 5 <sup>th</sup> grade)

*(Note: Tuition will be waived for the remainder of the 2023/24 school year)*

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Testing update
- Update guidelines for Covid

Joel Lillard suggested having a work session prior to the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell to have a work session beginning at 3:15 p.m. on April 22, 2024. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Barker shared that he appreciated the report that was presented from the high school on athletic expenditures. The remainder of the \$25,000 has been sent over for the high school and middle school and if this has not occurred he will update the board with any changes.

**X. ADJOURN**

Gladys Garland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m., Joel Lillard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on April 22, 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