

**Jackson County Board of Education
Minutes of Regular Meeting
Sylva, North Carolina**

398 Hospital Road, Sylva

May 28, 2024

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education held their regular session on Tuesday, May 28, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office Boardroom, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Elizabeth Cooper, Chairperson
Wes Jamison, Vice Chairperson
Abigail Clayton
Kim Moore
Dr. Lynn Dillard

Also present were Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent; Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent; Ashley Leonard, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper called the business meeting to order.

Smokey Mountain Elementary School 5th through 8th Grade Students led the Pledge of Allegiance and sang the National Anthem.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Dr. Ayers presented certificates of recognition to the following staff and students:

1. Aspiring Administrators - Ashley Steinel, Katie Ray and Ray Crawford
2. Traci West – Regional CIMC Leadership Team and Western Regional Coaching Champion
3. Kayla Anthony – JCS Jobs for America’s Graduates Scrapbook Competition and Jacob Lambert One of the Most Outstanding JAG students
4. WCU Language Contest – SMHS Students
1st: Poetry Recitation: Sylvia Bauguess reciting Soneto XLV by Pablo Neruda
1st: Individual Video: Ella Ledford singing La Flor by Selena
3rd: Massive Trivia Game: Jackson Monteith

CONSENT ACTION AGENDA

Action: Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:

- A. Draft Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of April 23, 2024.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report
Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers reported on the following:

1. Thank you for a wonderful close to the school year with students. I am so appreciative that all of you were able to attend promotion and graduation ceremonies and our schools. Your visibility is important for our community.
2. At the end of April, we joined in the rainy fun to have our Special Olympics Spring Games on the fields at SMHS. The weather didn't cooperate, but our athletes definitely did, and the day was filled with joyous smiles. This is the second Special Olympics event this year as we held the first-ever bowling event earlier this year.
3. The month of May has been extraordinarily busy. JCPS graduated 261 students in four graduations while recognizing many other students through promotion ceremonies. We honored staff at the annual Excellence in Education event on May 2nd, watched our seniors participate in the first grad walk from the Jackson County Public Library, celebrated Teacher Appreciation week in unique manners at each school, held athletic banquets, administered End of Grade and End of Course exams, and closed out with field days. The finish for the year was strong.
4. Meanwhile, this week our principals and central office staff have begun planning for the new school year that begins, for students, on August 14th. Good changes and additions to our school academic areas are ahead for the fall. Southwestern Community College will be offering new, in-person classes on the Smoky Mountain High and Blue Ridge Early College campuses. We are collaborating with teachers in middle grades math and science to offer advanced curriculum opportunities for middle school students and steadily advocating to be granted a JROTC program at SMHS. JCPS is also partnering with Communities in Schools to hire for a new class at BREC, Jobs for North Carolina Graduates (also known as JAG), which will provide career exploration and leadership strategies for grades 10-12. Only one other school in our district has this class and it is making a huge impact on high school students. Part of the agreement is that students will be followed beyond graduation to ensure job opportunities and success.
5. At the May 2nd North Carolina High School Athletic Association's virtual meeting, I was honored with nominations for and selection to the NCHSAA Board of Directors for a four-year term. I am thrilled with this new, added role that allows me to be an advocate for JCPS and student-athletes in the western region, Region 8. Superintendents and other district administrators are selected based on the need for representation in each class size and region. What a privilege this is for me!
6. In closing, THANK YOU to the supporters of JCPS who are active in their respective roles. The impact that our community makes on students is commendable.

- B. **Agenda Item:** Construction Management at Risk

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan discussed using Construction Management at Risk. CMAR is a project delivery method in which the owner hires a construction manager to oversee the project from design to construction close-out. He said that it is our intent to recommend using CMAR upon receipt of construction project funding.

C. **Agenda Item:** EC Annual Report Program Indicators

Presenter: Kelly Doppke

Mrs. Doppke updated the board on the EC Annual Report Program Indicators.

D. **Agenda Item:** Boardroom Audio and Streaming

Presenter: Greg Stewart, CTO

Mr. Stewart updated the board on the resolution of the audio and streaming issues from previous board meetings and changes being made to correct these deficiencies.

E. **Agenda Item:** GoGuardian and Gaggle Cooperative and Subsidized Pricing

Presenter: Greg Stewart, CTO

Mr. Stewart discussed the GoGuardian and Gaggle Cooperative and Subsidized Pricing. GoGuardian and Gaggle are student safety and digital learning platforms that we plan to obtain after the DPI subsidized pricing is announced.

F. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented the Unaudited Financial Summary as of May 2024.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ACTION AGENDA

A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments

Presenter: Mrs. Kristie Walker, Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. Walker presented budget amendments to the Federal Grants Fund, School Nutrition Fund, and the State Public School Fund and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the budget amendments to the Federal Grants Fund, School Nutrition Fund, and the State Public School Fund.*

B. **Agenda Item:** Board of Education Meeting Schedule for 2024-2025

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the proposed calendar for the 2024-2025 Board of Education meeting schedule and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 Board of Education meeting schedule.*

C. Agenda Item: The Catamount School Memorandum of Agreement

Presenter: Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Superintendent

Dr. Ayers presented the revised Catamount School Memorandum of Agreement that will replace the previous MOA and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Catamount School Memorandum of Agreement.*

D. Agenda Item: 2024-2025 School Nutrition Bids

Presenter: Laura Cabe, School Nutrition Director

Ms. Cabe presented the 2024-2025 School Nutrition bids and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 School Nutrition bids.*

E. Agenda Item: IDEA Grant

Presenter: Kelly Doppke, Student Support Services Director

Mrs. Doppke presented the FY2025 IDEA Grant Application and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the FY2025 IDEA Grant Application.*

F. Agenda Item: CTE Local Application for 2024-2025

Presenter: Angie Dills, Assistant Superintendent

Mrs. Dills presented the 2024-2025 CTE Local Application and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2024-2025 CTE Local Application.*

G. Agenda Item: Purchase Apple iPad Computers

Presenter: Greg Stewart, CTO

Mr. Stewart presented the bids for the purchase of Apple iPad computers from Apple Inc. for JCPS and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of Apple iPad computers from Apple Inc.*

- H. **Agenda Item:** Approval of Telephone Provider for JCPS
Presenter: Greg Stewart, CTO

Mr. Stewart presented the quote from Granite Government Solutions to provide telephone services for JCPS and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve Granite Government Solutions for telephone services for JCPS.*

- I. **Agenda Item:** NC ESS Contract Addendum
Presenter: Teri Walawender, HR Director

Mrs. Walawender presented the addendum to the NC ESS contract for substitute services and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the NC ESS contract addendum.*

- J. **Agenda Item:** Purchase of All Abilities Space at SMHS
Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the Smoky Mountain High School Playground Proposal from Churchich and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of SMHS playground equipment from Churchich.*

- K. **Agenda Item:** Resurface the Gym Floor at SMHS
Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the quote from Carolina Hardwood and Construction, Inc. for the resurfacing of the gymnasium floor at Smoky Mountain High School and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the quote from Carolina Hardwood and Construction, Inc. to resurface the gym floor at SMHS.*

- L. **Agenda Item:** Policy Updates
Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

1. Graduation Requirements (3460)
2. Organization of the Purchasing Function (6410)

Mr. Buchanan presented the above-listed policy updates and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the above-listed policy updates.*

M. Agenda Item: Bus Radio and Repeater purchase – COPS Grant funds

Presenter: Jake Buchanan, Deputy Superintendent

Mr. Buchanan presented the Quote from Western Carolina Communications Systems for the purchase of bus radios and repeaters for JCPS and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the purchase of bus radios and repeaters from WCCS.*

N. Agenda Item: Interim Budget Resolution for FT 2024-2025

Presenter: Kristie Walker, CFO

Mrs. Walker presented the board with the Interim Budget Resolution for Fiscal Year 2024-2025 and asked for board approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the Interim Budget Resolution for FY 2024-2025.*

CLOSED SESSION

The board unanimously approved a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-32 and (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.

Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Action: *Upon a motion by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of March 19, 2024.

PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA

Action: *Upon a motion made by Mr. Wes Jamison and seconded by Mrs. Abigail Clayton, the board voted unanimously to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Ayers. Abigail Clayton recused herself from the vote for Contract Renewal for Fairview Elementary School Teacher #15. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

Employee Recommendations:

1. Adams, Savita – Extended Employment DHH Instructor, District-wide
2. Alich, Daniel – Teacher, BREC
3. Austin, Kayla – Extended Employment Occupational Therapist, District-wide
4. Bishop, Samantha – Media Coordinator, CVES
5. Blanton, Rebekah – Teacher, FES
6. Boaz, Brittany – Teacher, CVES
7. Browning, Amy – Student Data Manager Extended Employment, SCES
8. Bryson, Ginger – Receptionist Extended Employment, BRS
9. Bullard, Luther – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS
10. Condill, Charles – Assistant Principal, SMES
11. Draper, Samantha – Teacher, FES
12. Foxx, Kieran – School Psychologist Extended Employment, District-wide
13. Frese, Jamie – Assistant Principal Extended Employment, SMES
14. Galloway, Carlene – Substitute Bus Driver, SMHS
15. Giles, Petra – EC Pre-K Coordinator Extended Employment, District-wide
16. Gotay, Keyshla – School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
17. Gotay, Maria – School Nutrition Assistant, SCES
18. Hickey, Justine – Teacher, BRS
19. Holden, Tracie – Teacher, SCES
20. Jackson, Paula – Assistant Principal, BRS and BREC
21. Jeleniewski, Paige – School Counselor Extended Employment, SMHS
22. Langford, Matthew – Band Director Extended Employment, SMHS
23. Luker, Allison – Student Data Manager Extended Employment, CVES
24. Macke, Stacy – School Counselor Extended Employment, SMHS
25. Marquez, Olivia – School Psychologist Extended Employment, District-wide
26. Massey, Lauren – Teacher, SMHS
27. Massingale, Shealyn – Pre-K Teacher Assistant, SMES
28. McNabb, Stacy – Instructional Coach Extended Employment, BRS
29. McRight, Nicole – Speech Language Pathologist Extended Employment, District-wide
30. Morden, Katy – Choral Music Teacher, SMHS
31. Morris, Anthony – LAN Engineer, Central Office
32. Mulligan, Lara – Assistant Principal. CVES
33. Myer, Sarah – Teacher Assistant, SCES
34. Nordmann, Clare – Occupational Therapist Assistant Extended Employment, District-wide
35. Postell, JT – Head Coach Football Extended Employment, SMHS
36. Ruiz, Maria – Teacher, SMHS
37. Scherman, Lindsay – Teacher, SCES
38. Schneider, Tiana – Teacher, CVES
39. Shuler, Shannon – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
40. Stiffler, Kerstin – School Counselor Extended Employment, SMHS
41. Stockton, Jordan – Teacher, SMHS
42. Sutton, Brandi – Homebound Teacher, SMES
43. Young, Thomas – Athletic Director Extended Employment, SMHS

Employee Recommendations – Summer Programs:

1. Ashe, Brandon – Bus Driver, FES

2. Bailey, Rebecca – EC Teacher, CVES
3. Bates, April – Custodian, CVES
4. Bell, Tasha – Summer Cleaning Custodian, SMHS
5. Biddix, Mark – Bus Driver, FES
6. Browning, Amy – EC Teacher, SCES
7. Campbell, Dave – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
8. Cauley, Jeremy – Bus Driver, SCES
9. Cochran, Trevor – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
10. Cooper, Michaela – School Nutrition Intern, District-wide
11. Crawford, Wayne – Bus Driver, SCES
12. Cunningham, Brittney – Custodian, CVES
13. Ensley, Bailey – Bus Driver, SCES
14. Evans, Kayla – Custodian, CVES
15. Gotay, Keyshla – Custodian, SCES
16. Larch, Catherine – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
17. McElroy, Craig – Homebound Teacher, SMHS
18. McGrew, Tucker – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
19. Moody-Bumgarner, Mary – Bus Driver, SCES
20. Naegler, Charae – EC Teacher, CVES
21. Painter, Chelsea – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
22. Parris, Judy – Custodian, SMHS
23. Pierce, Joshua – Custodian, CVES
24. Pol, Lana – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
25. Potthoff, Allison – Custodian, SMHS
26. Primo, Ciara – EC Teacher, CVES
27. Rhymer, Kendall – EC Teacher, CVES
28. Rhymer, Kendall – EC Homebound Teacher, CVES
29. Sandoval, Cassandra – EC Teacher, CVES
30. Shuler, Brittney – Summer Cleaning Custodian, SCES
31. Sizemore, Brenda – Summer Paint Crew, District-wide
32. Taylor, Frank “Mike” – EC Bus Driver, CVES
33. Watkins, Rebekkah – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES
34. Whisnant-Longanecker, Crystal – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES

Employee Resignations:

1. Ainsley, Wendy – Teacher, FES
2. Bledsoe, Pamela – Instructional Support Teacher Assistant, FES
3. Buck, Bailey – School Nutrition Assistant, BRS
4. Cherbonny, Elisabeth – School Nutrition Assistant, FES
5. Cope, Kristina – EC Teacher, SMHS
6. Crisp, Julia – Custodian and Bus Driver, SMHS
7. Dunn, Karen – Teacher, SMHS
8. Marshall, Nadia – EC Teacher Assistant, FES
9. Moss, Amber – Teacher, FES
10. Owen, Shianna – Custodian, BRS
11. Roles, Caice – Teacher, JCS
12. Sydykbekova, Alymkan – EC Teacher Assistant, CVES

Employee Retirements:

1. Hummer, Suzanne – Teacher, SMES

Employee Separations:

1. Cable, Isaac – Custodian, FES
2. Howell, Joshua – Bus Driver and Head Coach Women’s Basketball and Assistant Coach Men’s Basketball, FES
3. Valentine, Rebekah – School Nutrition Manager, BRS

Special Requests – Leave of Absence:

1. Davis, Trisha – EC Teacher Assistant, SMHS
2. Massingale, Shealyn – Pre-K Teacher Assistant SMES

Staff, Non-Staff and Returning Coach Recommendations:

1. Caldwell, Michael – Assistant Coach Baseball, FES – New Non-Staff
2. Cooper, Jack – Head Coach District MS Football, SMHS – Returning Non-Staff
3. Joiner, Melanie – Head Coach Dance Team, SMHS – New Non-Staff
4. Tallent, Trevor – Assistant Coach JV Men’s Soccer, SMHS – New Non-Staff

Administrator and Director Contract Renewals:

1. Bryson, April
2. Crisp, Rayna
3. Davies, Ed
4. Doppke, Kelly
5. Frizzell, Nathan
6. Graning, Evelyn
7. Jacobs, Melanie
8. Macaulay, Eleanor
9. Walawender, Teri

Teacher Contract Renewals:

Blue Ridge Early College and Blue Ridge School

1. Alich, Daniel
2. Coggins, Anita
3. Leathers, Annette
4. Morgan, Cynthia
5. Mullally, Fransisca
6. Smathers, Stephanie
7. Steen, Ashlee
8. Ward, Charlene
9. Watkins, Rebekkah
10. Watkins, Susan

Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

1. Bonen-Clark, Michael
2. Brown, Eryn
3. Conley, Sydney

4. Flora, Kayla
5. Fox, Abigail
6. Frazier, Brooke
7. Garrison, Leslie
8. Hall, Madelyn
9. Harrill, Leroy
10. Harris, Donna
11. Israel, Jordan
12. Lambert, Julie
13. Nytko, Emily
14. Pitcher, Beth
15. Rainwater, Erin
16. Rhymer, Kendall
17. Sandova, Cassandra
18. Smith, Steven
19. Stiles, Maria
20. Sutton, Natalie
21. Thompson, Robert

Fairview Elementary School

1. Allred, Alexis
2. Ammons, Stephanie
3. Benitez-Represa, Evelyn
4. Bowers, Brittany
5. Boyles, Autumn
6. Hansen, Debbie
7. Jamison, Smanatha
8. Libby, Jonathan
9. Maney, Emma
10. McGee, Hailey
11. Penny-Nicholson, Olivia
12. Shull, Heather
13. Taylor, Lora
14. Turnmire, Cheryl
15. Woods, Anna

Jackson Community School

1. Bailey, Rebecca
2. Mwaniki, Sarah
3. Pero, Josphe
4. Phillips, Judy
5. Silvers, Danielle

Jackson County Early College

1. McMahan, Kathy

Scotts Creek Elementary School

1. Dewantara, Candace
2. Jenkins, Sarah
3. Lynch, Madelyn
4. McMahan, Luisa
5. Medford, Taylor
6. Norman, Kaitlyn
7. Powell, Lindsey
8. Primo, Ciara
9. Umphlett, Courtney

Smoky Mountain Elementary School

1. Alexander, Trevor
2. Beam, Michael
3. Bell, Tasha
4. Burchette, Marissa
5. Dodson (Smith), Kaitlyn
6. Doll, Victoria
7. Gaspard-Powers, Alana
8. Jenkins, Joy
9. King, Morgan
10. McGrew, Tucker
11. Saavedra, Charito
12. Sutton, Brandi
13. Taylor, Tiffany
14. Tidwell, Wendy
15. Touzel, Rebecca
16. Volk, Amanda

Smoky Mountain High School

1. Barone, Christopher
2. Doner-Campbell, Jaclyn
3. DuFresne, Claire
4. Forsythe, Cristina
5. Guillermo, Dominador
6. Hoyle, Elizabeth
7. Hyatt, Danyiele
8. Langford, Matthew
9. Laws, Kayla
10. Marcus, Cecilia
11. Marquez, Olivia
12. McCall, Cheryl
13. McNider, James
14. Naeglar, Charae
15. Nelson, Gabrielle
16. Noran, Nicole
17. Parsons, Laura
18. Pinkerton, Randi
19. Porterfield, Curtis

20. Postell, James (JT)
21. Renegar, Nanette
22. Stiffler, Kerstin
23. Stiffler, Mark
24. Varian, Lynn
25. Wilson, Erik
26. Young, Thomas

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is June 25, 2024, at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, NC.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairperson Elizabeth Cooper adjourned the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

Elizabeth K. Cooper, Chairperson

Dr. Dana L. Ayers, Secretary