

# CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 20, 2024, at 9:00 a.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 with remembrance to the student who passed away over the weekend as well as to the family, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the minutes of the April 22, 2024, regular meeting and April 22, 2024 work session minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

## **I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

## **I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Dr. Barker thanked the staff for handling the crisis that occurred over the weekend with the death of a student and injuries to others. One student was killed and their siblings were injured in a domestic violence situation. This is a very difficult situation for all involved and has affected three schools. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Dr. Barker shared an update on the sports program at the high school and shared that they have made the community and the school system proud with their recent accomplishments.

Track did well and set new personal records. Those include Senior Jaylen Neal who placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for Long Jump. The 4 x 100 team placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the state. Alexis Farrish placed 15<sup>th</sup> in the state for Shot Put.

Varsity baseball went to the third round of state playoffs and the Lady Buccaneer Softball team advanced to the second round in the state playoffs.

Congratulations to Sarah Chandler on receiving her National Board certification. Dr. Barker shared she was to be at the meeting today; however, opted to stay at the school to assist with students due to the incident that occurred over the weekend.

# CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

Chairman Mel Battle read a note of thanks from Dr. Barker and his wife, Becky, on the recognition at the end of year banquet and for the rocking chairs noting they were very appreciative of them. Mr. Battle thanked Dr. Barker for his willingness to come back and help the district for the past year.

## I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

## II. REPORTS

### School Health Advisory Council – Vaping Education

School Nurse Kim Shelton and Mary Holderness shared a brief presentation on vaping and the effects on students and their recommendations for adding additional wording in the policy. It was asked that the board consider this prior to the next school year when reviewing the policy and discipline for student handbooks.

### Eureka Math

Ms. JoAnna Gwynn shared an overview of the Eureka Math. Dr. Barker shared that this past year he has not heard any negative or positive comments but felt that in the past the issue may have been from the implementation. Ms. Gwynn shared the plan for the summer is to continue with it and make sure it is aligned with the curriculum for summer school.

It was discussed that last year there was an issue with the fifth-grade testing not aligning with Eureka Math and asked if this could be looked at. Dr. Barker shared that curriculum and testing needs to have the gaps filled in and Ms. Gwynn plans to work on this especially with new teachers. Ms. Gwynn has a system in place that she plans to work on to make sure teachers are properly and are getting the most out of the programs. Dr. Barker noted that with the changes in the administration he felt that changes would be seen going forward. It was questioned if going forward that additional resources could be found to go along with word problems.

Dr. Barker shared again that the implementation seemed to be the issue. Once teachers buy in most will be willing to work with you; however, mandating things that are not supervised is unrealistic. He felt we are on the right track now for the summer and the next school year.

## III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

### Fence at North Elementary

An updated draft of a fence for North Elementary was shared with updating pricing. This will assist the area at the playground for safety issues. Dr. Barker shared that the PTO has asked for assistance in paying for the remaining amount which is approximately \$3500. He shared that in the past funding was set aside in the budget for matching funds. The past few years this was removed and Dr. Barker has put that back in the budget for situations that may be brought to

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

the board. We do have the funding to pay for this and recommends paying it to assist the PTO at North Elementary.

Dr. Barker recommended approval of funding in the amount of \$3500 to assist with fence at North Elementary. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve payment of \$3500 for fence at North Elementary with matching funds. The motion carried unanimously.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

- Requests for Transfer
- Policy Updates
  - ❖ 1760/7280 - Prohibition Against Retaliation
  - ❖ 2127 - Board Member Technology Use
  - ❖ 3220 - Technology in the Educational Program
  - ❖ 3225/4312/7320 - Technology Responsible Use
  - ❖ 3420 - Student Promotion & Accountability
  - ❖ 3460 - Graduation Requirements
  - ❖ 3620 - Extracurricular Activities & Student Organizations
  - ❖ 4040/7310 - Staff-Student Relations
  - ❖ 4140 - Foreign Exchange Students
  - ❖ 4240/7312 - Child Abuse & Related Threats to Child Safety
  - ❖ 4270/6145 - Concussion & Head Injury
  - ❖ 5071/7351 - Electronically Stored Information Retention
  - ❖ 6125 - Administering Medicines to Students
  - ❖ 7130 - Licensure
  - ❖ 8510 - School Finance Officer
- Contract - Child Nutrition (Milk Vendors Contract)
- EC Contracts

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

Requests for Transfer (2024/25)

|                 |          |    |                               |
|-----------------|----------|----|-------------------------------|
| Banda, Elaynee  | Caswell  | to | Rockingham (7 <sup>th</sup> ) |
| Camp, Lynnlee   | Caswell  | to | ABSS (K)                      |
| Rone, Frederick | Caswell  | to | Guilford (5 <sup>th</sup> )   |
| King, Ava       | Danville | to | Caswell (1 <sup>st</sup> ) ** |
| King, Zoey      | Danville | to | Caswell (1 <sup>st</sup> ) ** |
| King, Ethan     | Danville | to | Caswell (7 <sup>th</sup> ) ** |

\*\* Tuition will apply

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**May 20, 2024**

Milk Bids Child Nutrition

|                             |             |
|-----------------------------|-------------|
| DFA Dairy Brand / PET Dairy | \$26,776.62 |
| Marva Maid Dairy            | \$29,670.75 |

EC Contracts

Audiologist

John E. Sexton & Associates

Cost - \$605/month + travel from office & battery replacements

Estimated Annual Cost = \$7,200

Physical Therapy (Two Contracts - Ann Ramey & Rosie Kirby)

Ann Ramey, Physical Therapist

Cost - \$70/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$20,000

Rosie Kirby, Physical Therapist

Cost - \$50/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$25,000

Occupational Therapy

Speech & Occupational Therapists Specialists

Cost - \$62.50/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$32,000

Nursing Services

IntelliChoice Staffing, LLC

Cost - \$55.00/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$69,300

Speech Therapy

Cheshire Center

Cost = \$65.00/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$128,700

Speech Stars, PLLC

Cost - \$65.00/hr.

Estimated Annual Cost = \$207,000

Vision Support Services

Invision Services, Inc.

Cost = \$88.00/hr. for TVI/O&M Direct Services (\$95/hr. if virtual)

\$58.50/hr. for Braille Production

\$125/hr. for special services

Estimated Annual Cost = \$29,900

## CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

### 2. LETRS Professional Development

Dr. Barker reviewed the listing of staff who completed LETRS training. These were paid from ESSER funds last year upon completion. A listing of who is eligible was provided and Dr. Barker shared that funding is provided from ESSER this year but this money will end after this year and if the board wishes to continue with payment they will need to look at this at budget time as you may need to have some funding available for the new teachers who will complete Volume I. He suggested paying them as there is a quick turnaround and those that are on the list are expected to return next school year.

Some concerns were those that are retiring; however, Dr. Barker shared that they still completed the training and were instrumental in this past year with the amount of vacancies we had.

It was shared that this is something that wasn't agreed to continue on a year to year basis and once ESSER funds are gone the board did not want to be obligated to continue paying. Dr. Barker agreed that teachers will also be losing the 10% supplement when ESSER funding is gone and the board cannot continue to obligate paying for things when funding is not available. Dr. Barker shared that thankfully ESSER funds were not used to hire people but salaries will be cut.

Dr. Barker recommended paying the \$500 contingent for those who completed the LETRS training using ESSER funds. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the \$500 for completion of LETRS training using ESSER funds. The motion carried unanimously.

### 3. Automated Logic Contract

Dr. Barker shared that this is needed for the electronic system for the high school. It requires maintenance that our own maintenance department is not trained to do. This system basically controls the high school. It makes more sense to enter a contract versus the hourly rate that would be charged without a contract.

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the contract with Automated Logic Contract as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the contract with Automated Logic Contract as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

(Funding = Maintenance Budget)

## CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

### 4. Eureka Math Renewal

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the renewal contract with Eureka Math as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve renewal contract with Eureka Math. The motion carried unanimously.

It was shared that with Eureka Math there are no textbooks but workbooks are provided.

## V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Dr. Barker shared updates on the following:

- Activity bus guidelines were reviewed. Dr. Barker shared these were used to be adhered to in years past; however, things have not been flowing correctly so the new guidelines will take place effective July 1, 2024.
- Activity buses and charter buses were discussed. Dr. Barker shared the protocol for when a charter bus should be used noting that the expense for these buses is not budgeted. In the past charter buses were used due to the fact that we did not have a safe bus to travel long distances. We recently acquired a new activity bus and the transportation director is looking into three yellow buses provided from the State that are in good condition and if acquired will need painting. In recent years the activity bus schedule was not handled and no buses were purchased for the school system.

Concerns were shared with the recent sport playoffs in which the baseball team used the smaller activity bus and the track team used the new activity bus. It was shared that there was not enough room on the bus for the baseball team and felt there were safety issues. Other discussion took place on the need for charter buses to be used for playoffs. Dr. Barker shared that the cost of the charter buses is expensive and the board should look at the cost of the rentals and the amount spent versus buying a new activity bus for the future. Dr. Barker shared that the girls alumni group chartered the bus for the softball team and the board agreed in years past that if an alumni group or PTO would like to do this they can and the board would not have a say so other than having our transportation department check out the charter bus for safety as required. The goal of the school system is to provide a safe mode of transportation and if the activity buses are not deemed safe by our transportation department that is when the option of chartering a bus should be looked at. The discussion at that time should be through the principal, transportation director and superintendent. It would be difficult to create a policy as you are never aware of when and where it will be needed as well as other activities going on that create issues in charter rentals. It was questioned if a

## CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

charter bus is rented is there an issue with allowing parents to ride. Dr. Barker shared if he is the superintendent he does not have an issue with it as long as the numbers do not exceed the requirements and space is available. Dr. Barker shared that he hopes going forward this procedure is shared with everyone and reminder to the board that this is not a board decision. This recent situation, due to three teams playing in the state finals, and the timing was critical. It was his hope that the board will share this information with the community so that rationale behind the charter buses is shared.

It was shared that the baseball team did not have enough room on the activity bus they were given and there were safety concerns. Dr. Barker shared he was not aware but going forward this would be looked at. He reminded the board that if charter buses are something they are going to look at that money needs to be set aside in the budget and then it involves factoring in how many miles away students will be sent to best determine how much money to budget for which makes it very difficult.

Other concerns shared including the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and the divisions they are playing school districts in as well as the amount of travel for state playoffs.

One concern included when a coach is driving the bus and also coaching, as well as driving the team back, that the need for an additional driver is needed in these situations.

- Low Wealth Supplement

Dr. Barker reminded the board that this is to be voted on by the board each year and decide on who receives it. Brook Underwood, Finance Director, shared that funding arrived later this year from the state. This cannot be given out until the allotment is received.

## VI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

Trudy Blackwell shared she attended the end of year banquet and noted it was outstanding. She enjoyed the laughter and the fact that event incorporated participation from all. It was truly a wonderful night and thanks to Connie Kimrey for organizing the event.

Tracy Stanley shared congratulations to all the sports teams at the high school. She also noted that mental health is truly an issue to not take lightly noting the recent event that occurred over the weekend with our students.

## CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

Joel Lillard shared the end of year banquet was amazing. It was a great night. He also shared the students are enjoying the field trips noting that this is the first year for some students due to Covid and was thankful these are being put back into place.

Mel Battle shared the banquet was most enjoyable and he truly had a lot of fun. He has seen a lot of changes in Caswell and although we deal with issues, Caswell County Schools is still a good system to work with. He also thanked Dr. Barker again for all he has done to help get the system back on track.

Nicole Smith shared congratulations to the track, softball and baseball teams. She attended the end of year banquet and thanked Connie Kimrey for her hard work and to the staff that assisted. She also attended Special Olympics and shared this was a very humbling event to work with and she enjoyed helping. She shared that Mr. Nelson Showalter works along with the Dabbs family and they both do a lot for our community with this event. She sent her condolences to the family that lost a child and to the family for all they are dealing with.

Gladys Garland shared she attended the high school prom, Special Olympics, and the end of year banquet and all were very nice events.

Vennie Beggarly shared she attended the Battle of the Books which was a nice event, she attended some of the sports playoff games and was proud of our student athletes. She attended the NLD banquet, assisted with teacher appreciation week, and Special Olympics. She noted the end of year banquet was outstanding. Also, she shared that Ms. Chavez at North has done a wonderful job with the art show and student artwork.

### **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. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VII. OPEN SESSION**

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

### **VIII. PERSONNEL LISTING**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the contract listing for one and four-year contracts and for central office personnel as reviewed. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**May 20, 2024**

Vennie Beggarly, to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

| <b>One Year Contract (2025)</b>        |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School</b> | <b>NL Dillard Middle School</b> |
| Baskerville, Jalen                     | Anika, Andrea                   |
| Camp, Stephen                          | Baldwin, Silas                  |
| Cobler, Jimmy                          | Bambury, Teresa                 |
| Cook, Antwain                          | Brooks, Jerica                  |
| Creed, Hannah                          | Crews, Elizabeth                |
| Denny, Harlee                          | Crowe, Leslie                   |
| Foster, Anna                           | Flores, Carlos                  |
| Franklin, Richard                      | Franklin, Heather               |
| Hanks, Jarrett                         | Jeffers, Nannie                 |
| Harris, Deauti                         | Joyce, Jeffrey                  |
| Hawk, Makaila                          | Karney, HeatherLynn             |
| Hicks, Sharon                          | Owen, Casey                     |
| Inge, Michelle                         | Pacheco, Robin                  |
| Joubert, Noelle                        | Phillips, Dawn                  |
| Lane, Breanna                          | Roycroft, Kari                  |
| Montgomery, Dalton                     | Walker, Kyle                    |
| Patton, Christie                       | Diggs, Paula                    |
| Rengifo-Daza, Christian                |                                 |
| Roberson, Patricia (Kim)               |                                 |
| Sladky, Julie                          |                                 |
| Sprainger, James                       |                                 |
| Springer, Miriam                       |                                 |
| Williams, Dakota                       |                                 |
| Williams, Mykel                        |                                 |
| Witzgal, Ian                           |                                 |
| Woods, Jim                             |                                 |
|  |                                 |
| <b>Oakwood</b>                         | <b>North</b>                    |
| Benson, Jenny                          | Ashe, Brittney                  |
| Goras, Rebeckah                        | Jones, Kim                      |
| Hamlett, Tara                          | Lawson, Leslie                  |
| Isom, Cheryl                           | McPherson, Monica (Split PE)    |
| Jones, Angela                          | McQuilken, Emily                |
| McPherson, Monica (Split PE)           | Myers, Leanna                   |
| Powell, Elizabeth                      | Ranzo, Lisa                     |
| Thompson, Nancy                        | Strader-Wampler, Wendy          |
|  | Ward, Heather                   |
|  | Webster, Amber                  |

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**  
**May 20, 2024**

| <b>One Year Contract (2025)</b>        |                                |
|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>South Elementary</b>                | <b>Stoney Creek Elementary</b> |
| Corbet, Brea                           | Campbell, Laura                |
| Matherly, Pam (Split Music)            | Cole, Nicole                   |
| McCollister, Laura (Split - Art)       | Galloway, Victoria             |
| Walker, Kolby                          | Graham, Noemi                  |
| Foster, Tia                            | Lunsford, Jessica              |
| Gardner, Deanna                        | Matherly, Pam (Split Music)    |
|  | McCullister, Laura (Split Art) |
|  | McPherson, Monica (Split - PE) |
|  | Graves, Tosha (Counselor)      |
|  |                                |
| <b>Central Office</b>                  |                                |
| Day, Rebecca (EC Psychologist)         |                                |
| Jaramillo-Orozco, Vivian (ESL Teacher) |                                |
| Bradley, Elizabeth (Admin. Specialist) |                                |
|  |                                |

| <b>Four Year Contract (2028)</b>       |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School</b> | <b>NL Dillard Middle School</b> |
| (No 2 year / 4 year staff)             | Granado, Sonia                  |
|  |                                 |
| <b>Oakwood Elementary</b>              | <b>North Elementary</b>         |
| Robinson, Michelle                     | Edwards, Carla                  |
| McFalls, Rhonda                        | Moretz, Ryan                    |
| Neil, Brandi                           | Smith, Courtney                 |
| Stewart, Dale (Mitch)                  | Vernon, Taylor                  |
| Witty, Whitney                         |                                 |
|  |                                 |
| <b>South Elementary</b>                | <b>Stoney Creek Elementary</b>  |
| Stanfield-Ceparano, Kandice            | (No 2 year / 4 year staff)      |
|  |                                 |
| <b>Central Office</b>                  |                                 |
| Showalter, Nelson (EC Director)        |                                 |
| Useche, David (IT Director)            |                                 |
|  |                                 |
| <b>Non-Renewals</b>                    |                                 |
| NL Dillard Middle School               | Jillian Spain                   |

**CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES**

**May 20, 2024**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of the personnel listing and non-renewal as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the personnel listing and non-renewal as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Resignations</b>             |  |
| Stoney Creek Elementary         | Brittini Macedo, Art Teacher = Eff. 5/6/24                     |
| Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School | Linda Edmonds-Clark, School Counselor = Eff. 7/31/24           |
|                                 | Steven Hancock, Social Studies Teacher = Eff. 7/31/24          |
| North Elementary                | Summer Williams, Data Manager = Eff. 7/1/24                    |
|                                 | Amber Webster, Teacher = Eff. 6/12/24                          |
| <b>Retirement</b>               |  |
| Oakwood Elementary              | Edith Farmer, EC Teacher = Eff. 7/25/24                        |
| Oakwood Elementary              | Bobby Shields, Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24                          |
| <b>Employment</b>               |  |
| North Elementary                | Cherita Williams, Principal = Eff. 7/1/24<br>(2 year contract) |
| Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School | Brian Stevens, Math Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24                     |
|                                 | Laura Webb, ELA Teacher = Eff. 7/1/24                          |
|                                 | Lester Chambers, Math Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24                   |
| Oakwood Elementary              | Earl Glass, PE Teacher = Eff. 7/1/24                           |
|                                 | Lindsey Hudson, Teacher = Eff. 8/19/24                         |

**Contracts**

Dr. Barker recommended approval of one-year extension for Anthony Poindexter (Assistant Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the one-year extension for Anthony Poindexter (Assistant Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. The motion carried 5-2 with Beggarly and Lillard voting "No."

Dr. Barker recommended approval of one-year extension for Jenise Best (Assistant Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the one-year extension for Jenise Best (Assistant Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. The motion failed 3-4 with Beggarly, Lillard, Smith and Stanley voting "No."

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

May 20, 2024

Dr. Barker recommended approval of one-year extension for Clarence Garrett (Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the one-year extension for Clarence Garrett (Principal at NLD Middle) as presented. The motion failed 3-4 with Beggarly, Lillard, Smith and Stanley voting "No."

**IX. COMMUNICATIONS**

Mel Battle questioned if Special Olympics included home schoolers. He was not aware they were to be involved. He shared similar sentiments with the art show.

Graduation is scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. Packets will be sent out to board members including a parking pass.

Mel Battle asked Connie Kimrey to inquire on the rooms and pricing for the summer conference in which ocean view is described; however, most rooms are a street view.

Dr. Barker inquired on the June 7<sup>th</sup> meeting to see how the board felt on when they wanted Ms. Gwynn to be sworn in referencing before the meeting or after. The board shared it was up to Dr. Barker but the ending would be sufficient.

Dr. Barker shared he has enjoyed being back and he hoped that some things have been accomplished since he returned. He felt that people are working together and things seem to flow seamlessly. He appreciated the opportunity to return and noted he is just a phone call away and is willing to help if needed. He felt that the climate has changed and is productive on all sides now. He also shared that he feels good leaving knowing that the school system is in good hands with Ms. JoAnna Gwynn.

**X. ADJOURN**

Gladys Garland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:30 p.m., Joel Lillard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 24, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

---

Mel O. Battle  
Chairman

---

JoAnna Gwynn  
Superintendent