



**WATAUGA COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Margaret E. Gragg Education Center  
175 Pioneer Trail Boone, NC 28607  
(828) 264-7190

***WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING AGENDA***  
***August 6, 2024***

- |                   |  |                      |
|-------------------|--|----------------------|
| <b>9:30 a.m.</b>  | <b>1. CALL TO ORDER</b>  | Board Chair          |
| <b>9:32 a.m.</b>  | <b>2. CLOSED SESSION</b><br>A. Approval of the Minutes for 7/11/2024<br>B. Reportable Offenses – N.C.G.S.115C-288(g)<br>C. Student Records - N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(1)<br>D. Personnel – N.C.G.S.143-318.11(a)(6)<br>E. Attorney-Client - N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a)(3) | Board Chair          |
| <b>10:30 a.m.</b> | <b>3. OPEN SESSION CALL TO ORDER/<br/>WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE</b>  | Board Chair          |
| <b>10:33 a.m.</b> | <b>4. DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA</b>  | Board Chair          |
| <b>10:35 a.m.</b> | <b>5. SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT</b>  | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| <b>10:40 a.m.</b> | <b>6. VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL UPDATE</b>   | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| <b>10:45 a.m.</b> | <b>7. DISTRICT UPDATE &amp; PRIORITIES FOR 2024-25</b>   | Dr. Leslie Alexander |
| <b>11:10 a.m.</b> | <b>8. CONSENT AGENDA</b><br>A. Approval of the Minutes for 7/11/2024<br>B. Declaration of Surplus<br>C. 2024-25 Proposed Title I Budget<br>D. Personnel Report   | Dr. Leslie Alexander |

<b>11:15 a.m.</b>	<b>9. PUBLIC COMMENT</b>	<b>Board Chair</b>
<b>11:25 a.m.</b>	<b>10. BOARD OPERATIONS</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Topic Interest Survey for NCSBA LEAD Training</li><li>➤ Date for Special Called Closed Session in August</li><li>➤ Date for September BOE Meeting</li></ul>	<b>Board Chair</b>
<b>11:40 a.m.</b>	<b>11. BOARD COMMENTS</b>	<b>Board Chair</b>
<b>11:45 a.m.</b>	<b>12. ADJOURNMENT</b>	<b>Board Chair</b>



## WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### WATAUGA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

**DATE:** July 11, 2024

**PRESENT:**

- Gary Childers, Steve Combs, Marshall Ashcraft, Jason Cornett, Jay Fenwick, *BOE Members*
- Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*
- Dr. Chris Blanton, *Assistant Superintendent*

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**PLACE:** Blue Ridge Energy & Margaret E. Gragg Education Center

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

A special work session was held at Blue Ridge Energy for Board members to collaborate more in-depth on several prioritized topics. Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m.

#### **SESSION 1: FACILITIES**

Eric Bolick (Director of Facilities & Maintenance) facilitated this session to help Board members gain an understanding of the status of current roofing projects and air conditioning needs in the schools. Jay Fenwick made a recommendation to do a cost comparison between mini-split systems and bard air conditioning units. Mr. Graham Lewis with *Schneider Electric* provided information about electric funding opportunities. The Board decided to proceed with drawings to DPI for electrical upgrades to Mabel, and to request cost drawings for Cove Creek and Parkway.

#### **SESSION 2: HUMAN RESOURCES**

The objectives of this session were for Board members to gain a better understanding of current recruitment and development efforts, and to discuss how personnel costs impact budget deficits. Like many districts across the state, WCS no longer has the flexibility of ESSER funds to cover personnel costs that have increased over the past four years. Balancing the budget moving forward will require aligning personnel costs with state and federal funding allotments.

### **SESSION 3: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

Dr. Alexander and members of the Curriculum & Instruction Team shared data and efforts to promote early literacy. They also shared about professional development priorities for the upcoming school year, including a focus on promoting the fidelity of MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports).

### **CLOSED SESSION**

*After a brief recess to allow for travel time to the Margaret E. Gragg Education Center, Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers asked for a motion at 2:39 p.m. to enter into closed session. The motion was made by Steve Combs, seconded by Jay Fenwick, and approved by all Board members.*

### **OPEN SESSION**

Jay Cornett made a motion at 3:57 p.m. to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Steve Combs, and unanimously approved.

### **WELCOME/MOMENT OF SILENCE**

At 4:02 p.m., Board Chair Dr. Gary Childers welcomed those attending the meeting. He began with a request to observe a moment of silence.

### **DISCUSSION AND ADJUSTMENT OF AGENDA**

Another closed session was added (#15) after Board Comments.

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

- The Board members had a work session earlier in the day to focus on priorities and needs with Facilities, Human Resources, and Student Achievement.
- Many teachers have been taking part in professional development and training over the summer in order to continue providing the best education possible for students.
- This summer has been busy in the HR world. There have been 105 personnel changes/adjustments to date for the upcoming school year. 36 employees will be brand new to WCS. There are six certified positions that still need to be filled.
- The District Leadership Team will have an all-day retreat on August 1st to continue more in-depth planning for the upcoming school year.
- *New Employee Orientation* will be August 6th, 7th, and 8th.
- The “*Back 2 School Festival*” will be Saturday, August 10th at Watauga High School with school-specific times. The Festival helps streamline school readiness efforts and provides free school supplies, shoes, and haircuts to any student in Watauga County. The outpouring of generosity from the community is amazing, and the event helps so many students be prepared to start school!
- *Convocation* will be Monday, August 12th at 9:00 a.m. at WHS for all employees.
- The first day of school for students is Monday, August 19th.

## **VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL UPDATE**

Area A- Cafeteria/Kitchen, Gym

Area B- Administrative Offices and Band

Area C- Classroom spaces

Site work and final storm drain system installations will occur in July and August. Rok-On, storefronts, and curtain walls have mostly been completed in Areas B and C, and Area A will be started later in July. Metal roofing and TPO roofing should be completed by the end of July or early August. Rough-in (wiring, sprinkler system, etc.) for Areas B and C are in the final stages, and work has started in Area A. Drywall is almost complete in Area C, and it will start soon in Area B. Wood siding and natural adhered stone has been started. There is a *possibility* that the new school may not be ready in late December since some areas of the project have been pushed back a month.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no citizens who made public comments.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Approval of the Minutes for 6/17/2024
- B. Declaration of Surplus
- C. Request for Adoption of Interim Continuing Budget Resolution
- D. School Fees & Student/Parent Mobile Device Agreement
- E. After School Rates & Fees
- F. Personnel Report

Steve Combs made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Jason Cornett seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

## **POLICIES: SUBSTANTIVE FOR SECOND READ**

- 3220: Technology in the Education Program
- 3225/4312/7320: Technology Responsible Use
- 3420: Student Promotion and Accountability
- 3460: Graduation Requirements
- 3620: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations
- 4002: Parental Involvement
- 4040/7310: Staff-Student Relations
- 4140 (New): Foreign Exchange Students
- 4240/7312: Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety
- 4270/6145: Concussion and Head Injury
- 5023/6128/7268 (New): Emergency Administration of Naloxone
- 7130: Licensure
- 8510: School Finance Officer

Dr. Leslie Alexander presented these policies for second read. Jason Cornett made a motion to approve all of the policies. Steve Combs seconded, and they were approved by all Board members.

### **POLICY: SUBSTANTIVE FOR FIRST READ**

- 4004/5021: Private Therapy Providers

Dr. Alexander and Ms. Jana Dobbins (Director of E.C.) answered a few questions that the Board members had about the policy. A recommended revision was that it should apply to *all* private providers, and that services *must* take place off-campus (preferably outside of school hours).

Steve Combs made a motion to approve the policy with the revision on first read. Marshall Ashcraft seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

### **POLICY FOR REPEAL**

- 4134: Admission of Foreign Exchange Students

Marshall Ashcraft made a motion to repeal the policy, Jay Fenwick seconded, and it was approved by all Board members.

### **BOARD OPERATIONS**

- The Town of Boone asked the BOE to give their support for a grant application for the Grove Street Connector Project. This project has the potential to improve the safety and well-being of the community because it would create a zero-emission transit option to access both Hardin Park and Watauga High School by walking or biking. Ms. Laney Wise (Town of Boone Grants Coordinator/Communications) shared information about the project and answered questions.

Jay Fenwick made a motion that the Superintendent submit a letter of support to endorse the project. Marshall Ashcraft seconded the motion, and the vote carried 4-1 in favor of supporting the project. Dr. Childers opposed it since all right-of-ways have not been approved, and since he did not feel he had enough information to know how people would be impacted.

- NCSBA launched a campaign promoting public education, and Leanne Winner (NCSBA's Executive Director) would like for Boards of Education to support the campaign. All Board members were in agreement for the Superintendent to promote it, and Bailey Little (Director of Communications) will post information about how public education matters.
- The August BOE Meeting will be on August 6th at 9:30 a.m.

### **BOARD COMMENTS**

There were no additional Board comments.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

*Jason Cornett made a motion at 5:05 p.m. to re-enter into closed session. Steve Combs seconded, and it was approved by all Board members.*

**OPEN SESSION**

Jason Cornett made a motion at 5:29 p.m. to go back into open session. Marshall Ashcraft seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Steve Combs made a motion at 5:30 p.m. to adjourn, Jay Fenwick seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

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Dr. Gary L. Childers, *Board of Education Chair*

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Dr. Leslie Alexander, *Superintendent*

## Declaration of Surplus Items - AUGUST

Date Approved: \_\_\_\_\_

### Bethel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0

### Blowing Rock

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
200183	1	REFRIDGERATOR		1
200184	1	RANGE 4 BURNER		1
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	2		0	2

### Cove Creek

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0

### Green Valley

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE	1	DESK- TEACHER		1
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	1		0	1

### Hardin Park

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0



## Mabel

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
40918	1	SWITCH- CATALYST		1
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	1		0	1

## Parkway

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
34546	1	CHROMBOOK- LENOVO 300e		1
33586	1	CHROMBOOK- LENOVO 300e		1
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	2		0	2

## Valle Crucis

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0

## Watauga High School

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0

## Central Office

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
	<input type="text"/>		<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	0		0	0

## Technology Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
33844	1	SWITCH- CATALYST		1
29551	1	SWITCH- CATALYST		1
29591	1	LAPTOP- PROBOOK 430	1	
33043	1	LAPTOP- PROBOOK 430 G5	1	
29469	1	LAPTOP- PROBOOK 430 G3	1	
<div></div>			<div></div>	<div></div>
5			3	2

## Transportation Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
NONE	34	CELL PHONES- NOKIA		34
<div></div>			<div></div>	<div></div>
34			0	34

## Maintenance Department

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
<div></div>			<div></div>	<div></div>
0			0	0

## Child Nutrition

<u>Asset #</u>	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Usable</u>	<u>Unusable</u>
<div></div>			<div></div>	<div></div>
0			0	0

## Proposed Title I Budget SY 2024-2025

Federal Planning Allocation for 2024-2025                      \$673, 124

**Carryover/ Unbudgeted Reserve from SY 23-24   Approx. \$35, 000**

Difference from SY 23-24 (w/out Carryover)                      **-\$104, 892**

District Administrative Costs                      **\$40, 387 (6% of Federal Allocation)**

School Professional Development                      **\$33, 656 (5% of Federal Allocation)**

School Parent Involvement                      **\$6, 731 (1% of Federal Allocation)**

Homeless                      **\$1, 000**

**Total Combined District Set-Asides                      \$81, 774**

**School Allotments from Federal Allocation      \$591, 350 + \$35, 000 (Carryover) = \$626, 350**  
*(See Page 2 for Individual School Totals)*

### Additional Information

Required Per Pupil Allotment                      **\$357**

**Actual WCS Per Pupil Allotment                      100%- 46.1% Poverty = \$871 (B, CC, GV, M)**  
**Based on Poverty Bands\*                      46.0%- 41.0% Poverty = \$400 (HP/ VC)**

### FORMULAS:

**\*Poverty Band Formula is \$ amount X the number of Free + Reduced in Eligibility Report**

**\*\* Parental Involvement Formula is allotment (\$6, 731)/ 1000 (total Free + Reduced at eligible schools = \$6.73 X Free + Reduced at selected schools = allocation**

**\*\*\*Professional Development is allotment (\$33, 656)/ 209 (total # of teachers in served schools based on Comparability Report) = \$161.03 X number of teachers at selected schools**

## 2024-2025 School Allocations

*(Paid by district plan)*

School	Allotment	Parent Involvement**	Professional Development***
Bethel	\$67, 938	\$525	\$3, 060
Cove Creek	\$116, 714	\$902	\$4, 670
Green Valley	\$147, 199	\$1, 137	\$5, 152
Hardin Park	\$146, 000	\$2, 456	\$12, 560
Mabel	\$86, 229	\$666	\$3, 060
Valle Crucis	\$62, 000	\$1, 043	\$5, 152
Total Allotted	\$626, 350	\$6, 731	\$33, 656
Unallocated	\$270	\$2	\$2

\*Please note subs are factored in as part of the total allotment and not in addition to total.

### 2023-2024 School Allocations

School	Allotment	Parent Involvement**	Professional Development***
Bethel	\$68, 005	\$510	\$3, 536
Cove Creek	\$151, 235	\$1, 134	\$5, 311
Green Valley	\$190, 820	\$1, 431	\$5, 956
Hardin Park	\$156, 165	\$2, 732	\$14, 518
Mabel	\$104, 545	\$784	\$3, 536
Valle Crucis	\$67, 860	\$1, 187	\$5, 956
Total Allotted	\$738, 630	\$7, 780	\$38, 901
Unallocated	\$24	\$2	\$88

## Eligibility Report for 2024-2025

Data from ESSR May 2024

School	# Free	# Reduced	Free+Reduced	# K-8	# PreK	Total ADM	F/R %
Bethel	72	6	78	128	12	140	55.71%
BR	82	2	84	419	16	435	19.31%
CC	109	25	134	274	15	289	46.37%
GV	144	25	169	252	16	268	63.06%
HP	328	37	365	870	19	889	41.06%
Mabel	81	18	99	136	10	146	67.81%
PKW	208	18	226	633	18	651	34.72%
VC	136	19	155	327	15	342	45.32%
WHS	348	50	398	0	0	1, 221	32.60%
WIA	98	25	123	0	0	284	43.31%
District	1, 606	225	1, 831	3, 039	121	4, 665	39.25%