

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 16, 2024

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 2024, at 3:30 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Gladys Garland, Tracy Stanley, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn, Austin Morris, Brook Underwood, Alice & Paul Robinson, Makayla Mitchell, Medina Jones, 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

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Gladys Garland, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2024, regular meeting and work session meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

JoAnna Gwynn 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

Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn introduced the new Child Nutrition Director, Makayla Mitchell. Ms. Mitchell started today and we are excited to have her.

Ms. Gwynn shared that two metal detectors have been purchased and are in transit and hopefully will be here by the first week of October. In conjunction with the Stronger Connections Grant the wording was changed and approved which will not allow the purchase of two metal detectors for NL Dillard Middle School and one metal detector for each elementary school. Also, the funding will provide window shades for all the classroom doors. Thanks to Dr. Medina Jones for working diligently on this grant and for working with making changes.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul and Alice Robinson addressed the board and wished to personally thank the school system, Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn and her staff for participating in the Back to School Blast. They shared that having someone from the school system was very much appreciated and made an impact on everyone there. She shared the chair, Tonya Terrell, expressed her thanks as well. They thanked the Board of Education for what they are doing and shared it was a wonderful event of giving supplies to students and if there is a need for more to reach out to them.

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II. REPORTS

No reports at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda
 - a. Fundraising Requests
 - b. Renewal Quote - Learning A-Z (Raz Plus)

JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of the consent agenda as presented. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda Items:

Fundraising Requests

BYSHS

Wrestling = Fall 50/50 Raffle, Winter 50/50 Raffle, Concessions, Pro Wrestling Event
FFA = Fruit Sale

Oakwood

Creative Foods

Raz Plus = Learning A-Z

Renewal = \$10,020.00

Funding = ESSER funds

Classroom teachers use Raz-Plus during teacher-led instruction and independent practice.

2. Flat Panel Display Purchase - CAMCOR

Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of the flat panel purchase with CAMCOR. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Gladys Garland. The motion carried unanimously.

CAMCOR

\$67,146.82

Funding = ESSER funds

29 devices will complete the upgrade for the remaining classrooms and sections in all elementary schools that are still using outdated smartboards and projectors.

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3. Safety

Dr. Medina Jones shared a brief update regarding the grant receipt of \$675,000 which will assist with additional metal detectors as shared earlier by Ms. Gwynn. This will allow each elementary to have a metal detector and provide funding for two metal detectors at the middle school. The remainder of the funding will be used towards our School Resource Officers and School Nurses. This will also include funding for shades for classroom doors at all schools. Also included in this funding will be money budgeted for training and additional safety items if needed. Dr. Jones shared that the metal detectors are moveable and will not need to be recalibrated according to the vendor.

Ms. Gwynn thanked Dr. Jones and all those involved for the grant writing and the work involved for getting this grant changed to fund the metal detectors.

Ms. Gwynn reviewed a draft copy of a clear bag practice to be used at the high school. Board members were in favor of this and shared other school districts are also putting this into place and felt we should also look at using it for award days and special events. It was suggested to have clear signage posted so people will be aware of this change in procedures.

It was suggested to post on social media and website as well so that the community is aware. Coaches will inform students, parents and visiting teams. Gladys Garland shared she was glad to see that we are moving in this direction as she has been an advocate for this for several years. Joel Lillard questioned if there will be a place for students who stay after school to store their bookbags if they are attending sporting events. After discussion it was agreed that the clear bag policy should be implemented at the high school and middle school.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to implement a clear bag policy for the high school and middle school for afterschool athletic events with guidelines as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Permitted bags include:

- Clear plastic or vinyl bags that are no longer than 12 x 6 x 12
- One gallon-sized clear plastic storage bag
- Medical Bags (subject to inspection)
- Diaper Bags (with an infant/toddler present - subject to inspection)

The following bags will NOT be permitted:

- Purses
- Briefcases
- Backpacks
- Fanny Packs
- Cinch/Drawstring bags
- Luggage
- Computer/Camera bags

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Fans carrying bags that do not meet the criteria will be turned away from the venue at or near the gates and will have the opportunity to return prohibited items to their vehicle. Additionally, cameras will not be permitted into a venue if they are not in their own bags. Credentialed members of the media will be allowed to bring bags into a venue but must consent to search and inspection of all bags.

(Effective September 23, 2024)

4. Voting Delegates – NCSBA Annual Conference

The following will serve as voting delegates for the NCSBA Annual Conference in November: Mel Battle, Vennie Beggarly, Joel Lillard, and Trudy Blackwell. Nicole Smith will serve as alternate.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

JoAnna Gwynn shared the following:

- FFA information was shared on recent activities as requested from the board. Mel Battle questioned if this has been shared with Farm Bureau and asked if that could be confirmed.
- Balanced classes were reviewed and a handout was shared with the board. Discussion took place regarding the number of teachers we have and questioned if any classes can be combined. The second grade at North Elementary was questioned as we currently have four teachers and the number in the classroom is low. It was also mentioned to make sure that all certified teachers are utilized as much as possible. Numbers were discussed and it was shared that Mrs. Beavers would be the best person to talk with regarding the elementary teachers. Ms. Gwynn will work with her to see what works best. It was requested to have a copy of the student teacher ratio at the next meeting.
- An update was given on the dirt for the softball field and it was noted that it is ordered and the delay is due to the machine that is used is broken. The Athletic Director shared that the softball field can be played on while we are awaiting the dirt but the field at the high school cannot be used. Mel Battle suggested as a possible last resort the use of the recreation department could be an option. Discussion took place regarding this and the timing. It was mentioned to possibly wait until the end of the season to make the needed repairs due to the time needed for the dirt to be packed sufficiently and begin preparations for the baseball field so it will be maintained accordingly.
- Ms. Gwynn shared legal updates that she received at the recent law symposium she attended. She emphasized that political campaigning is not allowed and the best advice was to keep politics out of school.
- SIP Plans were reviewed by Ms. Gwynn noting that Caswell has been deemed as a low performing district and Caswell has opted into State SIP goals for each school and for the district. DPI will be here on September 23rd to work with all principals. This will be a

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three-year process. It was questioned if two parents could possibly participate on the SIP Team at the school level as opposed to one as sometimes there are times that the one parent who serves cannot be in attendance.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- Joel Lillard shared he is impressed with what he has seen this year at the schools and hopes everyone keeps up the good work.
- Nicole Smith shared she worked concessions at a recent football game and the students and fans were great. She is very pleased with what she is seeing at the high school with the staff.
- Vennie Beggarly shared the Facebook pages at the individual schools are a good way of sharing information. She also thanked the coaches for the work and time they spend working with our children.

VIII. 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. Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. OPEN SESSION

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

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Gladys Garland moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
BYSHS	Deauti Harris - CTE Teacher = Eff. 9/27/24
Oakwood Elementary	Brittney Lea, EC Teacher Asst. = Eff. 9/16/24
	Ginger Spicer, K Teacher = Eff. 10/9/24

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NL Dillard Middle School	DeAsia Noble, Social Studies Teacher = Eff. 9/27/24
Employment	
NL Dillard Middle School	Jessica Fulcher, School Nurse = Eff. 9/30/24
	Tenille Newman, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 9/23/24
North Elementary	Amber White, EC Teacher = Eff. 10/21/24
BYSHS	Raul Alvarado, Custodian = Eff. 9/23/24
South Elementary	Wendy Butts, Child Nutrition Manager = Eff. 9/23/24
Transportation	Jennifer Wallace, TIMS Assistant = Part Time = Eff. 9/23/24
Transfers	
Oakwood	Nancy Thompson, EC Teacher at Oakwood to transfer to North as EC Teacher = Eff. 10/21/24
Child Nutrition / Part Time	
South Elementary	Christina Alston - Part Time = Eff. 9/23/24
BYSHS	Amber Wilmouth, Part-Time = Eff. 9/23/24
Substitutes	
	Pamela Lynn = Eff. 9/23/24
	Robert Mise = Eff. 9/23/24
	Taylor Reynolds = Eff. 9/23/24
NLD Dillard Middle	Jerome Wilson = Eff. 9/23/24
Bus Drivers / Part Time ****	
Part Time Drivers with Benefits	Connie Gibbs = Eff. 9/3/24
	Steve McGowan = Eff. 9/4/24
Reclassification of Substitute Custodians to Part-Time Custodians	
North Elementary	James Eanes
	Ruby Sizemore
	Angela Underwood
BYSHS	Annette Gwynn
NLD Middle	Darnce Mims
Information Only:	
UNC-Chapel Hill School Counseling Program Student - for 2024-25 School Year through the UNC-Chapel Hill Helping Heels partnership (no cost to district)	Hayley Rosewall Assigned to NL Dillard Middle School

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*** = Driver will drive for all levels in the district. This will aide in getting students to and from school in a consistent manner with little change. The shift (mornings and afternoons) will start at the elementary level and then progress to the secondary schools. The average time these drivers will be working a day will be as follows: South, NL Dillard and Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School = 7.25 hours per day; North, NL Dillard and Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School = 6.50 hours per day. A weekly total of 36.25 and 32.50 respectively. As we are able to secure more drivers, these positions will be reevaluated and possibly altered or cancelled as necessary.

One-time Interim School Nutrition Director Stipend

Laura Miles–Chandler, Administrative Assistant for Child Nutrition Department; recommendation for a one-time stipend of Seven Hundred Dollars (\$700.00) for performing some additional duties of an Interim School Nutrition Director from August 1st to September 16th, 2024.

Personnel / Withdrawal of Position

JoAnna Gwynn recommended to withdraw the position of Assistant Finance Director at this time. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Personnel = New Position

JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of an Executive Director position which will be a new position. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

None at this time.

XII. ADJOURN

Gladys Garland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on September 30, 2024 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

JoAnna Gwynn
Superintendent