

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

January 13, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 13, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Lisa Johnson-Knight, Nicole Smith, Nicole McGhee, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn, Austin Morris, Brook Underwood, David Useche, 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 Chair Mel Battle. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the minutes of the December 9, 2024, regular meeting and December 20, 2024 special called meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of agenda as presented. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn recognized Tiffani Ramos with UNCG who works with beginning teachers and Angela Martin who began working today and will also be providing support to beginning teachers on a contracted basis.

(Trudy Blackwell arrived at 9:10 a.m.)

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Elizabeth Crews signed up and requested to speak in closed session.

II. REPORTS

Tiffany Ramos with UNCG gave an overview of what she has been doing while working with beginning teachers. A PowerPoint was shared with the board. Ms. Ramos shared that when talking with beginning teachers they expressed they felt overwhelmed and felt as if they are drowning and need assistance with classroom management. There are professional development opportunities available and all beginning teachers are attending. Sibme is also

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being used to implement assistance and UNGC is using this as an AI Pilot which will provide video portions, provide reports and allow teachers to ask questions.

She shared her goal is to meet with teachers once a week for an hour.

It was shared that the board would like to have Ms. Ramos back at the end of the year and share results with the board and receive input on how it is working.

(Attorney Ron Bradsher arrived at 9:17 a.m.)

David Useche shared an update on implementation of Infinite Campus. There will be tutorials available for parents and is supposed to be user friendly and easier to use than PowerSchool. Infinite Campus is being implemented statewide in North Carolina.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of the consent agenda as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith.

Joel Lillard questioned the Board Attorney if a contract is needed for the lighting technician who is not an employee of Caswell County Schools but will be working at the Civic Center to assist with dance productions. Attorney Bradsher shared that a rental agreement should indicate the renters are responsible for any issues that may occur and a contract would indicate coverage with specifics to assure individual has insurance. It was noted that we require the individual to sign a waiver and release of liability.

Upon no further questions, the motion carried unanimously.

Employee Christmas Bonus

Recommended by Superintendent on December 9, 2024 and board was polled. Recommendation failed 4-3 (Battle, Lillard, Beggarly, and Smith voting "No.")

Lighting Technician = Mr. Lee Raone

Recommended by Superintendent on December 12, 2024 and board was polled. Recommendation passed unanimously

2024-2025 Revised School Calendar

Recommended by Superintendent on January 8, 2025 and board was polled on changes to the 2024-2025 revised school calendar.

Recommendation failed 4-3 (Battle, Lillard, Beggarly, and Smith voting "No.")

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Request for Transfer

Evans, Troy Bennett North to Stoney Creek (K)
(Parent is employed with Caswell County Schools @ Stoney Creek)

Surplus Items

- Band Saw
- Wood lathe
- Drill Press
- Planer
- Route
- Table Saw

2. 2024-2025 Revised School Calendar

Ms. Gwynn reviewed changes to the 2024-2025 school calendar due to recent inclement weather and missed student days. Discussion was had regarding the number of instructional hours and the short window with elementary. It was suggested to require elementary students to attend school on the upcoming required workday to assist with the hours.

Joel Lillard recommended approval of the revised calendar as presented with changes to include February 19th being an optional work day (as listed on original calendar) and January 22nd becoming a required work day for middle and high school only, Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

It was shared if more inclement weather decisions were made the calendar may need to be changed again to reflect time for exam schedules at the high school.

3. 10-Point Grading Scale = Elementary Level

Ms. Gwynn reviewed the information shared regarding the 10-point grading scale for elementary and noted this will have all students on the same scale. Joel Lillard shared he had heard positive comments from teachers regarding the suggested change.

Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of the 10-point grading schedule as presented for elementary. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the 10-point grading scale as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

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For BOE approval:

Proposal to Transition from a 7-Point Grading Scale to a 10-Point Grading Scale at the Elementary Level

Presented by David Useche, Chief Operations Officer

Introduction

Caswell County Schools has an opportunity to enhance equity, consistency, and clarity in grading practices by transitioning from the current 7-point grading scale to a 10-point grading scale at the elementary level for the 2025-2026 school year. This shift will align with best practices in grading, ease students' academic transitions, and support teachers during the upcoming implementation of the Infinite Campus Student Information System (SIS).

Benefits of the 10-Point Grading Scale

1. Improved Equity and Fairness:

A 10-point grading scale provides a clearer and more consistent system for evaluating student performance. Under the current 7-point scale, small numerical differences in scores can result in disproportionately different letter grades, which may disadvantage students. The 10-point scale offers a broader range for each grade band, reducing the pressure of minor score variations.

Example:

- Under a 7-point scale, a score of 84 translates to a C (77-84 range).
- With a 10-point scale, the same score becomes a B (80-89 range), better reflecting the student's competency.

2. Alignment with Secondary Grading Practices:

Transitioning to a 10-point scale at the elementary level aligns with grading practices commonly used in secondary education, providing consistency for students as they progress. This uniformity helps families better understand grading expectations and supports long-term academic planning.

3. Increased Motivation:

By widening grade bands, students have more achievable pathways to higher grades. This change can reduce test anxiety and motivate students to engage more confidently in their learning.

Strategic Timing with SIS Implementation

August 2025 marks the rollout of Infinite Campus SIS training for teachers, including the configuration and use of its gradebook. This is an ideal moment to implement the grading scale change for the following reasons:

- **Integrated Training:** Teachers will already be undergoing training on Infinite Campus, making it efficient to incorporate the grading scale update into their professional development sessions.
- **Streamlined Configuration:** As part of the SIS setup, the grading scale can be configured during the initial setup phase, ensuring a smooth transition without additional disruptions later.
- **Future-Ready Systems:** Introducing the 10-point scale alongside Infinite Campus ensures our grading system is modernized and fully optimized for district needs.

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4. Creative Education Solutions, Inc.

Ms. Gwynn reviewed information with Creative Education Solutions with Randy Bridges and would like to proceed with having him work with the board. It was shared that the North Carolina School Board Association (NCSBA) will allow credits be given to the board but will need to review the presentation prior in order to establish how many credits will be given. Upon discussion, it was suggested that the information be sent to the NCSBA and confirmation received prior to initiating the training. Mel Battle suggested that he would like to see the board pursue Master Board Training but noted this required all board members participate and asked the board to be thinking about this.

5. School Nutrition Program Procurement Plan

School Nutrition Director Makayla Mitchell shared information regarding the information on the procurement plan. She shared we are still a part of the NC Procurement Alliance but that is different and deals more with food selections. This program deals with securing something if equipment breaks or the van which is used, etc.

Upon review, Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of the School Nutrition Program Procurement Plan as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the School Nutrition Program Procurement Plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Campbell Shatley PLLC Attorneys at Law

Information was shared with a price increase per hour with Campbell Shatley PLLC Attorneys at Law. We currently use them for updates. The new rate was shared with the board.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve continuing to use Campbell Shatley PLLC Attorneys at Law for updates at the increased rate as shared. The motion carried unanimously.

Effective July 1, 2025	\$275 hourly rate for attorneys with 7 or more years of experience
	\$250 hourly rate for attorneys with less than 7 years of experience

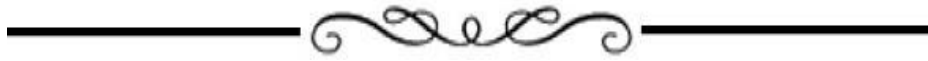
7. Resolution

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Vennie Beggarly read aloud the resolution for Jerry Wilson, former employee of Caswell County Schools, who recently passed away.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Jerry Wayne Wilson



WHEREAS, Jerry Wayne Wilson was born on February 25, 1955, and resided at 565 Ashland Road, Ruffin, NC, 27326, at the time of his death on December 20, 2024, and

WHEREAS, Jerry Wilson, was a faithful and loving individual, father, brother, grandfather, and friend to many and his family’s welfare was his major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Wilson was a 1973 graduate of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School and a 2013 graduate of Rockingham Community College. Jerry Wilson, was a true servant to his family and community. He worked with Caswell County Schools as a bus driver and custodian since 2016 until health issues forced him to resign in 2022; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Wilson was very active in his community and served in the Casville Volunteer Fire Department for over 40 years. During this time Jerry Wilson served as Fire Chief, Board President, and other various roles to assist the department and was a valuable mentor to many. He was a much beloved friend to all who worked with him and will be missed; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Jerry Wilson and expresses its sympathy to his family by causing a copy of this Resolution to be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education and a copy forwarded to the family.

This the 13th day of January 2025.

Mel Battle, Chairman

Joel Lillard, Vice Chair

Vennie Beggarly

Trudy Blackwell

Lisa Johnson-Knight

Nicole McGhee

Nicole Smith

JoAnna Gwynn, Superintendent

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8. Contract - Dorie Hall (Lead and Learn, LLC)

Ms. Gwynn reviewed information regarding contract with Dorie Hall, Lead & Learn, LLC. This will be held during instructional day and substitutes have been secured. Funding will be used from Title I funds. Math and ELA are both included in this professional development.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the contract with Dorie Hall, Lead & Learn, LLC, as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Cost: \$7,500.00 Title I Funding

Contract will be provided from January 27, 2025 through May 19, 2025.

Tentative Dates Planned:

- February 3, 2025
- February 17, 2025
- March 10, 2025
- April 7, 2025
- May 5, 2025
- May 24, 2025

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

JoAnna Gwynn reviewed a draft proposed 2025-2026 school calendar. Discussion took place with a request for students to begin school earlier and have exams completed prior to the Christmas break. Suggestions were shared including looking at having AP classes in the second semester if this worked with Piedmont Community College.

Starting times were included in the proposed calendar; however, this is a board decision to set starting and ending times for schools and it was suggested this not be included in the calendar for approval and would need to be approved as a separate item.

Concerns were shared with the times listed especially with the delayed time change at the high school and board members expressed concerns with parents who have to drop off their child and be at work by 8:00 a.m. Other concerns included students who participate in sports and how much time they would be missing with the delayed starting time. One suggestion was to flip the times and have elementary start with the delayed time which would work better for parents who have to be at work or may possibly have to drop students off at multiple schools.

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It was requested that a separate calendar be brought back to the board showing students returning to school five days earlier. Concerns were shared with this being against the State calendar requirements. It was noted that other districts have started returning to school earlier and no repercussions have been given. There is a waiver that can be submitted and it was requested that Ms. Gwynn look into this to see if this is something Caswell can submit and share the concerns we have with weather and exams as this has always been an issue since the State changed the calendar date for returning to school.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the concerns of not following the law with the calendar and the schools who are proceeding to implement an early start calendar and what works best for Caswell.

It was requested that the draft proposed calendar be brought back to the board along with a second version with an early start date for students.

Ms. Gwynn was asked to reach out to other districts who are starting early and see if it is working, if they filled out a waiver, etc., along with looking into the waiver and finding out if we can submit the waiver due to the exam schedule and the conflicts that have occurred due to inclement weather.

Joel Lillard shared he would like to see how many car riders will be affected by this proposed change to the high school also.

Lance Stokes was in attendance and addressed the board sharing that multiple high schools have a delayed starting time and shared it decreases the amount of tardiness and noted that tiered routes work well.

Mel Battle asked that Ms. Gwynn take a look at the calendar for Johnston County.

Trudy Blackwell expressed concern with asking our calendar committee to do something that was not legal. Mel Battle shared that other districts are doing the same thing and it is apparent that our current calendar is not working.

Two draft calendars will be brought back to the Board at the next meeting or possibly at the work session for review.

Ms. Gwynn shared that we recently received the SRO grant in the amount of \$176,000 for School Resource Officers. She shared that another grant is being pursued with Danville Regional Foundation to assist with afterschool activities for our students.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

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VII. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- Lisa Johnson-Knight attended talent show at North Elementary, dance recital at high school and visited Oakwood and South.
- Nicole Smith visited the high school and shared the college advisor was very informative and scholarship representatives were available the day she visited.
- Trudy Blackwell attended the talent show at North and the recital at the high school and shared both did a great job.
- Nicole McGhee attended the dance recital at the high school and has been at basketball games at the high school and middle school.
- Mel Battle was complimentary to Mr. Stokes, Principal at Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School, noting that all new banners were up and it looked very nice. Mr. Battle also shared a copy of listing of superintendents in North Carolina as informational purposes.

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

IX. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Mel Battle suggested having a work session on January 27, 2025 which will begin at 3:30 p.m. If you have items you would like added please submit to Ms. Gwynn or Connie Kimrey.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

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

Resignations	
NL Dillard Middle School	Elizabeth Crews, Math Teacher = Eff. 1/3/25
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Dakota Henry, Custodian (declined employment) - Eff. 12/3/24
	Paul Diggs, PE Teacher = Eff. 1/21/25

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South Elementary	Gladys Lipscomb, Child Nutrition Asst. = Eff. 1/3/25
	Diego Melendez, Teacher = Eff. 1/6/25
Bus Drivers (BYSHS)	Heather Gwynn = Eff. 12/9/24
	Arnold King = Eff. 12/9/24
Child Nutrition Subs	Shanese Richardson (never reported to work) = Eff. 12/3/24
Child Nutrition Sub & Bus Driver	Kelley Stewart = Eff. 12/20/24
Employment	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Fletcher Fryczynski, CTE Business Teacher - Eff. 1/21/25
NL Dillard Middle School	Jerome Wilson, Interim Principal = Eff. 1/25/25
Substitute	
	Gladys Lipscomb, Child Nutrition Sub
	Paul Diggs, Substitute teacher
New Certified Teacher Position	
Recommendation to add a second Exceptional Children's Teacher at North Elementary = Funding Source= IDEA Funds (PRC 32.60.306)	
Change of Employment Months	
Pre-K / EC Dept.	Calla Wilson Currently 11-month employee to 12-month employees = Eff. 1/25/25

XII. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. Upon discussion regarding weather, the board immediately reconvened by a motion from Vennie Beggarly, seconded by Joel Lillard, and to approve the revised 2024-2025 revised school calendar to include a two or three hour delayed school start on January 14, 2025 which will push the calendar days for required work day to January 23, 2025 and elementary students only will attend school that day. The motion carried unanimously.

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Caswell County School
Academic Calendar
2024-2025



319 East Main Street
 Yanceyville, NC 27379
 (336) 694-4116
 336-694-5154

BOE Approved on 03/11/2024
 Revision BOE Approved 01/13/2025

July 2024							August 2024							September 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	H	5	6					1	2	3	1	H	3	4	5	6	7
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	24	22	23	IR	25	26	RLD	28
28	29	30	31				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
October 2024							November 2024							December 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5							1	2	1	2	3	4	IR	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	RC	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	ER	19	10	H	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	★25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	AL	H	H	H	AL	28
27	RWD	29	30	31			24	25	26	OWD	H	H	30	29	AL	AL				
January 2025							February 2025							March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			H	AL	OWD	4						1								1
5	OWD	OWD	8	9	10	11	2	RC	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	RLD	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	ER	15
19	H	21	★22	RWD	24	25	16	17	18	OWD	IR	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28	23	24	25	26	27	★28	29	
													30	RWD						
April 2025							May 2025							June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	RC	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	IR	8	9	10	8	9	10	★ER	RWD	RWD	14
13	14	15	16	17	H	19	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	RC	21
20	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	H	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					
1st Day of 1st & 2nd Semester							Student Days							Required Teacher Workday (RWD)						
Non-Student Days/Annual Leave (AL)							1st Day for Students = Aug. 26							Jan.23 = RWD for BYSHS & DMS						
Holidays (H)							Last Day for Students = June 11							Regular School day for Elementary						
Independence Day = July 4, 2024							1st Semester begins = Aug. 26							(due to inclement weather on Jan. 7)						
Labor Day = Sept. 2, 2024							1st Semester ends = Jan. 17													
Veterans Day = Nov. 11, 2024							2nd Semester begins = Jan. 23													
Thanksgiving = Nov. 28-29, 2024							2nd Semester ends = June 11							Optional Teacher Workday (OWD)						
Christmas = Dec. 24-26, 2025							Report Cards Issued (RC)													
New Years Day = Jan. 1, 2025							Early Release Day = 12:30 p.m.							Student Remote Learning Day (RLD)						
Martin Luther King = Jan. 20, 2025							Interim Reports (IR)													
Memorial Day = May 26, 2025							★ End of Grading Period													
														High School Graduation = June 14						

Calendar is subject to change due to weather conditions or other disruptions.

This School Calendar includes a minimum of 1035 instructional hours. North Carolina requires a minimum of 1025 instructional hours.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to adjourn the meeting at 2:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on January 27, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
 Chairman

JoAnna Gwynn
 Superintendent