CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
January 27, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, January 27, 2025, at 6:30 p.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, Shannon Apple, Alyson Beavers, Mitch Stewart, 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. Prior to the moment of silence, Chair Mel Battle acknowledged the recent loss of Joel Lillard's mother as well as other former employees who have passed away. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2025, regular 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 Vennie Beggarly, to approve the agenda as presented.

Joel Lillard asked that Teacher Allocations by School be reviewed in Closed Session and Item #5 be shifted to Item # 7 and add Item # 9, School Start Times. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn recognized NL Dillard Basketball team for an undefeated season. Members of the team were acknowledged and recognized. Chair Battle shared this was only the second team that he was aware of to accomplish this and the school is 56 years old.

A card of thanks was read aloud by Chair Battle from Michelle Robinson thanking the Board for their kindness during the loss of her mother.

A video was shared acknowledging the Board of Education as January is National Board of Appreciation Month. The Board was thankful for all the time the staff and students put into making these videos and acknowledged thanks to all of the schools.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

Finance Director Brook Underwood reviewed the quarterly reports.

Shannon Apple, Accountability and SIS Director, reviewed middle and elementary check ins. Mrs. Apple shared that these are not a predictor of how a student will score but used as more of a teaching tool and a formative assessment. It was requested when principals present in March that updated information be shared with the check ins and broken down by school. It was also shared that it would be nice to know how many were tested and show actual numbers rather than a percentage.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Before and After School Care – Updates were shared with the board and concerns were voiced regarding the number of students enrolled which do not meet the guidelines of the program. Ms. Gwynn was directed to look at this and reach out to the principals so that all are following the guidelines of the program. If parents are dropping off randomly those payments should be paid in full the week or day of the drop off. It was questioned why parents are allowed to drop off without paying. The program requires that five students be enrolled full time in order for the program to function. The numbers shared do not merit all schools continuing with before school care.
- Civic Center Repairs – Updates were given to the board noting that the company is scheduled to be here on February 3rd to look at the seating and have shared that it will take approximately a week to complete pending no complications. The Civic Center will not be rented out that week.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda
   JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of the consent agenda as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

   Early Graduates – BYSHS

Christopher Andrews	MaKya Fowlkes	Aaron Palmer
Lance Autrey	Carter Gardner	Aaliyah Poteat
Lakayla Barley	Jaire Hooker	Jayden Richardson
Jamel Bennett	Emily King	Brianna Ridge
Shatavia Brooks	Samir McClain	Daniel Romero Gomez
Taylor Brooks	Landon Mills	Daphney Shaw
Brenley Burr	Ty'Riq Moore	Ta'asia Slade
Hailey Carter	Hunter Mullins	Jasmine Stewart
Chaden Collins	John Mullins	Traveon Stewart
Mariah Edmonds	Taziya Oliver	Emily Wilkinson

2. ATSI (Additional Targeted Support and Improvement) Application

   Alyson Beavers, Federal Program & Elementary Curriculum Director, reviewed the ATSI application. This is a designation given to schools with groups that are consistently underperforming. The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) requires state educational agencies to identify schools that need ATSI. The funding application requires schools' LEAs to provide evidence of compliance with ATSI designation timelines for school notification, parent notification, and the completion of a needs assessment. Mrs. Beavers shared that Caswell has met these requirements. Targeted areas of need were reviewed and upon review, Mrs. Beavers answered questions from the board.

   JoAnna Gwynn recommended approval of the ATSI Application as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the ATSI Application as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   Funding Allotment: $5,656.08 (FY24 Carryover)
   $12,936.11 (FY25 Annual Allotment)

3. Read to Achieve (RtA) Summer Learning Proposal

   Alyson Beavers, Federal Program & Elementary Curriculum Director reviewed proposal for Read to Achieve (RtA) Summer Learning Requirements. It is required to be offered to any third-grade student who does not demonstrate reading proficiency and; any second-grade student who demonstrates difficulty with reading development. Local school administrative units may offer a reading camp as a literacy intervention to any first-grade student who demonstrates difficulty with reading development.

   Mrs. Beavers proposed shifting the camp to South Elementary to take the burden off of Oakwood to assist with custodians and cleaning of the school due to the timeframe they have after summer camp ends and the short turnaround. Concerns were shared and noted that board policy says that students cannot ride a bus longer than 90 minutes and with the broad range of distance from South to North and areas bordering Rockingham County it was questioned if these students would be on the bus for that length of time. Although this camp will not be as many as in years past, it was suggested having the camp at NL Dillard. Mrs. Beavers shared that the furniture may not accommodate elementary students and there is no option for recess but it may be possible to have necessary furniture and equipment moved. If the camp remains at Oakwood, Mrs. Beavers requested additional custodian support.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Read to Achieve Summer Learning Proposal as presented with the condition that the location be centrally located (Oakwood, BYSHS, or NL Dillard). The motion carried 6-1 with Blackwell voting "No."

Mrs. Beavers will update the board on the exact location once confirmed. It was also noted that the summer feeding program will be housed at NL Dillard to assist with cleaning timeframes.

4. Beginning Teacher Support Plan

   Austin Morris and Angela Martin (contracted) shared a presentation on the Beginning Teacher Support Plan. Upon completion of the presentation there were questions that needed to be answered and it was referred to closed session.

5. 2025-2026 Proposed School Calendar

   Ms. Gwynn reviewed the calendar and an Option B was shared which would begin school five days earlier. Discussion took place on the early release days and it was suggested to allow parents a time to pick up report cards on those days and would like to see that implemented again. It was requested that principals make plans to allow parents to come in on the early release days to they can have time to talk with teachers. Mr. Battle suggested that it is tricky but principals can be creative and allow staff to work later and allow flexibility so parents can meet with teachers and having a reason to pick up reports cards allows those incentives.

   Discussion was had regarding the two options and the flexibility to have exams prior to Christmas break.

   Vennie Beggarly questioned if the calendar committee met in regards to the current calendar due to the change in days for inclement weather. Shannon Apple shared they did not but they made the changes and shifted the days to reflect the inclement weather days.

   The waiver to submit to the State was discussed also and it was shared that reasoning for the waiver is primarily due to inclement weather.

   Board Attorney was asked for input on the Option B calendar and he shared that if someone does contest it things could get tricky and submitting a waiver may be an option noting the alignment with community colleges, the issues that occurs after returning from Christmas break and weather issues that affect exams. Board Attorney shared that 29 districts have opted to go earlier than the law requires; however, that is about one-fourth of the school districts and no one has contested it. Board policy says the board adopts a calendar and the oath, when sworn in, indicates you will uphold the law. If the board opts to go with Option B you will be doing it at your own risk. Board Attorney shared that the stipulations created with the calendar law make things difficult for the school system. He would hope there would not be an issue here as other counties have moved forward.

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve Calendar Option B. The motion failed 3-4. (Blackwell, McGhee, Smith, Johnson-Knight voting "No.")

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve Calendar Option A. The motion passed 4-3. (Lillard, Beggarly, Battle voting "No.")

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	H	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	IR	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	ER	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	☆24	25
26	RWD	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	RC	6	7	8
9	10	H	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	OWD	H	H	29
30						

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	IR	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	ER	20
21	AL	AL	H	H	H	27
28	AL	AL	AL			

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				H	OWD	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	☆16	17
18	H	OWD	RWD	22	23	24
25	26	27	RC	29	30	31

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	OWD	21
22	IR	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	☆ER	RWD	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	RC	H	4
5	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	IR	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	☆ER	RWD	RWD	RWD	13
14	15	16	17	18	RC	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1st Day of 1st & 2nd Semester
Non-Student Days / Annual Leave (AL)

Holidays (H)
Independence Day = July 4, 2025
Labor Day = Sept. 1, 2025
Veterans Day = Nov. 11, 2025
Thanksgiving = Nov. 27-28, 2025
Christmas = Dec. 24-26, 2025
New Years Day = Jan. 1, 2026
Martin Luther King = Jan. 19, 2026
Good Friday = Apr. 3, 2026
Memorial Day = May 25, 2026

1st Day for Students = Aug. 25
Last Day for Students = June 9
1st Semeter begins = Aug. 25
1st Semester ends = Jan. 16
2nd Semester begins = Jan. 22
2nd Semester ends = June 9
Report Cards Issued (RC)
Interim Reports (IR)
☆ End of Grading Period
Required Teacher Workday (RWD)
Optional Teacher Workday (OWD)

High School Graduation June 12, 2026

Calendar is subject to change due to weather conditions or other disruptions in instances of calendar disruptions. NC School Calendar legislation requires a minimum of 1.025 instructional hours. This school calendar includes approximately 1,064 instructional hours.

6. Knapheide Truck Equipment Center

Ms. Gwynn shared information from the Maintenance Director requesting the purchase of three truck bed utility boxes. Three quotes were received and low bid was Knapheide Truck Equipment. It was requested to possibly use the money received from surplus items that have been sold. Discussion took place on what the employees store their equipment in now. Ms. Gwynn shared they bring their own tools and are currently storing them inside the truck cab; however, it is difficult to take all and not know what is needed when arriving to the school as well as weather damage if stored in the bed of the truck which is not covered.

Joel Lillard shared he was not opposed to this request; however, at this time of the year and with plans to begin working on the budget for next year it may be timelier to look at including that in next years budget. Nicole Smith questioned if it would be helpful to approve at least one for now and it was shared that due to the cost of one, it would not require board approval and if the maintenance director has this in his budget he could proceed. The request to the board was for the purchase of three which requires board approval due to the amount over $10,000. It was shared that the items that are sold for surplus goes back to the general fund rather than individual departments. Joel Lillard also shared that we will need an additional activity bus next year and there may be other items that need to be reviewed.

At this time this request will not be acted on but reviewed during budgetary planning.

7. Budget Amendments # 1 and # 2

Finance Director Brook Underwood reviewed Budget Amendments # 1 and #2 and noted that #2 would need to be changed as it reflected the purchase of the truck beds as previously discussed and that would need to be corrected. She reviewed both amendments.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve Budget Amendment # 1 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS **BUDGET AMENDMENT # 1**

Caswell County Board of Education made the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the
Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30,2025

#	Account Code							Description	Debit	Credit
1	1	3100	000	000	000	000	00	Allocations from State Public School Fund		278,807.00
	1	5000	000	000	000	000	00	Instructional Services	266,246.00	
	1	6000	000	000	000	000	00	System Wide Support	12,561.00	

1 Position and dollar allotments match with NCDPI current allotments

Funding Source: State

Total appropriation in current budget:	**$21,487,040**
Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:	**$278,807**
Total appropriation in amended budget:	**$21,765,847**

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve Budget Amendment # 2 as presented. A corrected copy will be shared with the board before the conclusion of the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS **BUDGET AMENDMENT # 2**

Caswell County Board of Education made the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the
Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30,2025

#	Account Code							Description	Debit	Credit
1	4	4910	000	000	000	000	00	Fund Balance Appropriation		35,000.00
	4	9000	000	000	000	000	00	Civic Center Repair	35,000.00	
2	4	9003	000	000	000	000	00	Painting	15,000.00	
	4	9007	000	000	000	000	00	Asbestos Mgmt Contracted Repairs		15,000.00

1 Appropriate the Gov. Deal rev for Maint Equipment, Civic Center Repair
2 Budget transfer to cover contracted painting needs. Per maint director

Funding Source: State

Total appropriation in current budget:	**$798,500**
Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:	**$35,000**
Total appropriation in amended budget:	**$833,500**

8. Resolutions

Lisa Johnson-Knight read aloud the resolution for Jackie Wade, former employee of Caswell County Schools, who recently passed away.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard read aloud the resolution for Helen English, former employee of Caswell County Schools, who recently passed away.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicole McGhee read aloud the resolution for Virginia Ann Hodges, former employee of Caswell County Schools, who recently passed away.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Jacqueline "Jackie" Garland Wade

WHEREAS, Jacqueline "Jackie" Garland Wade, was born on July 23, 1956, and resided at 157 East Street, Milton, North Carolina, until the time of her death on January 15, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Jackie Wade, was a faithful and loving daughter, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Wade was educated in Caswell County and graduated from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School in 1974. She spent four (4) years in the military from 1979 until 1983. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree at Jacksonville State University in 1988. She was employed with Caswell County Schools as a school bookkeeper at NL Dillard Middle School from August 5, 2003 until her retirement in 2023; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Wade was a devoted member of High Street Baptist Church and gave her life to Christ at a very early age. She worked diligently in many capacities until her health declined; and

WHEREAS, Jackie Wade's professionalism and attention to detail in her role at Caswell County Schools will be remembered by the countless staff members, students and individuals she impacted during her career in Caswell; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Jackie Wade and expresses its sympathy to her 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 27th day of January 2025.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Helen Jean Butts English

WHEREAS, Helen Jean Butts English, was born on August 6, 1943, and resided at 107 Arthur Swann Road, Blanch, NC, 27212, until the time of her death on January 20, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Helen English, was a faithful wife and loving mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Helen English was educated in Caswell County and graduated from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School in 1961. Helen studied business in college and was employed with Caswell County Schools on August 28, 1978 as a teacher assistant until her retirement on July 1, 2005; and

WHEREAS, Helen English was a devoted and lifetime member of Community Baptist Church. She was a faithful member and worked diligently in many capacities; and

WHEREAS, Helen English's professionalism and attention to detail in her role at Caswell County Schools will be remembered by the countless staff members, students and individuals she impacted during her career in Caswell; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Helen English and expresses its sympathy to her 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 27th day of January 2025.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation of the Life of
Virginia Ann Nash Hodges

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Nash Hodges, was born on September 26, 1951, and resided in Providence, NC, until the time of her death on January 20, 2025, and

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Hodges, was a faithful wife, loving mother, and loyal friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Hodges taught elementary education for various school systems, primarily for Caswell County Schools, totaling 43 years of service at locations including North Elementary and Cobb Memorial School where she was named Caswell County Elementary Marth Teacher of the Year. She also taught at Woodlawn Academy in Chatham, VA and Piedmont Academy in Providence, NC. She retired from Caswell County Schools in June 2014; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Hodges was a member of Bethel United Methodist Church where she served as the Financial Secretary. She was an active charter member of the North Carolina Gamma Phi chapter of Alpha Delta Kappa, an educator's sorority where she served multiple positions during her time including chaplain, secretary, president-elect, and was the current president. Although retired, she continued to be a lifelong learner and educator. Her love of reading transcended to the Caswell County Friends of the Library as she was a dedicated member since 2013. She assisted with enhancing the influence of Gunn Memorial Public Library by serving as a board member and secretary. She kept the Little Lending Library at Bethel Church stocked and assisted with organizing and coordinating the Gunn Memorial Library book club. She served as a member of the Caswell County Library Board for four years. She was a former member of the American Business Women's Association (ABWA), an organization dedicated to providing women from diverse occupations with opportunities to help themselves grow personally and professionally through leadership. In 1984, Virginia Ann served as the Corresponding Secretary for the Danville Chapter; and

WHEREAS, Virginia Ann Hodges's professionalism and attention to detail in her role at Caswell County Schools will be remembered by the countless staff members, students and individuals she impacted during her career in Caswell. Those she worked with built lasting friendships and were touched for the better by knowing Virginia Ann; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Virginia Ann Hodges and expresses its sympathy to her 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 27th day of January 2025.

9. School Starting/Ending Times

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the starting and ending times for schools as follows:

Elementary:	8:10 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.
Middle:	7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
High:	8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

JoAnna Gwynn shared Miss North Carolina will be visiting the county on March 6, 2025 and have asked to use the large PD Room at Central Office and asked if the fee could be waived.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to waive the fee for the large PD Room at Central Office for the use of meet and greet with Miss North Carolina on March 6, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

JoAnna Gwynn shared dates she would like to attend professional development through the NCASA Superintendent Cohort. The timeframe will be February 25-27, 2025.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve professional development for JoAnna Gwynn on February 25-27, 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- All board members expressed thanks to Connie Kimrey for coordinating the recognition of the board for January Board of Education Month as well as to the schools and students for the cards, posters and videos. Lisa Johnson-Knight and Nicole McGhee shared they enjoyed participating in the spelling bee as a judge and the students did a great job. Joel Lillard shared thanks to the board for the cards, visits, flowers, calls during the loss of his mother. Trudy Blackwell also thanked the parents who were present tonight during the recognition of the basketball team at NL Dillard Middle School as well as to the students.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Vennie Beggarly 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. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. OPEN SESSION

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

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

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

Resignations	
Child Nutrition	Elsie Price, Child Nutrition Substitute = Eff. 1/17/25
Termination	
	Glenda Graves, Substitute Bus Driver = Eff. 1/27/25
Substitute	
	Jessica Schumacher, Substitute = Eff. 2/3/25

XII. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 p.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 3, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

_____ _____

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

JoAnna Gwynn
Superintendent