CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
March 10, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, March 10, 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 McGhee, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn, Austin Morris, Brook Underwood, David Useche, Board Attorney Ron Bradsher, Jerome Wilson, Michelle Robinson, Terri Parker, Adam Scepurek, 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 Chair Mel Battle. A moment of silence was observed, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2025, regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn recognized the following:

Margaret Shaffer – Early Literacy Specialist

Mel Battle recognized Rick Hill who was named Wrestling Coach of the Year and congratulated him on this recognition.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

Audit Report
Adam Scepurek with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC reviewed the audit report.

School Reports
Reports were given by each Principal and questions were answered from the Board.

- Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School

- Oakwood Elementary
- South Elementary
- North Elementary
- Stoney Creek Elementary
- NL Dillard Middle

Title II Presentation
Alyson Beavers, Director of Elementary Curriculum & Federal Programs shared an overview of the information that was provided to the Board on Title II. The district receives four entitlement grants each year; Title I, Title II, Title IV, and RLIS. The purpose of the federal funding is to provide support for students and staff to ultimately impact student outcomes in a positive manner.

Funding and allocations were reviewed. Mel Battle inquired on the sign-on bonuses and Austin Morris shared this was inherited when he took over the position. Mel Battle shared that the Board approved stipulations for sign on bonuses and information shared did not coordinate with what was approved previously. Questions were asked if funding can be reallocated so that sign on bonuses can continue for the hard to find teaching positions. Mrs. Beavers shared that it is possible and can be amended with allowable expenses. Other concerns included an individual transferring from one position to another and would not be entitled to the bonus. Other questions included what memberships were paid out of Title II and it was shared that included PTEC (Piedmont Triad Education Consortium). Sign on bonuses are currently paid out monthly and funding is allotted for the remainder of the year for those that have received a bonus this school year. Ms. Beavers shared one option would be to check to see what is needed for tuition reimbursement and that could be a possible option.

ACTION: Alyson Beavers, Brook Underwood and Austin Morris will work on options for continuing a sign on bonus with what funding we currently have.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Quotes for Child Nutrition Van

  Ms. Gwynn shared quotes that were submitted for a van for the Child Nutrition Department. The low bid was from Parks Ford and is on State contract. Discussion took place on where we are with repairs for the refrigerated truck as it was felt that at this time it makes more sense to repair the truck first and possibly include the cost of the van in the budget request to the Board of Commissioners. If approved, other options could be reviewed for additional quotes that are not required to be on State contract or look at options for purchasing a van and then having the refrigeration portion installed at ThermoKing.

ACTION: Transportation is to begin repairs on the refrigerated truck as soon as possible and include cost of van in the budget which will go to the Board of Commissioners. It was shared to also look into additional quotes for the van with and without refrigeration and acquire cost from ThermoKing on what it would cost to add the refrigeration portion to a van. An update will be given to the board at the next meeting on cost and what is wrong with the refrigerated truck and timeframe of repair completion.

- Child Nutrition Menu Options

Ms. Gwynn shared information on the menu options and shared that the Child Nutrition Director provides the menu; however, management can change the decision on what is served and the menu can vary. She shared the goal is to try and provide a variety of food choices.

Joel Lillard questioned why would a manager decide to vary from the menu. He looked online at other school menus and the variety is much broader than what we currently offer. When looking at the March menu, broccoli is served every Monday of the month. Vennie Beggarly shared that the managers cannot vary that much as they have to serve what is ordered unless it is near dates on the calendar when school is closed and they try to disburse of the food they have. It was shared that in the past, taste testings were held with students and staff and perhaps this needs to be brought back again. Other information shared by Ms. Gwynn included baked potatoes can only be served at the high school as equipment in the other schools is not working to prepare this item.

Discussion took place on why we have broken equipment and it was shared that a listing was given to the board last year on all needed repairs and the board was led to believe that things had been corrected. Concerns were noted that if equipment is broken and no one is trying to repair it or report it how is it to get fixed. David Useche shared that the Child Nutrition Director inherited these problems and it was also shared that the maintenance department doesn't have the diagnostic skills to make repairs on the equipment.

ACTION: An updated list of all needed equipment repairs will be shared with the Board at the next meeting.

ACTION: It was also requested that a listing be brought to the Board on what was spent on the grant we received on the repairs that were currently made.

- Finance Committee Meeting

Ms. Gwynn shared that she and Brook Underwood, Finance Officer, are planning to work on the budget on Friday and will bring back to the Board for review. Questions were asked why a committee was formed as that was the intention for the board members on the committee to be involved in the planning of the budget and to become familiar with

the process. Ms. Gwynn shared that the two members were welcome to be at the meeting on Friday.

Joel Lillard shared a listing of capital outlay priorities is needed and Ms. Gwynn shared she is working with Alan Poteat, Maintenance Director, on acquiring this list.

Mel Battle shared that board policy indicates that the board appoints the committees and board chair heads every committee. Although this option has never been used, the board agreed this year to have committees and those members need to be involved in the respective meetings.

- Metal Detectors

Ms. Gwynn shared that a draft copy of policy was included for the board to review. Discussion took place on placement of metal detectors and if more are needed at North and South. It was also requested that other options be looked into for Stoney Creek due to technical issues that are occurring. It was questioned if the company that the metals detectors were purchased from has been contacted. Ms. Gwynn shared that they have and it was related to conditions of older buildings, etc.

ACTION: David Useche and JoAnna Gwynn to reevaluate the needs and give suggestions at the next meeting on additional metal detectors. Also, it was requested that wording be reiterated in the policy that clear bags are required at sporting events.

It was questioned if moving the old one used at the high school to Stoney Creek could be an option to see if it will work.

Upon no further questions, Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the first reading of Policy # 4342 and 5020 – Regulation as presented with changes as suggested. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: Second reading will be brought back to the board for approval at the next meeting.

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.

It was questioned why the delay for early graduates as the form specifically states that there will be no approval if form is not submitted by October 29th. It was noted that Ms. Gwynn needs to make sure this is enforced going forward.

Requests for Transfer

Cobb, Annabelle	Caswell	to	Orange (9th)
Cobb, Luke	Caswell	to	Orange (6th)
Rone, Frederick	Caswell	to	Guilford (6th)
Vernon, Sarah	Caswell	to	ABSS (11th)
Yarbrough, Kayden	Caswell	to	Person (6th)

Early Graduates
Janas Davis
Breylen Harris
Sheila Pulliam

2. Listening Tour

   Information from listening tour will be discussed in closed session as it involves a teacher assistant position.

3. Track Coaches at NL Dillard Middle

   Ms. Gwynn shared information on the need for track coaches at the middle school. It was shared that due to other sports not taking place this year there is funding to cover coaches for this year only. Concerns were shared going forward with the addition of wrestling teams and females participating that the need for a female coach may need to be addressed for the future.

4. Contracted Services – Angela Martin (contract extension)

   Ms. Gwynn shared the need for extending contract for Angela Martin through May 31, 2025. She shared she recently assisted with the NC DPI monitoring visit and provides support to the HR Director.

   Questions were asked if Tiffany Ramos (UNCG) is assisting with HR duties and Mr. Austin Morris, HR Director, shared that Ms. Ramos contract is hired to coach the beginning teachers and is limited to 14. Angela Martin is building capacity with mentors and beginning teachers as well as assisting with NC DPI which helps teachers towards licensure. The cost for extending the contract is $8,000 and noted that funding is available.

   Ms. Gwynn shared the rationale of why Angela Martin is helping Mr. Morris noting that he is new to this position and he nor Ms. Gwynn have gone through a NC DPI assessment and this was a learning curve for both of them. Mrs. Martin is very familiar with the process. Nicole McGhee shared that in the past she has worked with Angela Martin and

Tiffany Ramos and both are very successful in working with teachers and this is what we should be doing in giving our teachers resources needed to help them excel.

Upon lengthy discussion, Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of contract extension with Angela Martin as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried 4-3 with Lillard, Beggarly, and Smith voting "No."

Angela Martin
Contract Extension = March 14, 2025 through May 31, 2025
Rate of $40.00/per hour not to exceed twenty (20) hours per week
Contract Total: Up to $40,000 total per year

Funding: Title II Contracted Services

5. Summer Learning Program 2025

Ms. Gwynn shared information on the summer learning program which was shared with the board previously. Additional information has been included and noted this was requested by all principals. Alyson Beavers, Director of Elementary Curriculum and Federal Programs, shared an update on the remediation. It was questioned if this could take place at a certain location. Mrs. Beavers shared she is not sure that was considered but noted each school is responsible to use their Title I funding and some have earmarked it for this year. Principals will have to look at their balances. She shared the students feel more familiar with their school site and this may be something to consider going forward. It was also asked if a bag lunch could be used and come from the summer feeding site as opposed to having child nutrition staff work at each school site for the dates of the summer learning program. Transportation staff will be needed. Mrs. Beavers shared she will share the recommendations with the Child Nutrition Director.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Summer Learning Program for 2025 as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Board of Education Live Broadcast Meetings

Ms. Gwynn shared that online meetings have been posted and information is included on the website that indicates they will be posted for seven days. This has currently been listed on the website. Policy # 2320 relates to the minute portion which is not part of the live meetings which are posted.

Discussion took place on how long the meetings should be posted for viewing. Mel Battle shared he was not aware that there was a limit on how long they were to be posted and there has not been an issue with this in the past.

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to continue to post the live broadcasting of board meetings and remove wording that meetings will be removed after seven days. The motion carried 6-1 with Blackwell voting "No."

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Ms. Gwynn shared updates on the following:

- PCC Collaboration Project – Ms. Gwynn shared PCC is very interested in using the East Wing of the high school and asked if the board agreed with allowing them to pursue this. All agreed to allow PCC to pursue and information will be brought back to the board before any decisions are made.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

- Lisa Johnson-Knight shared she visited Stoney Creek Elementary and students were working on science projects and someone from the high school is assisting students with horticulture and shared students were excited. She also assisted the North PTSO and served staff lunch and visited South and introduced herself to the Principal who gave her a tour of South. Mel Battle shared he enjoyed the light in the students faces who participated in the Multiplication Madness event and shared this was a wonderful event and was well planned. Joel Lillard shared the Multiplication Madness was an exciting event for our students as well and that the kids took this seriously. Trudy Blackwell shared she attended the Miss NC Visit and it was well received at the middle school and students were impressed and motivated by her speech.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to go into closed session at 1:00 p.m. 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

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to return to open session. Trudy Blackwell -Knight 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 Nicole Smith, to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
Child Nutrition Dept.	Makayla Mitchell, Child Nut. Dept. Director = Effective = April 29, 2025
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Dr. Gregory Oliver, EC Teacher = Eff. 6/13/25
Retirement	
NL Dillard Middle School	Angela Ouzts, PE Teacher = Eff. 6/1/25
Stoney Creek Elementary	Phyllis Reynolds, Custodian = Eff. 6/11/25
Substitutes	
	Sherry McGowan, Office Support = Eff. 3/12/25 = North Elementary
	Jasmine Wilson = Eff. 3/17/25

Part Time Teacher Assistant Afterschool Program = Oakwood Elementary
Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of part time teacher assistant for afterschool at Oakwood Elementary. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Administrative Assistant EC Dept.
Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of posting position for administrative assistant for EC Dept. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Part Time Teacher Assistant = Stoney Creek Elementary
Ms. Gwynn recommended approval of a temporary part time teacher assistant position at Stoney Creek Elementary. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Upcoming meeting dates were shared by Chair Mel Battle due to spring break and Memorial Day holidays. Updated meeting dates include:

- March 24th = work session for listening tour information only
- March 24th = regular board meeting @ 5:30 p.m.
- April 14th = regular meeting @ 9:00 a.m. & review budget info. at end of mtg.
- May 5th = regular meeting @ 9:00 a.m. (date change)
- May 19th = regular meeting @ 5:30 p.m. (date change)
- June 9th = regular meeting @ 9:00 a.m.

Chair Mel Battle shared that if anyone has suggestions for budget to give them to Joel Lillard, Lisa Johnson-Knight, or JoAnna Gwynn.

Chair Mel Battle shared with Ms. Gwynn that positions on the website need to be updated.

XI. ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m., Nicole Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 24, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

_____ _____

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

JoAnna Gwynn
Superintendent