CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
April 7, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a special called meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025, at 6:00 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 McGhee, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Board Attorney Ron Bradsher. Gary Willie, Barbara Evan, Larry Lea, Holly Broadnax, Anne Evans, Alice Robinson, Paul Robinson, Beatrice Lea, Hazel Henderson, Crystal Gwynn, Shirley Stanfield, Nate Moore, Thelma Lea, Emmanuel Lea, Kameka Totten, Chevette Madden, Clifton Madden, Earnestine Hamlett, Harvey Hamlett, Betty Blackwell, Barbara Graves, Odessa Gwynn, Annie Long, Leon Wiley, Kacine Graves, Leroy Harrelson, Dwight Graves, Melanie Gibson, Alison Bernard, Tonya Nunnally, Lori Slade, Sam Slade, Jerry Wilson, Kent Williamson, Deborah Williamson, Ophelia Willis, Michael Graves, Tore Foster, Tia Foster, Gerald Laval-Williams, Yolanda Simpson, Scotty Williamson, Belinda Williamson, Herley & Edith Lester, Shelia Richmond, Janet Daniel, Richard Fountain, Angela Fountain, Duane Mims, Dr. Franklin Jones, Sr. Connie Kimrey and Attorney Ron Bradsher recorded the minutes. (*Note: Others may have been present but did not sign the roster or names were not legible*).

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Mel Battle.

Chairman Mel Battle reviewed Board Policy # 2310, Public Participation at Board Meetings and noted that public comments are not required to be held at this time. Mr. Battle shared the next regular scheduled meeting is April 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

II. 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.

III. OPEN SESSION

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

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to pay out the contract of former Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn in the amount of $157,830.06 and for that amount to be confirmed with Finance Officer which will be for fifteen months.

Joel Lillard shared that per terms of her contract we only have to offer her a Director or Principal position and questioned why we would make the offer and if the board did decide to do that can we negotiate the offer of the payoff amount.

Mel Battle shared that the contract reads that a director or principal position would be offered and if those positions were offered, the payout amount would be subject to change. Lisa Johnson-Knight questioned if that being the case would there be conversations with JoAnna Gwynn. Mel Battle shared that would be discussed with her attorney. Board Attorney shared that per terms of her contract she is still employed and has until the 14th of April to give the board a decision.

Upon no further comments, the motion made by Trudy Blackwell, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to pay out the contract of former Superintendent JoAnna Gwynn in the amount of $157,830.06 and for that amount to be confirmed with Finance Officer which will be for fifteen months failed 3-4 with Battle, Lillard, Beggarly, and Smith voting "No."

Joel Lillard asked Board Attorney Ron Bradsher to reach out to see what can be negotiated. Ron Bradsher expressed concerns and noted he does not want to be put in a bad situation with the board. He will reach out and also remind him that an answer is due by April 14th from JoAnna Gwynn on taking over the director position. He stated he is not sure if her attorney is aware of the wages the board agreed upon at the March 31, 2025 meeting regarding 3% state salary increase and advanced degree amount of $126.00 which will be back paid.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to have Board Attorney discuss other negotiations with JoAnna Gwynn's attorney. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard asked if possible to try and wrap this up before April 14th if possible with allowing the 48-hour notice deadline. Lisa Johnson-Knight shared she will be out of town on Wednesday and Thursday. Board Attorney will update the Board Chair and he will share information accordingly.

VI. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31 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 April 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle	Alyson Beavers
Chairman	Acting Superintendent