CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 19, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 19, 2025, at 5:30 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 McGhee, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Austin Morris, Brook Underwood, David Useche, Board Attorney Ron Bradsher, Chris Reynolds, Ryan Reynolds, Marcy Barefoot, Nelson Showalter, Jerome Wilson, April McKinney, Levi McKinney, Dakota Henry, Kaleigh Matherly, Terri Parker, Carolyn & CT Hicks, Sharon Young, Brandon & Barbara Mize, Ophelia Willis, Crowe Family, Sara Brodwell, Laura Webb, H. Broadnax, N. Hamlett, Angela Ouzts, Ruth Miller, Amanda Hancock, Mike Hancock, Myranda Hancock, Kent Williamson, Deborah Williamson, Brittney Ashe, Ronnie Randall, Praxton Randall, Sophia Randall, Steve Myers, Kameka Totten, Angela Turner, Shelia Richmond, Warneda Long, Henry Long, 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

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2025, regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lance Stokes 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

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes invited the HR Director, Austin Morris to present Student Excellence Awards as follows:

Joseph Escalante, Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School
Miranda Hancock, Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School

NL Dillard Volleyball team was recognized on winning the State Championship with a 10-0 season.

Nelson Showalter and Marcy Barefoot recognized the following AIG teachers:

Brittney Ashe
Stephanie Brooks
Stephen Camp
Heather Franklin
Rhonda McFalls
LeAnna Myers
Dawn Phillips
James Springer
Miriam Springer
Laura Webb

Students who placed in the top 20 of the Math League National Competition
6th graders: Ryan Reynolds (11th) and Skylar Young (12th)
7th graders: Riley May and Levi McKinney (tie for 11th)

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ophelia Willis, Yanceyville, NC
Ms. Willis shared concerns with the manner in which the Board of Education handled the situation with former superintendent. She shared that two articles were included in the Caswell Messenger and the most recent included wording that indicated that no wrong doing had taken place. She stated if that was the case, why was Ms. Gwynn still not in this position. If there was a financial settlement where did this come from and if local funds were used the taxpayers have a right to know in her opinion. She shared she did not expect a response from the board tonight but did expect a response.

II. REPORTS

None at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Eureka Math Renewal

   Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of Eureka Math renewal as presented by Alyson Beavers. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard. The motion carried unanimously.

Eureka Match / Great Minds PBC
Cost = $65,898.23
Funding: PRC 131 – Textbooks
(The funding source has not been utilized for the 24/25 school year. The current balance of this funding is $461,176.80).

2. Wireless Network Upgrade = Oakwood Elementary (PRC 251) / Surazal Systems

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of Wireless Network Upgrade for Oakwood Elementary with Surazal Systems as presented by Alyson Beavers. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Alyson Beavers shared that this is for the cost of materials only and we will provide labor which will not interfere with instructional time.

Surazal Systems
Cost = $28,716.45
Funding: PRC 251 (Wireless Network Upgrade)

3. MOU – Daybreak Medical PA

Mr. Stokes shared information on the MOU with Daybreak Medical PA. and recommended approval. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve MOU with Daybreak Medical PA as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Daybreak Medical PA
325 N Paul Street, Suite 3100
Dallas, TX 75201

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Mr. Stokes shared additional information that was given to the County Manager per their request regarding the budget that was presented. He will be meeting with the County Manager to review details.

The County Manager has requested that the quarterly meetings with the two boards be reestablished and a one/three/five-year facility plan be shared along with working on updated budget calendar and put in process how we identify capital outlay needs and dollars.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly thanked Connie Kimrey for the planning of the End of Year Banquet and shared it was a very nice event. She attended PCC's graduation and the DARE graduation noting both were very nice events. Lisa Johnson-Knight expressed similar sentiments on the banquet and shared she attended the dress rehearsal of Finding Nemo at North Elementary, volunteered the week of teacher appreciation, and attended the Art Show and PCC's graduation and both were very nice noting we have some talented artists within the system. She also shared she had a daughter that was a PCC graduate. Nicole Smith thanked all involved for the banquet which was very nice. She visited the high school and middle school and noted the students were well behaved. She thanked Ms. Lassiter for her assistance with her son's college needs and thanked the counselors for the work they do. She attended and volunteered at the Special Olympics and thanked Mr. Nelson Showalter for the work he does and how well the event was along with the participation at the end by the high school students. Mel Battle shared the banquet was very nice and a very enjoyable event and congratulated all the winners. He attended the NLD band concert and the DARE graduation and both were nice events. Joel Lillard thanked all for the work they are doing noting that this is an extremely busy time of the year within the school system. He noted the banquet was a nice event and shared the Finding Nemo production at North was very well done. Nicole McGhee thanked those involved for the banquet noting it was very nice. Trudy Blackwell attended Special Olympics and thanked all that organized this event as it was very nice. She shared the banquet was also a nice event and a good job to those who organized it as it was nice to see everyone having fun and congratulated the winners of the evening. She met with principals at North and NL Dillard Middle and shared everyone is busy preparing for testing. She thanked all of our staff as everyone's positions makes the district work.

Recess

At this time (6:01 p.m.) Chairman Mel Battle called for a recess so the Board of Education could attend the Board of County Commissioners meeting for a portion of their meeting.

The Board reconvened at 7:42 p.m.

Graduation was discussed and how the Board of Education would participate with shaking the graduate's hands on the stage.

It was also agreed to change the time of the June 9th meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. due to the 8th grade graduation at NL Dillard and the time being a conflict.

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. Lisa Johnson-Knight 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.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
Central Office = Human Resources	Austin Morris, HR Director = Eff. 6/30/25
Retirement	
Oakwood Elementary	Brenda Alston, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 6/13/25
Employment	
Central Office – Excep. Children	Natalie Duncan, Behavior Support Liaison for EC Dept. = Eff. 8/18/25
NL Dillard Middle School	Jeffery Joyce – Athletic Director @ NLD (11 months for AD) = Eff. TBD
	Stephanie Hammock, Temporary CTE Teacher (1-yr. contract for 25/26 school year only) = Eff. 8/18/25 (currently a substitute teacher)
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Casey Lassiter, School Counselor (currently an ELA teacher) Eff. 6/14/25 (first year teacher/counselor with bachelor's degree)
Termination	Josephine Broadnax, Bus Aide

NCSBA Video Library

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to subscribe to the video library with the North Carolina School Board Association at the cost of $1,500.00. The motion carried unanimously.

Trudy Blackwell wanted to thank all the staff that attended the Board of County Commissioners meeting tonight.

XI. ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved to adjourn the meeting, 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 June 9, 2025 at 3:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle	Lance Stokes
Chairman	Interim Superintendent