CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
June 9, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 3:30 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, and Trudy Blackwell. Nicole Smith arrived later in the meeting. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Austin Morris, Brook Underwood, David Useche, Board Attorney Ron Bradsher, John Berdine, Sara Broadwell, Amy Howard, Deborah Williamson, Casey Evans. 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 Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the minutes of the May 19, 2025, regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve the agenda as presented. Joel Lillard requested to remove lawn bids from the consent and add as Item # 5 for discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared that things are going well as we approach the end of the year.

Mr. Stokes shared that Nelson Showalter has submitted his resignation and he wanted to thank him personally and publicly for his service to Caswell County Schools for thirty years. This may be the last meeting he attends and congratulations are extended to him and thanks for his years of service. A reception will be held in his honor later this week.

Congratulations to the 8th grade class at NL Dillard as their graduation was held earlier in the day and was a nice event.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Amy Howard shared concerns she has regarding staffing at Stoney Creek noting that teacher assistants are being pulled to go to other elementary schools. Also, the concern has been brought up of closing the school and she shared Stoney Creek is a pivotal part of the community and she moved her child to this school due to the education and small classrooms and shared her child

has excelled since moving there. Local schools such as Stoney Creek are a part of the future and shared that if the school were to close the students would have a length of travel which is a concern. The community is growing and a school contributes to the growth and prosperity. She requested that the board continue to keep this school open and fully staffed with smaller classrooms so children can learn and grow.

Kent Williamson shared that he has not heard anything regarding the dismissal of JoAnna Gwynn. He reminded the board that he sent a letter and to make sure they are looking at that to provide more information as requested.

Casey Evans addressed the board and shared she is the Media Specialist at Stoney Creek Elementary. She shared concerns with the staffing changes which will cause larger class sizes and is very concerned. She also shared that being the Media Specialist and the Testing Coordinator is very difficult and is difficult to support teachers and students with reading as much of her time is spent with the testing aspect, preparing testing materials, etc.

Adam Evans shared similar concerns with the changes being made at Stoney Creek and the talk of closing the school. He shared he transferred his child to Stoney Creek and is very troubled as a parent to navigate these waters if this is something the board is considering. He understands that cuts are needed; however, he asked that the board take the concerns of parents into their decisions.

II. REPORTS

Dr. Medina Jones shared an update on CTE and noted the CTE plan was previously approved; however, amendments were included for the board to be aware of. Additional information was shared with the board on highlights of staff and students and the job they are doing which is very impressive. Dr. Jones shared that the Ag class at NL Dillard Middle School is doing an amazing job with the FFA Chapter.

Highlights from CTE:

Ms. Harlee Denny: Agriculture - Received the Gold National FFA Chapter. There are only 37 schools with this distinction from NC High School CTE Celebrations

Irvin Satterfield, one of our FFA officers, has been named a Top 3 finalist in the NC FFA. Proficiency Awards for Sheep Production. This is a tremendous accomplishment that reflects Irvin's hard work, dedication, and passion for agriculture. He will be recognized at the NC FFA State Convention in June, where the final results will be announced.

Mr. Brian Totten: Business, Finance, and Information Technology

William McGhee (11th Grader) Passed the Part 107 Drone Pilot Certification. This certification gives him a greater opportunity for commercial employment. We are certainly in celebration mode as we hope that we have more on the way.

Mr. Daryl Carver: Collision Repair - Great year of students completing projects and learning collision repair skills. The 24-25 school year had the most female student enrollments since Mr. Carver has been teaching collision repair (11 total students)!

Mr. Eric Phelps: Automotive - Mr. Phelps is also celebrating the highest number of female students who have enrolled and successfully completed the course since he has been teaching the course.

Ms. Breanna Lane: Culinary Arts - A lot of hard work and dedication from students who recently completed the ServSafe Manager Certification Exam — a nationally recognized credential in food safety and restaurant management in my Food & Nutrition II class. 17 out of 19 students earned their certification, demonstrating exceptional knowledge and career readiness in the foodservice industry.

Zavion Hughes was offered a raise at his job for completing the ServSafe Manager Certification Exam. Temondre Fike was given a raise and also applied and was offered a managerial position at Panda Express and Zaxby's.

Mr. Wayne Cobler: Woodworking - Mr. Wayne Cobler will be presented at a session for the CTE summer conference, which will include CTE teachers from across the state. 25 of 30 students who took the Woodworking I CTE Post Assessment for SY 2024-2025 made a 70 or higher. There was an 83% pass rate. Students interested in conducting Advanced Studies in Woodworking next year. There were 6 Woodworking II students who completed their Woodwork Career Alliance (WCA) Sawblade Certification this year and several more who were very close. 31 of 32 Woodworking I students completed their OSHA 10-hour Construction Safety Certification. Also, 12 Woodworking II students completed it because they did not have a chance to do it during Woodworking I.

Lastly, 5 students completed a one-day Computer Numerical Control (CNC) Router training with a ShopBot technician and helped others use the automated system. We had enough interest to offer a Woodworking III class this semester and students are making some really nice products! Attached is a picture of Christian Cabrera with his coffee table.

Ms. Donna Surface: Nursing - This year, we have the largest CNA class since 2015. 12 students completed the class including 40 hours of clinical experience at the local nursing home. So far, 11 students have taken the written portion of the exam and ALL have passed. Several students have already been accepted to nursing school.

N.L.Dillard Middle School CTE Celebrations:

Ms. Sarah Chandler: Exploratory Agriculture - Ms. Sarah Chandler has been nominated by her CTE colleagues as CTE Teacher of the Year for NCAAT. The N.L. Dillard FFA Chapter submitted its first FFA roster since the 2018-2019 school year, according to National FFA records.

This year, 39 members were submitted to the National FFA Organization. To sum up the year, FFA collected and delivered needed items to the Caswell County Animal Shelter in the fall in addition to working with BY FFA to hold a successful fruit sale fundraiser. Dillard FFA held its first plant sale this spring and developed a cookbook with contributions from our members and community to help raise funds for chapter activities. The FFA is currently managing 6 raised garden beds of vegetable crops, in addition to cleaning up and developing the 4 raised beds in the adaptive curriculum garden with the goal of establishing and maintaining a sensory garden. Ms. Chandler secured a $1000 sponsorship from our local AgSouth Farm Credit Branch in support of the sensory garden. Four FFA members received their Discovery FFA Degree this year, which is only attainable in 7th or 8th grade. The officer team for next school year has been elected and look forward to working over the summer maintaining our gardens, planning our FFA Program of Activities for 2025-2026, and attending the FFA State Convention in support of BY FFA members who are being recognized for their achievements.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

   Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of consent agenda as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

   - NCSBA Invoice
   - Requests for Transfer
   - Bus Driver of the Year Category for End of Year Banquet (polled in May)
   - Brady Contract
   - Saffelle Contract
   - LINQ Invoice
   - Interim Spending Resolution
   - Auditing Contract = Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC
   - Child Nutrition Bids
   - W.C. Rouse & Son Contract
   - Radio Engineering Industries, Inc.
   - Galls Contract
   - Integrators Contract
   - Surazal Contract

NCSBA Invoice
$12,277 = Membership
Funds = 2.3910.801.361.810.000.00

Requests for Transfer

King, Ava	Danville	to	Caswell / North (2nd) ***
King, Zoey	Danville	to	Caswell / North (2nd) ***
Gehris, Madison	Caswell	to	Person (8th)
Herndon, Carley	Caswell	to	ABSS (10th)
Mathis, Natalie	Caswell	to	ABSS (5th)

***=Tuition applies

Bus Driver of the Year
This category was added to the awards for the End of the Year Banquet. Board was polled by Lance Stokes in May prior to the banquet held on May 13, 2025. (No information was given on what the amount would be).

Brady Contract
Year two of three for preventative maintenance on chillers
Funds = Capital Outlay

Saffelle, Inc.
Monthly Fee of $7,122.00 (effective July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026)
Funding = Capital Outlay

LINQ Invoice
$23,272.18 (effective May 1, 2025 through April 30, 2026)
Funding = State (15%) / Local (85%)
2.6510.802.326.000.00 (Local = $18,617.74)
1.5400.019.418.000.00 (State = $4,654.44)

Interim Spending Resolution

Date: June 9, 2025

To: Caswell County Board of Education

From Brook Underwood

Re: Interim Spending Resolution

In accordance with NC GS 115C-434, a resolution is required to permit expenditure of all funds between July 1 and the adoption of budgets by the Board of Education. This will allow for the paying of salaries and usual operating expenses of the school system until

such time as the Budget Resolution can be adopted. This request is to authorize expenditures at the same level as previously approved for the 2024-2025 school year. Recommending a resolution at this spending level early in the fiscal year should not cause problems if additional cuts are required.

RESOLUTION: Be it, therefore, resolved that the Caswell County Board of Education authorizes an appropriation of funds at the same level as 2024-2025 for the purpose of paying salaries and usual and ordinary expenses for the period of July 1, 2025 until adoption of the Budget Resolution for 2025-2026.

Auditing Contract = Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC
Fiscal Year Ending 6/30/25 = audit submitted on 12/31/25
$34,000
Funding = 2.6932.801.311.000.000.00.0

School Nutrition Vendor Contracts
Grocery
Vendor = Sysco Raleigh

Chemicals & Supplies
Vendor = Southeastern Paper Group of NC

Fresh Produce
Vendor = R&H Produce Co., Inc.

Water & Beverages
Vendor = Pepsi Bottling Ventures, LLC

Dairy/Milk
Vendor = DFA Dairy Brands Fluid, LLC dba as PET Dairy

W.C. Rouse & Son – Boiler Room Equipment & Services
Contract will secure a lower hourly rate
Funding = Capital Outlay (HVAC)

Radio Engineering Industries, Inc.
Dash Cameras
$35,070.85
Funding = Safety Grant (to be spent by end of June 2025)

Galls Contract
Metal Detectors
$19,487.22
Funding = Safety Grant (to be spent by end of June 2025)

Integrators Contract
Security Camera additions for BYSHS identified areas
Funding = Safety Grant (to be spent by end of June 2025)

Surazal Contract
Switches to Support Additional Cameras
Funding = Safety Grant (to be spent by end of June 2025)

2. Budget Amendment # 5

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of Budget Amendment # 5 as presented.

Discussion was had regarding safety upgrades and the board not being made aware of this. Concerns were made regarding moving funds to another line item without board approval and budget amendments need to come to the board for items like this before they are moved.

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell. The motion carried 5-1 with Lillard voting "No" and Nicole Smith was not present at this time.

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS **BUDGET AMENDMENT # 5**

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	9000	000	000	000	000	00	Paving		34,450.00
	4	9000	000	000	000	000	00	HVAC Contracted		38,355.44
	4	9004	000	000	000	000	00	Roof Repairs		11,173.46
	4	7200	000	000	000	000	00	SFS Repairs	778.72	
	4	9003	000	000	000	000	00	Painting	449.86	
	4	9005	000	000	000	000	00	Weatherization	3,823.57	
	4	9006	000	000	000	000	00	Landscape Contract	18,590.00	
	4	9016	000	000	000	000	00	Doors	5,337.60	
	4	9100	000	000	000	000	00	Safety Upgrades	54,999.15	

1 Budget Transfer to clear negative budget lines for year end.

Funding Source: State

Total appropriation in current budget:	**$833,500**
Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:	**$0**
Total appropriation in amended budget:	**$833,500**

Passed by majority vote of the Caswell County Board of Education
on the 9th of June, 2025

3. MOU – Carnegie Learning & WestEd (4th grade math teachers)

   Alyson Beavers shared information on the MOU which will offer professional development training for fourth grade teachers. This is aligned with NC DPI grant to fund so there will be no cost to the district.

   Mr. Stokes, Interim Superintendent, recommended approval of the MOU with Carnegie Learning & WestEd as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell to approve the MOU as presented with Carnegie Learning &WestEd. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Policy Updates = NCSBA

   Joel Lillard asked if we could review the updates once Nicole Smith arrives so that all can be approved for second reading (as per policy requires a unanimous vote). These were held.

5. Lawn Contract = Custom Cuts

   Mr. Stokes shared an updated contract from Custom Cuts for a three-year contract which provides pricing to remain the same. Only one other bid was received and that company did not meet the qualifications required. Upon review, Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the updated three-year contract with Custom Cuts as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the three-year contract with Custom Cuts. The motion carried unanimously.

   Custom Cuts Outdoor Maintenance
   741 Rudd Ridge Road, Yanceyville, NC 27379
   Lawn Maintenance Proposal = 2025 (Three Year Contract)

   Proposal includes playground mulch for all sites where applicable and dyed mulch for all sites. Includes all materials and labor for all existing mulch applications at all 7 sites.

   Based on 36 months:

NL Dillard Middle	$2400 per month	$28,800 yearly
South	$2300 per month	$27,600 yearly
North	$2300 per month	$27,600 yearly
Stoney Creek	$1600 per month	$19,200 yearly
Oakwood	$2000 per month	$24,000 yearly
Central Office	$650 per month	$7,800 yearly
BYSHS	$2400 per month	$28,800 yearly
Total	$13,650 per month	$163,800 yearly

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Mr. Stokes shared graduation is approaching and reminded everyone of the time which will be at 9:00 a.m. He thanked the maintenance staff for all the work they do to assist with making this happen. Also, thanks to the lawn contractors for making the school look nice and with all the rain it has been a very busy mowing season. Mr. Stokes thanked everyone for assisting in our Pre-K to 12th grade to have a wonderful school year. He also shared the Board of County Commissioners will be meeting on Monday, June 16th, to finalize the budget request and vote and we are hopeful for a positive outcome.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

(Nicole Smith arrived to the meeting at this time)

Board members shared events they attended since the last meeting and noted that all were very positive. Those included NL Dillard's athletic program, 8th grade graduation for NL Dillard, Bartlett Yancey Sr. High (BYSHS) dance program and BYSHS awards and capping program, senior walks at the elementary school, and end of year lunches. All were thankful to the staff in the district for all they do on a daily basis.

Policy Updates

Mr. Stokes shared that the updates aligned with recommendations from North Carolina School Boards Association and recommended approval.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith to approve the updates and waive second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Spring Updates:

- Policy # 1310/4002 = Parental Involvement
- Policy # 1510/4200/7270 = School Safety
- Policy # 1710/4020/7230 = Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited by Federal Law
- Policy # 1720/4030/7235 = Title IX Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
- Policy # 1725/4035/7236 = Title IX Sexual Harassment Grievance Process – Prohibited Conduct & Reporting Process
- Policy # 1735/4327/7311 = Bullying & Harassing Behavior Prohibited
- Policy # 2302 = Remote Participation in Board Meetings
- Policy # 2342 = Voting Methods
- Policy # 3225/4312/7320 = Technology Responsible Use
- Policy # 3400 = Evaluation of Student Progress
- Policy # 3420 = Student Promotion & Accountability

- Policy # 3620 = Extracurricular Activities & Student Organizations
- Policy # 4023/7233 = Pregnant & Parenting Students & Employees
- Policy # 4040/7310 = Staff-Student Relations
- Policy # 4240/7312 = Child Abuse & Related Threats to Child Safety
- Policy # 6220 = Operation of School Nutrition
- Policy # 6330 = Insurance for Student Transportation Services
- Policy # 7130 = Licensure
- Policy # 1742/5060 = Responding to Complaints
- Policy # 1760/7280 = Prohibition Against Retaliation
- Policy # 2500 = Hearings Before the Board
- Policy # 4331 = Assaults & Threats
- Policy # 7100 = Recruitment & Selection of Personnel
- Policy # 73356 = Employee Use of Social Media
- Policy # 7340 = Employee Dress & Appearance
- Policy # 7820 = Personnel Files
- Policy # 9210 = Care & Maintenance of Grounds & Outdoor Equipment

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Nicole Smith made a motion to go into closed session at 4:11 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. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

(Note: Nicole McGhee left before the ending of closed session)

IX. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented with omission of #15 and #34. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the personnel listing as presented excluding Items # 15 and #34. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing #15 (Child Nutrition Director) as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried 5-1 with Beggarly voting "No" and Nicole McGhee left the meeting during closed session.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing #34 (Data Manager) as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried 4-2

with Beggarly and Smith voting "NO" and Nicole McGhee left the meeting during closed session.

Interim Human Resources

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of contract with an Interim Human Resources Director for the interim time we may be without someone. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Interim Superintendent Contract

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the Interim Superintendent Contract as presented through December 2025. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
South Elementary	Hollie Martin Cathey = EC Teacher = Eff. 6/13/25
	Kolby Walker, Teacher = Eff. 6/13/25
Oakwood Elementary	Melissa Lawson, Techer = Eff. 6/17/25
North Elementary	Katie Louhoff, School Counselor = Eff. 6/13/25
	Lisa Ranzo, Teacher = Eff. 6/13/25
Stoney Creek Elementary	Amanda Minton, EC Teacher = Eff. 6/13/25
Retirement	
Central Office – Exceptional Children's Department	Nelson Showalter, EC Director = Eff. 6/30/25
Oakwood Elementary	Sheena Sigmon, Bus Driver = Eff. 6/11/25
Employment	
South Elementary	Mary-Hannah Grubbs = Media Specialist = Eff. 8/18/25
	Emily Helper = K-5 Teacher = Eff. 8/18/25 (currently Sub & coach)
	Rachel Kaisinger = School Counselor = Eff. 8/18/25
	Jasmin Robinson = EC Teacher = Eff. 8/18/25
NL Dillard Middle School	Brendan Nunnally = Science Teacher = Eff. 8/18/25
	Kayla Rone = Data Manager = Eff. 8/18/25

North Elementary	Jadasha Stewart = EC Teacher = Eff. 8/18/25 (currently EC Teacher Asst.)
Central Office – Exceptional Children	Dr. Heather Showalter = EC Director = Eff. 7/1/25
Central Office = Child Nutrition	Laura Miles-Chandler = Child Nutrition Director = Eff. 6/12/25
BYSHS	Tammy Blackwell = Bus Aide (permanent) (currently substitute bus aide) = Eff. 8/18/25
Transfers	
Oakwood	Jenny Benson = EC Teacher to K-5 Teacher = Eff. 8/18/25
	Sharon Myers = TA at North transfer to Oakwood = Eff. 8/18/25
South	Noemi Graham = K-5 Teacher at Stoney Creek transfer to K-5 Teacher @ South = Eff. 8/18/25
	Vickie Terry = TA at Stoney Creek transfer to TA @ South = Eff. 8/18/25
NL Dillard Middle	Jessica Kenny = EC Teacher at BYSHS transfer to EC Teacher at NL Dillard = Eff. 8/18/25
Substitutes = Eff. 6/16/25	
	Antony Useche (non-certified)
Separation	
	Danasha Streater, Bus Driver = Eff. 6/9/25
Contract Renewals	
BYSHS	Paula Bennett, Lead Art Teacher = 1 Year Contract (2025/26) = Title 1 Funds
NL Dillard Middle	Dawn Suitt, Instructional Coach = 1 Year Contract (2025/26) = Title 1 Funds
Creation of New Temporary Certified Staff Positions (Federal Title 1 Funds for 2025-2026 School Year Only)	
Math Teacher # 1 = NL Dillard Middle School Temporary Position for 25/26 Only Match Teacher # 2 = NL Dillard Middle School Temporary Position for 25/26 Only Science Teacher = NL Dillard Middle School Temporary Position for 25/26 Only	

Extended Months of Employment Social Worker 11-month employment	Cassidy Wilson – Social Worker = Currently 10 months = Recommended for 11 months = Eff. 6/9/25
NL Dillard Middle School	Terri Gullick = Principal = Effective date = 6/9/25 (previously to begin on 7/1/25)

Summer Learning Camp (July 7-31, 2025)

Certified Staff
Whitney Boone
Brittany Ashe
Laura Campbell
Sue Cumbo
Sheila Fernos-Maldonado
Sharonne Hamlett
Amanda Haney
Amy Harger-Carter
Geneive Jones
Teletha Jones
Leslie Lawson
Melissa Parsons

Classified Staff
Kimberly Hodges
Bushia Moore

XI. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 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 June 30, 2025 at 4:00 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent