

Minutes of the Vance County Board of Education Meeting
September 8, 2025

The Vance County Board of Education met in regular session on September 8, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the Administrative Service Center Boardroom. Board members present were Mrs. Dorothy W. Gooche, Chair, Mrs. Ayana F. Lewis, Vice-Chair, Mrs. Linda S. Cobb, Mrs. Gloria J. White, Dr. Omega T. Perry, Mr. Randy M. Oxendine, Mrs. Ruth M. Hartness and Mr. Jerry Stainback, School Board Attorney. Senior staff present were Dr. Cindy Bennett, Superintendent, Mrs. Aarika Sandlin, Chief Officer of Communication and Innovative Support, Ms. Chelsa Jennings, Chief Human Resources Officer, Mr. Kevin Perdue, Chief Operations, Mr. Rey Horner, Executive Director for Student Services, Mr. John Suther, Chief Finance Officer, Mrs. Jacqueline Batchelor-Crosson, Executive Director of Federal Programs & Elementary Education, Dr. Destiney Ross-Putney, Chief Officer of Instruction and Innovation, and Dr. Stephanie Ayscue, Executive Director of Secondary Education.

Mrs. Gooche called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone. A moment of silence was observed.

Approval of Minutes

Approval of the August 11, 2025 minutes was motioned by Mrs. Hartness and seconded by Mrs. Lewis, with a unanimous (7-0) vote.

Approval of Meeting Agenda

Approval of the meeting agenda and the following additions were motioned by Mrs. White, and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the agenda with additions.

- Personnel Addendum
- Transfers/Releases Revised

Recognitions/Announcements

Hispanic Heritage Month

National Hispanic Heritage Month is annually observed from September 15 to October 15 in the United States for recognizing the contributions and influence of Hispanic culture to the nation's achievements, culture, and history. The districts art staff and schools have planned special events to make sure we recognize multi-cultural celebrations.

IT Professionals Day

We celebrate National I.T. Professionals Day on the third Tuesday of every September, on September 21 this year, to recognize the technical experts — I.T. professionals — that make sure our computer systems run smoothly. It takes a solid set of skills and talents to fill the shoes of an I.T. pro so, today, we say thanks to the people who come to fix our devices when they stop working the way they should — the behind-the-scenes operators without whom we'd be back in front of an archaic chalkboard, doing things the hard way.

HR Professionals Day

Human Resources Professionals Day for 2025 will be celebrated on Friday, September 26 as International HR Day (IHRD), This annual observance, also known as National HR Professionals Day, is dedicated to recognizing the vital contributions and hard work of human resources professionals in creating productive and harmonious workplaces.

Teacher Assistants Day

National Teaching Assistants' Day is celebrated annually on the last Friday of September to recognize the hard work and vital contributions of teaching assistants. In 2025, the day falls on Friday, September 26th. The day provides an opportunity for schools and the broader community to show appreciation for TAs through events, notes, social media, and professional development, highlighting their integral role in supporting students and educators.

Principal State Accountability Academic Performance

The data provided for the 2024–2025 school year include student performance on end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments, academic growth, school performance grades, long-term goals, graduation rates, and the required identification of schools for support and improvement. Below are the results for district.

Letter Grade Increased	VCMS, V3A, EMR and EOY
Met Growth	Carver, Clarke, EMR, LBY, New Hope, Advance Academy and STEM
Exceeded Growth	EOY, Aycock, Pinkston, VCMS and VCEC

Comments from the Public - None

Superintendent's Report

The Fiscal Oversight Monthly Report was shared for information only.

State Accountability Report

The district had a lot of progress in different grade levels and we have identified where we need additional support in instructional strategies. Things that gave the greatest impact in content will be replicated at other schools across the district. The graduation rate is an area of concern and for it to count in a positive manner student must graduate in four years. The district does track who is in which cohort.

Board of Education Standing Committees

Personnel

Mr. Oxendine shared information from the September 2, 2025 meeting.

I. EMPLOYMENT RECOMMENDATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Aycock	Angie Rowland	W/F	Guidance Counselor	08/18/25
Aycock	Kevon Allen	B/M	Teacher	08/18/25
Aycock	Mark Tillotson	W/M	Teacher	08/18/25
Clarke	Janie Timberlake	B/F	Instructional Support Assistant	08/18/25
Dabney	Kerrisha Stewart	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
Dabney	Tashanna Campbell	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
EM Rollins	Dacia Bent	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
EM Rollins	Khalisha Baskerville	B/F	Teacher	09/02/25
Maintenance	Jesse Pendergrass	W/M	Electrician	09/02/25
Pinkston	Esther Burwell-Dacosta	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
STEM	Romaine Mckenzie	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
STEM	Kenroy Spence	B/M	Teacher	08/18/25
Transportation	Lydia Fowler	W/F	Bus Driver/Monitor	08/25/25
Transportation	Sheldon Williams	B/M	Bus Driver/Monitor	10/20/25
VCHS	Antonette Pryce	B/F	Teacher	08/11/25
VCHS	Stenesa Davis	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCHS	Tiffany Jones	B/F	Instructional Support Assistant	08/25/25
VCMS	Ava Gay Woodbine	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCMS	Julia Foster	B/F	Teacher Assistant	08/18/25
VCMS	Rasheena Berrick	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCMS	Shana-Kay Salome	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCMS	Sherry-Ann Pryce	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCMS	Tamieka Vick	B/F	Teacher	08/18/25
VCMS	Tarsha Terry	B/F	Instructional Support Assistant	08/11/25
Vance Virtual Village	Keesha Landis	B/F	Teacher	08/22/25
Aycock	Kelly Ellington	W/F	Tutor	09/08/20
Aycock	Mitzi Ross	W/F	Tutor	09/04/25
Aycock	Tara Norwood	W/F	Tutor	09/09/25
Clarke	Andrew Richards	B/M	Cafeteria Assistant	09/08/25
Dabney / EOY	Jennifer Sullivan	W/F	Teacher Development Specialist	08/27/25
L.B. Yancey	Yvette Baskerville-Pauling	B/F	Tutor	09/03/25
New Hope	Eboni Terry	B/F	Instructional Support Assistant	09/02/25
VCHS	Kimberly Lamb	B/F	JROTC Instructor	09/04/25

VCMS	Robin Closs	B/F	Teacher	08/25/25
VCMS	Santos Alberto Maldonado	W/M	Teacher	08/28/25

II. RESIGNATION(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	REASON	EFFECTIVE DATE
Advance Academy	Jadesha Robertson	B/F	Instructional Assistant	Career Change	08/22/25
ASC	Sharon Perry	B/F	Custodian	Other	09/05/25
Clarke	Caisha Vann	B/F	Media Assistant	To continue education	08/21/25
Clarke	Shirley Campbell	B/F	Teacher	Career Change	06/08/25
New Hope	Jacari Diggs	B/M	Teacher	Career Change	08/12/25
STEM	Christian Salinas	W/M	Teacher	To teach in NC Charter School	06/30/25
Transportation	Francesca Cheek	B/F	Bus Driver	Career Change	07/24/25
VCMS	Candy Nobles	A/F	Teacher	To teach in another NC School System	09/18/25
VCMS	Sarah Wheeler	W/F	Band Director	Career Change	06/30/25
VCHS	Hannah Yeboah-Fenteng	B/F	Teacher	Relocation	06/28/25
Vance Virtual Village	Munirah Ali	B/F	Teacher	To teach in Charter School	08/14/25
ASC	Derek Parker	B/M	District Behavior Support Assistant	Career Change	09/12/25
Dabney	Tashana Campbell	B/F	Teacher	Job Abandonment	08/29/25
VCMS	Ava-Gay Woodbine	B/F	Teacher	Job Abandonment	08/29/25

III. LEAVE(S) – For Information Only

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	LEAVE TYPE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Center for Innovation	Patricia Burroughs	W/F	FMLA	Project Lead the Way Facilitator	07/01/25-06/30/25
EM Rollins	Ebony Watkins	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/04/25-10/06/25
VCHS	Michael Terry, Jr.	B/M	FMLA	Assistant Principal	07/07/25-08/01/25
VCMS	Ruby Caballes	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/18/25-10/14/25
Advance Academy	Gay Charise Beran	A/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/25/2 -09/05/25
Carver / Pinkston	Deidre Taborn	B/F	FMLA	Guidance Counselor	08/18/25-06/30/26
Dabney	Raquelle Dunston	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/18/25-09/10/25
Dabney	Shiquasha Smith	B/F	FMLA	Teacher	08/25/25-02/28/26
STEM/AA/V3	Jamie Clopton	W/F	FMLA	Nurse	08/18/25-10/01/25
VCMS	Andrea Reavis	B/F	FMLA/I	Guidance Counselor	08/01/25-06/30/26

IV. TRANSFER/PROMOTIONS(S) – For Information Only

NEW LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	NEW POSITION	OLD POSITION	/LOCATION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Clarke	Josalyn Thompson	Teacher	Teacher Assistant	Clarke	08/18/25
Dabney	Monica Williams	Social Worker	Teacher	VCMS	08/01/25
EO Young	Barbara Baker	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	Kindergarten Teacher Assistant	EO Young	08/18/25
EO Young	Kanisha Burwell	Kindergarten Teacher Assistant	Pre-K Teacher Assistant	EO Young	08/18/25
Pinkston	Shanese Terry	Cafeteria Manager	Cafeteria Assistant	Pinkston	08/15/25
STEM	Barbara Smith	Instructional Support Assistant	Teacher	STEM	08/18/25
VCHS	Wanda Strother	Cafeteria Manager	Cafeteria Assistant	VCHS	08/01/25
VCMS	Cynthia Edwards	Cafeteria Manager	Cafeteria Manager	Pinkston	08/15/25
VCMS	Rosalind Wiggins	EC Teacher Assistant	Teacher Assistant	VCMS	08/18/25
L.B. Yancey	Felicia Yanez	Cafeteria Assistant	Cafeteria Assistant	Clarke	09/08/25

V. SUBSTITUTE TEACHER(S)

LOCATION	EMPLOYEE NAME	RACE/SEX	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
All Schools	Afiba Campbell	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/11/25
All Schools	Abigail Stevenson	W/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Cathy Bullock	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/11/25
All Schools	Deborah Brown	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Lorraine Feggins	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/18/25
All Schools	Monique Clark	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/18/25
All Schools	Debbie Small	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/18/25
All Schools	Michael Clark	B/M	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Dorice Best	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Agnes Jover	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/19/25
All Schools	Clarissa Cheek	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/19/25
All Schools	Mary Hawkins	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Wanda Eley	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Ayzha Carrasco	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Mary Terry	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Alexis Edmonds	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Shavonne Aljumai	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Jill Kearney	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Constance Alston	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	KeNeisha Johnson	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/25/25
All Schools	Angelia Downey	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/03/25
All Schools	George Davis	B/M	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
All Schools	Judy DeJesus	A/F	Substitute Teacher	09/02/25
All Schools	Kimberly Franklin	W/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
All Schools	Melinda Lassiter	W/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
All Schools	Shamirya Brame	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
Aycock /EOY	Paula Fisher	W/F	Substitute Teacher	09/02/25
Aycock /EOY	Samantha Satterwhite	W/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
Carver/ Dabney	Sarah Dailey	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
E.M. Rollins	Kathy Perry	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
Pinkston	Ernestine Brodie	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/29/25
Pinkston	Vanessa Mitchell	B/F	Substitute Teacher	08/29/25
STEM / VCEC	Jacquelyn Wilson	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25
VCHS	Myrtice Chavis	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/02/25
VCHS/VCMS /V3	Lateisha Foster	B/F	Substitute Teacher	09/08/25

The district has 29 projected vacancies.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the personnel summary and addendum.

Finance

Mr. Suther shared information from the August 28, 2025 meeting on the contracts, large purchases. Contracts/Services and Large Purchases

Blazerworks (EC Contract)

This contract provides EC teachers, nurses and therapists for Vance County Schools students. The EC department is requesting to increase this contract to cover services that the district cannot find candidates for currently and to cover

the first 90 days of school. The increase is from \$300,000 to \$414,000 using EC salary funding. This is not an increase to the total contract but a transfer of funds from one-line item to another in the EC Budget.

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Cobb, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Blazerworks contract funding increase to \$414,000.

Needs Based Public School Building Capital Fund Applications

This fund was established to assist counties with their critical public-school building capital needs and grants from NBPSCF are funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery and are eligible to counties for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations of existing school facilities. Counties receiving a grant are required to provide local matching funds from county funds, other non-state funds, or a combination of these sources, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.11(a). This grant application was presented during the Building & Grounds committee meeting and was recommended to take to the full board for approval. The application time timeline are as follows:

- Guidance Issued August 15, 2025
- Application Opens August 18, 2025
- Application Deadline October 3, 2025

Upon motion by Mrs. White and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the Needs Based Public School Building Capital Fund applications.

2025 Audit Planning Letter to the Board

The interim audit procedures began in May 25 and the final fieldwork procedures will begin in August 25 and expected to issue the report no later than December 31, 2025.

Kerr-Tar Regional Council of Governments Contract

This agreement is for another five-year period from January 2026 – December 2031 and under review with Kerr-Tar. The funds are used for repairs and maintenance of the ASC building and premises.

Building and Grounds

Mrs. Hartness shared information from the August 28, 2025 meeting. E.M. Rollins painting is complete and Pinkston is 50% complete. The district has completed the repair & renovations grant application and is ready for the Board to approve and submit to the County for approval. Transportation continues to update bus routes and two of the three yellow bus replacements have been received and expected the third one within the next two weeks. The solar station install at CFI is complete and the online portal will be updated soon with training provided. The Tiny House is located behind the 500 wing at VCHS and utility connections will be completed over the next couple of weeks. The Kerr-Tar lease is up for renewal in January 2026 and a draft is being reviewed. There were 252 work orders completed.

Mrs. White shared that Carver Elementary boy's bathroom floor has a large crack and it's uneven as you walk on it and needs to be fixed.

Policy – No Meeting

The 2000 policy series – Board Operations had no changes.

Curriculum

Mrs. Lewis shared information from the August 28, 2025 meeting. Early Start schools had 129 staff members participate in PD and the New Employee Orientation served 59 staff members. Traditional school had 329 staff members attend PD. The ELEVATE VCS – Modern Teacher Professional Learning initiative was presented with the focus targeting rigorous instruction and growth-producing feedback through the use of proficiency scales to measure learning. PD is offered in-person and through self-paced asynchronous modules, including VCS developed modules and Modern Teacher's "Architect a Rigorous Learning Experience" with embedded coaching opportunities. All pre-k slots with the district have been filled for this year and slots at Sugar'n Spice and Smart Start. The district and partner sites use Teaching Strategies as the data collection tool to inform both small and large group instructions. The 2024-

2025 discipline data for schools was presented. The technology department has provided Infinite Campus training to 40 school-level leaders in the behavior modules, 34 in communications, 39 in insight analytics and 31 in ad hoc reporting.

Mrs. White shared that counselors need to know their students and suggested that grade level assembly. Also, student once they return from suspensions should be scheduled to meet with their counselors.

Community & Business Relations – No Meeting

New Business - None

Field Trip Request - None

Transfer Requests

Dr. Bennett presented 30 requests to transfer into the district.

Upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. Hartness, the Board unanimously (7-0) approved the 30 transfer requests.

Executive Session

Upon motion by Mrs. Gooche and seconded by Mr. Oxendine, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to go into closed session pursuant to the provisions of North Carolina General Statutes 143-318.11 for the purpose of approving executive session minutes and discussing legal, personnel, and property issues pursuant to subsection (a) of the said statute at 6:42 pm.

The Board returned to the open session at 7:32 p.m.

Being no further business, upon motion by Mr. Oxendine and seconded by Mrs. White, the Board voted unanimously (7-0) to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

BOARD CHAIR, DOROTHY W. GOOCHE

SECRETARY, CINDY W. BENNETT