CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 9, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Lisa Johnson-Knight, Nicole McGhee, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, Sara Broadwell, Michelle Robinson, Shannon Moretz, Heather Franklin, Calla Wilson, Medina Jones, Lisa Lassiter, Paul & Alice Robinson, Alan Poteat, 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*). Vennie Beggarly was absent.

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

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2026, regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented with addition of contract extension for Interim Superintendent through April 8, 2026. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the agenda as presented with changes as noted. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes thanked our school counselors for the work they do in honor of school counselor week and to our bus drivers in honor of bus driver appreciation week.
- Thanks and appreciation were given to the Board of Education as January was National Board of Education Appreciation Month. Michelle Robinson, Principal at Oakwood Elementary shared thanks to the board and presented packets to each board member with drawings and cards from each grade level. Heather Franklin from Stoney Creek Elementary presented posters and cards to the board on behalf of the students as well.
- Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared information on a grant received at the high school from the Josephine S. Leiser Foundation in the amount of $10,000. The grant will fund a student field trip to attend a live performance of Hamilton in Durham, NC.
- Best wishes were extended to all February birthdays.
- Chair Mel Battle recognized and acknowledged David Useche, Chief Operations Officer, on recently celebrating thirty-years with the school system on January 5th.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

III. REPORTS

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 Nicole Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented.

   Requests for Transfer

Rone, Londyn	Caswell	to	Guilford (K)
Rone, Frederick	Caswell	to	Guilford (7th)
Wieth, Andrew	Caswell	to	Wake (5th)

   CTE Surveys

2. 2026-2027 School Calendar

   Two proposed calendars were reviewed by Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes and he shared that all schools felt that either of the two would work; however, some concerns were that parents who have already made vacation plans may be effected with the new school calendar. Neither of the calendars have built in hours and one request was to also have teachers to return by the first of August to allow time in their classroom.

   Discussion took place with concerns that had been mentioned to board members as well as the length of break during the week of Thanksgiving. Chief Operations Officer David Useche shared two additional options for the board to review.

Another option that was brought up included having two calendars with one for elementary students and one for middle and high school to help align with the community college. It was also noted that graduation was listed on a Thursday; however, this was just following the normal pattern and this is not confirmed.

Discussion took place on the survey and the questions that were included. Upon review, it was agreed to only include questions # 1, 2 and 5.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to proceed with the proposed early start calendar and Alternative # 2 traditional calendar to include with revised survey of only three questions. The motion carried unanimously.

ACTION: David Useche will move forward with the survey as soon as possible to receive survey results. This will be brought back to the next meeting.

It was requested that a proposed safety and transportation survey be sent out separately to receive input from parents.

3. Brady Quote – Chiller @ North Elementary

Information was shared regarding pricing for a chiller at North Elementary. Upon review and discussion, Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve quote with Brady for chiller at North Elementary as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Brady Quote	$253,676.00
Funding:	Capital Reserve 888

4. Brady Quote – Chiller @ South Elementary

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve quote with Brady for chiller at South Elementary as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Brady Quote	$251,075
Funding:	Capital Reserve 888

5. Seven Doors Quote (North & South Boiler Room Doors)

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve quote with Seven Doors as presented for doors at North and South boiler room. The motion carried unanimously.

Seven Doors Quote	$7,316.83
Funding:	Capital Reserve 888

6. Invoice = Water Purification Consultants, Inc.

   Over the winter break, work took place at South Elementary for water issues. The work has been completed and invoice was brought to the board as information only. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the invoice as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Seven Oaks Doors & Hardware	$7,316.83
Funding Source:	Capital Reserve 888

7. ProCare Therapy - Contract

   The contract with PureCare Therapy was reviewed. The amount was questioned and EC Director Calla Wilson shared that the contract is for 83 days and approximately $70.00 per hour. For this type of contract, the amount is not unusual. At this time, we do not have a teacher and have had no interest in this position. Funding will be used from Exceptional Children.

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve contract as presented with ProCare Therapy, Inc. The motion carried unanimously.

   ProCare Therapy, Inc.
   Special Education Teacher = Nakia Avery
   Cost $70.00/per hour

   Responsibilities: N. Avery will have a caseload of 25-30 students in grades 6-7 at NL Dillard Middle School. She will be in charge of providing daily specially designed instruction (in both the Resource and Inclusion settings, which includes implementing IEPs), management of student behavior, facilitation of instructional duties, administrative task associated with special education (progress monitoring, data collection, developing IEPs and holding IEP meetings in a timely manner, progress reports), and collaboration with students, parents, and all CCS staff, when appropriate.

8. Schneider Electric Quote

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve quote with Schneider Electric as presented for actuator and thermostat replacements at NL Dillard Middle School. The motion carried unanimously.

Schneider Electric	$34,818.00
Funding:	Capital Reserve 888

9. Teamcraft Quote

Information was shared regarding quotes for roof repairs at all schools except Oakwood Elementary and recommendation was to use Teamcraft.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve quote with Teamcraft as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Teamcraft

BYSHS Vocational Bldg.	$10,850.00
BYSHS Cafeteria	$2,500.00
NL Dillard	$5,150.00
North	$5,150.00
South	$5,150.00
Stoney Creek	$2,500.00
Maint. Shop/Bus Garage	$2,250.00
Total:	$33,550.00
Funding:	Capital Reserve 888

10. Remote Learning

Discussion was had regarding the proposed remote plan which was tabled at the last board meeting as well as discussion regarding remote learning days. There was some confusion with the motion made regarding which plan to implement if weather concerns occurred prior to the plan being approved. Joel Lillard shared his motion was to use the current plan (which included Code E) for remote learning if needed. Recent weather events closed school for students for two weeks and there has been confusion with codes that were shared to be used. Other concerns included the days that school was closed for staff and how they are able to make this time up. Discussion took place regarding certified and classified. During remote days, staff are required to submit a log listing what they did to justify their time.

Finance Director Brook Underwood shared that for days that were closed, timekeeper requires that information be entered into the system.

It was questioned if a code for a remote day exists in timekeeper and if not can one be created. Brook Underwood shared she would inquire.

It was discussed to make three days during spring break optional workdays to allow staff that have not accrued annual leave days a way to make up some time rather than having to use annual leave for days that were closed as well as spring break. It was shared if this

occurs, someone will have to be at the school to open the doors. Upon more discussion, it was agreed upon to send out a survey to see if there is any interest and the logistics will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

Other discussion continued with the remote days and who actually were eligible to use them. On January 26, 2026 all staff were told they would be remote (this excludes custodians, cafeteria, and bus drivers). For the remaining remote days, central office was not included.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve payment of all staff who provides a remote learning log for January 26, 2026 with exception of bus drivers, child nutrition, and custodians). The motion carried 5-2 with Blackwell and Johnson-Knight voting "No."

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve using current inclement weather Code E which will include staff who are paid on the certified level and work in the schools and long term subs or teacher assistant serving in a long-term position (prior to the weather occurring) in the event additional inclement weather codes are needed. The motion carried unanimously.

It was then discussed how classified would be able to make up their time due to time constraints with the pay period. When a Code C was given, twelve-month employees are allowed to come to work if they deem safe and if not, they will need to code time for the days missed or make work up within the same week. Unfortunately, the recent weather did not allow flexibility with making up time.

Action: It was suggested to look at options for classified staff at the next meeting and discuss options for working during spring break for employees who have not accrued annual leave and for classified who have had to use their time for inclement weather.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve a survey to staff regarding interest in working during spring break. The motion carried unanimously. Information based on findings from the survey will be shared with the board at the next meeting along with a plan on how to implement.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to take a recess at 11:20 a.m. to have lunch at North Elementary. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting reconvened at 12:40 p.m.

11. 2025-2026 School Calendar

The current 2025-2026 school calendar was reviewed with suggestions on how to make up the time that has been missed due to inclement weather.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to change the 2025-2026 calendar to reflect February 20th and March 27th as student days and extend the length of day for elementary students by ten minutes in the morning for the length that is needed. The motion carried unanimously.

(Note: Length of elementary school day will begin on February 16, 2026).

12. Resolution for Ruth Vernon

Trudy Blackwell read aloud the resolution for former employee Ruth Vernon who recently passed away. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of Ruth Ann Vernon

***WHEREAS**, Ruth Ann Vernon, was born on June 24, 1953, and resided at 1200 Rice Road, Reidsville, NC, 27320, until the time of her death on January 29, 2026, and*

***WHEREAS,** Ruth Vernon, was a faithful and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great grandmother, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and*

***WHEREAS,** Ruth Vernon, was a special lady and enjoyed helping others. She was an avid softball player, enjoyed working in her yard whether mowing or planting flowers and painting figurines to place in her flowerbeds. Some will remember Ruth as a lucky person as she enjoyed playing the lottery; however, those that knew Ruth were the lucky ones; and*

***WHEREAS,** Ruth Vernon had a passion for serving her community and did that by serving in the Cherry Grove Fire Department for fifteen years as well as supporting numerous fundraising events; and*

***WHEREAS**, Ruth Vernon worked for Caswell County Schools and was a loyal employee during that time. She served as a bus driver at Stoney Creek Elementary for many years and later moved into the role as teacher assistant for functional skill students. She touched the lives of many students and families. She, with the help of her husband, were known to go above and beyond to give of their time to help the schools in which she served. Her compassion and love were evident each day of her*

life. She always went the extra mile to help those in need. She retired from Caswell County Schools with twenty-five years of service; and

WHEREAS, *Ruth Vernon attended Pleasant View Assembly of God, enjoyed traveling and spending time with her family; and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED *that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Ruth Vernon and expresses its sympathy to her family by causing a copy of this Resolution to be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education and a copy forwarded to the family.*

This the 9th day of February 2026.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes thanked our school guidance counselors for the work they do noting it was guidance counselor's week last week.
- Information was shared regarding contingency funds as an FYI
- School Health Advisory Committee (SHAC) rescheduled their meeting due to the inclement weather. It is to be held this week on Thursday.
- State release drop-out rates were recently released and Caswell was the lowest in surrounding districts at 0.78%
- Mr. Stokes met with members of the Board of County Commissioners and toured the Civic Center
- Mr. Stokes attended the Collaborative Summit session on Saturday
- Mr. Stokes shared a Super Saturday event was held Saturday for the AIG students and it was a great event. He noted the new AIG Coordinator will begin on Monday, February 16th.
- Mr. Stokes thanked his weather team for their input and working together during the last two weeks of inclement weather.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members shared information on events they recently attended as well as sharing thanks to our staff for all the work they do. Special thanks were given to the maintenance department for all the snow removal and the hours they spent in the cold making parking and entranceways safe and clear. It was shared that the joint meeting with the Board of Commissioners went well. All were thankful that the weather has improved to allow

students to return. Condolences were extended to the family of Ruth Vernon and noted what a special lady she was and how she cared for the students she worked with.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Joel Lillard 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. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of inclement weather supplement for the maintenance department. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Stokes was instructed to inform staff of when they will be receiving it.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the contract extension for Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes through April 8, 2026. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
	Felicia Randolph, Bus Monitor & Child Nut. Substitute = Eff. 1/20/26
Employment	
NL Dillard Middle School	Victoria Galloway, 6th grade ELA teacher = Eff. 3/12/26
Oakwood Elementary	Lynette "Maria" Willis = EC Pre K Teacher (currently a TA long term EC PreK) = Eff. 2/10/26
	Kayla Whitt, Behavioral Support Teacher Asst. = Eff. 2/25/26

Employment (continued)	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Rick Lancaster, Bus Driver (currently bus driver without leave and will change to bus driver with leave status) = Eff. 2/10/26
Substitutes	
	Lilly McCraw, Sub (K-8 only) = Non-Certified = Eff. 2/12/26
	Wayne Poteat, Sub – Bus Driver = Eff. 2/12/26
Termination	
	Vicky Crowder, Bus Driver = Eff. 1/22/26

XI. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:00 p.m., Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 23, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent