CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WORK SESSION
February 23, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Nicole Smith, Nicole McGhee, Lisa Johnson-Knight, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mel Battle.

Board members were given laptops and training took place.

Civic Center

Discussion took place on the rental of the Civic Center as well as the cost of supplies for using it and budgetary concerns with replacing the supplies used for rentals. Mr. Stokes shared that the Art's Council is interested in leasing a portion of the Civic Center. He noted they mentioned bringing in events and creating revenue. Mr. Stokes has spoken with some of the commissioners in regards to them taking this back over.

Mr. Stokes was instructed to reach out to the Board of County Commissioners Chair to find out their position.

It was questioned if any students are using the Civic Center. It was shared that musical instruments are stored in small auditorium and the EC students use the lobby area for arrival and dismissal.

Other concerns are the security issues with access to the high school campus. There are currently issues with heating in the middle of the building. Lisa Johnson-Knight questioned if the commissioners took this over will it affect funding. It was shared that it is possible. There are advantages both ways and other concerns included. Working with the Art's Council may be beneficial.

Metal Detectors

Nicole Smith shared she had received so many complaints regarding the metal detectors. None of the PCC students are going through the metal detector when returning to class. It was also shared that with the basketball games many are coming in the back door and are not going through the metal detectors or paying to enter the games. Also, if students are late they are not going through the metal detectors.

Lengthy discussion took place regarding the concerns with manpower to man the metal detectors and usage of them. It was shared when the board purchased these, it was the direction from the board that everyone should be entering a standard entry point and going through the metal detectors. Teachers are still scanning their badges and entering at various locations in the buildings. It was shared that the board creates policies; however, it doesn't seem that the policies are being followed and this was the intent of purchasing metal detector so that everyone would be going through them for security purposes. Examples were shared by board members of incidents that have been witnessed that bypass the metal detectors.

Mr. Stokes was requested to explore the pricing for security staff and bring back to the board.

It was suggested to do a study to see how many people it would take to man the detectors for next school year and look at all schools. It was suggested to form a committee and look at all schools and all events. If an option to provide a stipend for working the metal detectors is available this may be an option to assist with manpower.

Remote Learning

It was shared that there is no need to spend time on this at this point and look at Code E. Clarification needs to be made for next school year with the codes and remote learning. Mr. Stokes has reached out to NCDPI to see if the water issues we've had would factor in; however, they noted that we still have spring break days and would not qualify for a waiver. It was shared that the codes are confusing; however, the last motion should be clear for any future days if the need arises. Other discussion included elementary and remote and not sending chrome books home but they are being asked to do online work. It is not fair to all students that may not have computer or internet access. It was questioned why the chrome books are no longer sent home. Mr. Stokes will look into this more.

No decisions were made or changed for the remote learning.

ADJOURN

Mel Battle made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on February 23, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle	Lance Stokes
Chairman	Interim Superintendent