CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
September 8, 2025

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 8, 2025, at 9:00 a.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, Brook Underwood, Lynn Hartley, Nancy Cross, Terri Gullick, Sarah Chandler, Brock Womble, Sara Broadwell, 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

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the minutes of the September 8, 2025, regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared the month of September is Attendance Awareness Month and he also wished all September birthdays a Happy Birthday.

- Representatives from NCCAT (Lynn Hartley and Nancy Cross) were present as well as Dr. Brock Womble, Executive Director of NCCAT, who presented Sarah Chandler with a certificate as she is a finalist in the NCCAT CTE Teacher of the Year. He commended Sarah on the work she has done and congratulated her on this accomplishment.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

Preliminary reports were shared with the board for Day # 8 and # 9. Discussion took place if there were any concerns. Mr. Stokes shared that second grade at Stoney Creek Elementary School is being watched with classroom numbers. Also, North Elementary Kindergarten currently has two classes with 24 students. Based on this district as a whole, we are in

compliance with state requirements. Numbers for Oakwood Pre-K were discussed. It was shared that Pre-K doesn't fall within the ADM (average daily membership) numbers.

Day 10 numbers will be shared with the board.

Mr. Stokes shared an academic "snapshot" which included a PowerPoint presentation.

- Caswell County Schools has exited Low Performing District status
- 83% of schools met or exceeded academic growth
- 4 of 6 schools improved their performance grades
- Record-high district graduation rate achieved

Mr. Stokes shared a full comprehensive report will be shared with the board. Also, it was shared that this information should be presented to the Board of County Commissioners.

Mr. Stokes shared that at the next meeting schools will make presentations.

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 Nicole Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   <u>Request for Transfer</u>

Scott, Addlyn	South	to	Stoney Creek (K)
Holland, Kemani	Stoney Creek	to	Oakwood (K)
Holland, Danile	Stoney Creek	to	Oakwood (1st)

   <u>Polling - Volleyball Varsity Asst. Coach (Brittany Moore)</u>
   Board was previously polled for this position to be added back for this year only.

   <u>Contracted Services = Dr. Chris Godwin</u>
   7890 Meadowbrook Road, Benson, NC 27504
   AIG Professional Development

Cost = $4800.00
Funds = AIG (311)

Musical Instruments for BYSHS
Pearl Belsona Clarinet
Etude Trumpet
Pearl Trombone
Allora Horn
Eastman French Horn
Etude Saxophone
Giardinelli Bass Clarinet
Strobel Violin
Glasser Violin
Knilling Viola
Glasser Viola
Stagg Cello
Galsser Cello Bow
Bellafina Bass Outfit
Glasser Bass Bow
Adams Fiberglass Timpani

Cost = $28,37215
Funds = Title IV (PRC 108)

Carryover funds from grant year 4, fiscal year 2023-2024, will be used. The carryover amount for FY24 totals $41,703.99. These funds expire on September 30, 2025.

2. Interim Superintendent Professional Development

Questions were asked as to why the information was handwritten instead of typed as other documents. This was held until later in the meeting.

3. Seating Safety Solutions

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared information on request to update bleachers using Seating Safety Solutions. Copies of inspections reports were shared with the board. Discussion took place on needed repairs. Dewberry & Davis did a study on what it would cost to replace the bleachers; however, it was very expensive. These repairs will make us ADA compliant.

Upon no further questions, Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve quotes with Seating Safety Solutions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Seating Safety Solutions Inc.
PO Box 1760, Liberty, NC 27298

Bartlett Yancey Senior High School – Main Gym
Provide & install - Replacement Seat Boards
(1) 8x8
(1) 15'6'x 8
(1) 1x8
(10) Motor Wheels
Materials, Freight & Labor
Total Cost = $5,702.54

NL Dillard Middle School – Gym
Provide & install – Replace (1) row of MVP seats with 10' courtside seats
School to select color
(1) Aisle Rail Socket
(390) Frame Wheels
Use removed seats to make repairs to other broken MVP seats
Materials, Freight & Labor
Total Cost = $11,148.47

Funding = Contracted Services

4. Policy # 8110, Budget Resolution

Discussion took place regarding Policy # 8110. Joel Lillard shared he requested this to be on the agenda noting that in previous years budget amendments were brought to the board and wording to the budget resolution has changed what is brought to the board. He understands that requirements for State and Federal are different; however, he would like budget amendments to be brought to the board for local and capital outlay.

This policy will be brought back at the next meeting with suggested changes.

5. Conterra for Wide Area Network (WAN) (Contract Extension)

David Useche shared information on the quote from Conterra for Wide Area Network. He shared this is paid through the Federal E-Rate program and there are no other vendors that work with the current system. He shared we receive excellent service and they are prompt with repairs.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the contract with Conterra for Wide Area Network (WAN) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The contract extension is required in order to request funding through the Federal E-Rate program which covers 90% of the cost. Caswell County Schools is responsible for the remaining 10% which amounts to an annual cost of $9,300.00.

6. Mental Health Plan (Department of Public Instruction)

Dr. Medina Jones reviewed the mental health plan and shared this is required every five years. The last time it was presented to the board was in 2021. Dr. Jones shared this provides social and emotional support to our students.

Upon no further questions, Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the mental health plan as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. SRO (School Resource Officer) Invoice

The invoice for the SRO's was presented and information was shared regarding the amount. Finance Director Brook Underwood shared she had contested items on the original invoice. It was shared that the school safety grant will pay for $175,759.44 and the district is responsible for $21,000.

Discussion took place regarding the SRO's in the school and the need for them as well as assistance during morning traffic. It was shared that a Memorandum of Understanding is needed to list specifics of what is needed and it would be helpful to receive monthly invoices that listed SRO's time. Board Attorney Ron Bradsher shared there has been some confusion in the county offices of how the sheriff's office has been paid.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the invoice for the SRO's as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

SRO Invoice for 2024-2025 School Year
Total = $197,795.44
Safety Grant = $176,759.44
Caswell County Schools – $21,000.00

8. NCSBA Policy Updates

Updates from the North Carolina School Boards Association were reviewed. There were no issues except with the Cell Phone policy and it was suggested to leave our current policy in place as handbooks have been printed which includes this wording.

Discussion was had regarding the home school portion and athletics. It was questioned how home school students are made aware of athletic opportunities.

Vennie Beggarly questioned why our students cannot attend Disney On Ice for a field trip. Mr. Stokes shared that certain trips are not supported as instructional when using Title I funds and are more for productions or considered "for profit" with no instructional purpose. Mr. Stokes was asked to check into this as it was shared that other surrounding school districts have had students in attendance at this event in the past.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly to approve the policy updates as presented with the exception of Cell Phone Policy # 4318 and waive second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

- Policy # 1310/4002 Parental Involvement
- Policy # 3210 Parental Inspection of and Objection to Instructional Materials
- Policy # 3320 School Trips
- Policy # 3510 Religious Based Exceptions from School Programs
- Policy # 3620 Extracurricular Activities & Student Organizations
- Policy # 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements
- Policy # 5070/7350 Public Records – Retention, Release & Disposition
- Policy # 6125 Administering Medicines to Students
- Policy # 6340 Transportation Service/Vehicle Contracts
- Policy # 7100 Recruitment & Selection of Personnel
- Policy # 7820 Personnel Files

9. Infinite Campus Lead Teacher Stipend

Discussion took place regarding a stipend for lead teachers who were assisting with Infinite Campus. There are 18 teachers who are assisting and this was put in place as an incentive to receive volunteers. Questions were asked regarding if other districts are doing this and it was confirmed that they are although the amounts may differ. Funding will come from State IT funds. Upon further discussion, it was requested that other options be brought back to the board and recommended that each person receive the actual amount of $500 after taxes. The finance department would need to work on this to look at tax exemptions, etc. and bring back a final amount to the board.

10. Resolution for Human Resources Services

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes read aloud the resolution as presented to the board. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the resolution as presented. The motion carried 6-0. (Nicole McGhee recused herself from voting).

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING BOARD MEMBER DR. NICOLE MCGHEE TO PROVIDE HUMAN RESOURCES SERVICES TO THE CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PURSUANT TO
NCGS §14-234

WHEREAS Dr. Nicole McGhee is a duly elected and currently serving member of the Caswell County Board of Education (hereinafter "Board"); and

WHEREAS the Caswell County School System has a demonstrated need for professional Human Resources services that are essential to the effective operation of the school system; and

WHEREAS the Superintendent of Caswell County Schools has recommended to the Board that the School System should contract for such professional Human Resources services and has acknowledged to the Board that Dr. Nicole McGhee possesses the education, experience, expertise, and qualifications to provide such Human Resources services in a professional capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Board has determined that Dr. Nicole McGhee is capable of effectively providing such needed professional Human Resources in a cost effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS North Carolina General Statute §14-234 generally prohibits public officers from deriving a direct benefit from a public contract; however, subsection (d1) of the statute provides for an exception for contracts involving professional services when certain conditions are met, including:

1. The services to be provided are professional.
2. The Board member does not vote on or attempt to influence any matter related to the contract.
3. The relationship is fully disclosed and approved in an open session of the Board.
4. A written resolution is adopted stating the Board's approval and affirming that the contract is in the best interest of the school system.
5. The total amount paid under the contract does not exceed $60,000 within a 12-month period.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Board finds that the Human Resources services to be provided by Dr. Nicole McGhee are professional services within the meaning of NCGS § 14-234(d1).
2. Dr. Nicole McGhee shall recuse herself from all votes, deliberations, and discussions related to any contract or arrangement involving her provision of Human Resources services.
3. The Board hereby fully discloses and approves the contractual relationship between Dr. Nicole McGhee and the Caswell County School System for the provision needed of professional Human Resources services.
4. The Board affirms that entering into a contract with Dr. Nicole McGhee is in the best interest of the Caswell County School System due to her abilities, experience, qualifications, and the value of the services to be provided.
5. The amount paid under a contract with Dr. McGhee shall not exceed Sixty Thousand Dollars ($60,000) in total payments for services rendered within any 12-month period, in accordance with the limits set forth under NCGS § 14-234(d1).
6. This resolution shall be entered into the official minutes of the Board and made available for public inspection, as required by law.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2025.

_____ _____

Board Chair
Caswell County Board of Education

Interim Superintendent
Caswell County Schools

Attest: _____
Clerk to the Board

11. Contracted Services – Back to Basics (Nicole McGhee)

Vennie Beggarly asked that additional wording be included in Item # 4 and provided the additional wording which will give Dr. McGhee an option to end contract within a thirty-day notice if this was needed as well as Caswell County Schools.

Upon no further discussion, Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the contract as presented with additional wording as suggested. The motion carried 6-0. (Nicole McGhee recused herself from voting).

$90.00/hour (40 hours per month) for services rendered within 5 months with the total amount paid under this contract not to exceed $18,000.

Provide services to CCS for Beginning Teacher Support. Human Resources function and Licensure Support for CCS.
September 9, 2025 – January 31, 2026

Funding: Title II

12. Needs Based Grant (Oakwood Elementary)

Mr. Stokes shared that we will be applying again for the Needs Based Grant which requires matching funds from the Board of County Commissioners. This was applied for previously but was not awarded. Mr. Stokes shared he felt we have a good opportunity for receiving this and will be beneficial for repairs needed at Oakwood.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve proceeding with the Needs Based Grant with Danville Regional Foundation. The motion carried unanimously.

Recess
Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to recess the meeting to attend lunch at NL Dillard Middle School. (11:15 a.m.)

The board reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

13. Piedmont Community College (PCC) Student Process

Mr. Stokes reviewed information regarding the dually enrolled students who are part of the College Career and Associated Pathways along with those that are taking courses at PCC. At this time there is a record number of students and there are supervision issues. We are looking at space in the old alternative school location as a hub to house our students and they will be supervised. Accountability for these students was a concern of the board to make sure someone knows where the students are and that they are safe. Mr. Stokes shared it is difficult to manage; however, he will be working with the principal to find a solution.

Joel Lillard shared that an email was shared with him by a parent which was sent by the PCC Advisor and felt it needs to be retracted.

14. Car Rider Lines (North/Oakwood/BYSHS)

Mr. Stokes shared he was aware there are some concerns regarding the traffic at the schools and noted that he observed the high school traffic this morning and shared there is not a safe space for cars to drive around. He shared it was not as backed up today; however, realized there are improvements that can be made.

Concerns at Oakwood were shared and there are not a lot of options. Mr. Stokes has spoken with the principal to see if vehicles can enter at a different entry. Nicole McGhee shared it would be helpful if all traffic entering could enter from Hwy 86 versus County Home Road noting that it blocks traffic to Rainbow Daycare. There was some confusion with information the sheriff's department has told the public regarding having someone directing traffic in this area in the morning.

Other discussion took place regarding having someone from the sheriff's office directing traffic and shared it is more of a safety issue and the sheriff's office has an obligation to the community as well as the highway patrol. Board Attorney Ron Bradsher suggested reaching out to both groups as well as contacting the Department of Transportation.

It was shared the signs at North for school zone need to be moved immediately as you past Walter's Mill Road due to the traffic congestion.

Mr. Stokes was requested to look into all of these areas and share updates with the board.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes shared a handout of Before and After School numbers. David Useche is currently over this program as of September 14, 2025. As of now, the program is self-sustaining and will continue to monitor the numbers.

Mr. Stokes was asked to share a listing of actual paying students versus drop-ins and provide frequent updates to the board if numbers change.

- Mr. Stokes shared he plans to be on the Board of Commissioners agenda on September 15, 2025 noting he, Alan Poteat and Brook Underwood have recently met with the County Manager. They will be on the agenda for the appropriation for capital outlay resolution.

- Mr. Stokes reemphasized that Caswell County Schools is no longer in the low performance status and thanked all staff for their diligence in working with our students.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members shared information on events they recently attended.

Chair Mel Battle questioned how board members would feel with going paperless for board meetings. Discussion took place and will explore options and cost.

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. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Professional Development / Interim Supt. Lance Stokes

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the professional development request for Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NCSAA Supt. Cohort = Cost = $499.00 (lodging is not needed)
October 8-9, 2026 January 14-15, 2026 February 25, 2026

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of personnel listing as presented with omission of Item # 3. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve personnel listing as presented with omission of # 3. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of personnel listing Item # 3. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve personnel listing Item # 3 as presented. The motion carried 4-3 with Lillard, Beggarly and Smith voting "No."

Employment	
North Elementary	Geneva Pinckney, Substitute Counselor (2.5 days) = Eff. 9/9/25
	Brianna McCandies, Guidance Counselor = Eff. Date ASAP
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Athletic Trainer Position to be Split: Richard Franklin (Scale 63 / Step 1) Crystal McCraw (Scale 63 / Step 0) Only for Football and Wrestling
Central Office	Erica Hunt – Testing & Accountability Coordinator (10-month) = Eff. 9/9/25
	Jennifer Hooper – Central Office Admn. Asst. Scale 60 / Step 7 = Eff. 9/9/25
	Meredith Gregory, Part Time PreK Teacher (district) = 20 hours per week = Eff. 9/9/25
Oakwood Elementary	Stanley Wilson, Custodian (Scale 54 / Step 0) = Eff. 9/9/25
Transportation	Paul Davis, Fuel Truck Driver/Wrecker Operator (not to exceed 35 hours per week w/ addl. duties as needed) = Scale 60/ Step 0= Eff. 9/9/25
Declined Position	
Stoney Creek Elementary	Samantha DeBlois – Part Time Nurse = declined position

Professional Leave of Absence	Heather Franklin (Principal Fellows Program – Intern) through December 2025 (Salary paid by NC Prin. Fellows Grant)

Limited License Application:

- Dakota Williams = Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School
- Nannie Jeffers = NL Dillard Middle School
- Breya Corbett = South Elementary

Coaching Positions

Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	
Varsity Volleyball – Asst. Coach	Brittany Moore

XI. ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m., Joel Lillard seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on September 22, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

_____ _____

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent