CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 23, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, February 23, 2026, at 5:30 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, Nicole Smith, and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, Tiffany Roberts, Angela Turner, Haley Jones, John Berdine, Stephanie Streit, Emily Smith, Kate Stanfield, Karen Williamson, Mike Stanley, Terri Parker, Heather Norris, Erin Morgan, Brian Totten, Paul Robinson, Alice Robinson, Danya Diggs, Donna Surface, Taylor Roberts, Jack and Karleigh Roberts, Hilary Moore, 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. Mr. Battle also acknowledged sympathy to the family in the school system in the recent loss as well to Wilkes County School System in the recent death of their Superintendent Mark Byrd.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the minutes of the February 9, 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 2025-2026 revised calendar changes. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the agenda as presented with changes as noted. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Personnel Director, Jane Frazier, introduced recently new hires from Stoney Creek Elementary.

- Those included: Erin Morgan and Hannah May. Others were invited to attend and will be introduced at future meetings.

- Staff Recognitions were made to teachers who received a monetary bonus for EVAAS and CTE growth and performance. The following were recognized:

    - Parker Berry, South Elementary — 5th grade Math
    - Danya Diggs, North Elementary — 3rd grade Reading
    - Angela Turner, South Elementary — 4th grade Math
    - Rhonda McFalls, Oakwood Elem. — 5th grade Math / Reading

o Heather Norris, South Elementary	5th Grade Math
o Tiffany Roberts, South Elementary	3rd Grade Reading
o Emily Smith, North Elementary	4th Grade Math
o Dale Stewart, Oakwood Elem.	4th Grade Reading
o Stephanie Streit, North Elementary	4th Grade Reading
o Jimmy Cobler, BYSHS	Woodworking (CTE)
o Breanna Lane, BYSHS	Culinary Arts (CTE)
o Donna Surface, BYSHS	Nursing (CTE)
o Brian Totten, BYSHS	Drone Technology (CTE)
o Teresa Parker, Principal South Elem.	Top 10% performing schools
o Avery Artis, Principal North Elem.	Top 50% performing schools

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2026-2027 School Calendar

At the last meeting it was approved to submit a calendar for parent and community input regarding two calendar options. Upon survey results, Calendar B received the most responses which is an earlier start calendar. The early calendar allows exams to be completed prior to winter break. It was questioned if graduation would occur on a Thursday as listed. Mr. Stokes shared the calendar followed the same pattern as in the past regarding how many days after school was out and noted the date can be changed. Questions were asked for clarity on the time of graduation and it was shared that a morning graduation on a weekday would be difficult for parents who work.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve Calendar Option B (early start) as presented with graduation to be held on a Friday with an evening start. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL CO. SCHOOLS CALENDAR 2026-2027 (BOE Approved 02/23/2026)

July 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	H	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	H	8	9	10	11	12
13	RWD*	15	IR	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	RWD	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	RC	29	30	31

November 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	H	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	IR	AL	H	H	28
29	30					

December 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	ER	AL	H	H	26
27	H	AL	AL	AL		

January 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					H	2
3	OWD	RWD	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	RC	16
17	H	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

February 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	OWD	20
21	IR	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	RWD*	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	RWD	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	RC	ER	H	27
28	AL	AL	AL			

April 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				AL	AL	3
4	OWD	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	OWD	

May 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	RWD*	4	IR	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	ER	29
30	H					

June 2027

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		RWD	RWD	RWD	OWD	5
6	7	8	9	10	RC	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

1st Day of 1st & 2nd Semester

Annual Leave (AL)

RWD*: Safety Excercise 1/2 Day only

Holidays (H)

Independence Day = July 3, 2026

Labor Day = Sept. 7, 2026

Veterans Day = Nov. 11, 2026

Thanksgiving = Nov. 26-27, 2026

Christmas = Dec. 23-25, 2026

New Years Day = Jan. 1, 2027

Martin Luther King = Jan. 18, 2027

Good Friday = March 26, 2027

Memorial Day = May 31, 2027

1st Day for Students = Aug. 17

Last Day for Students = May 28

1st Semeter begins = Aug 17

1st Semester ends = Dec 22

2nd Semester begins = Jan 6

2nd Semester ends = May 28

Report Cards Issued (RC)

Interim Reports (IR)

End of Grading Period

Required Teacher Workday (RWD)

Optional Teacher Workday (OWD)

First Sem Days: 85 507 Hours

Second Sem Days: 90 534 Hours

High School Graduation June 4, 2027

RWD*: Inclement Weather make-up day

School Start & End Times

TBD North, South, Oakwood & Stoney Creek

TBD Dillard

TBD Bartlett Yancey

Required Work Day for BYSHS / OWD other schools

Early Release Day (ER) Times

TBD North, South, Oakwood & Stoney Creek

TBD Dillard

TBD Bartlett Yancey

Calendar is subject to change due to weather conditions or other disruptions in instances of calendar disruptions. NC legislation requires a minimum of 1,025 instructional hours. This calendar includes 1,041 instructional hours and two (2) additional make-up days

Spring Break Optional Workdays due to inclement weather

A survey was sent out to staff in regards to interest in working during spring break due to the numerous days that were used for inclement weather. The responses were received and there is enough interest to provide buildings to be open to staff only (not the public) to allow them to work without using so many of their days. It was suggested to have the buildings open for three days only (April 7, 8, and 9) and these are optional. No one is required to work; however, it allows staff who do not have a large amount of annual leave to work if they so choose.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to allow buildings to be open to staff only for three days during the week of spring break. The motion carried unanimously.

III. REPORTS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

   Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of consent agenda as presented. Vennie Beggarly requested that the transfer requests be pulled to discuss in closed session.

   Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the consent agenda as presented without transfer requests. The motion carried unanimously.

   <u>Fundraising Requests (Spring)</u>

BYSHS		
Band	Cookie Dough	End of Feb. thru April
FFA	Plant Sale	April-May
Golf Team	Closest to Pin	TBD
Women's Soccer	Charity Soccer Game	TBD
Women's Soccer	Fish Fry	TBD
Stoney Creek Elementary	Popcorn Sale	Feb. 27th – March 10th

   Polling of the Board / Coaching Positions (Feb. 12, 2026)

   NL Dillard Middle School

McKenzie Miller, Head Coach – Spring Girls Soccer
Brendan Nunnally, Asst. Coach – Spring Girls Soccer

2. CDL Class B License - Procedures

Transportation Director John Berdine reviewed proposed reimbursement procedures for employees who received their CDL License. Discussion took place and questions were asked regarding if transportation funding would be used or school funds. Upon review, John Berdine was asked to revisit this and bring back a revised proposal at the next meeting.

3. Art's Council Request for Use of Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School

Karen Williamson, Executive Director of the Caswell County Arts Council shared a presentation entitled "Art's Unplugged" with the board. This will be a program offered to students during the summer and the request of using the high school was requested. Details were shared of the program and dates that are being requested. Those include:

July 20 – 24 (middle school students)
July 27 – 31 (high school students)

It was shared that the Art's Council insurance would cover any incidents.

Upon further discussion, Joel Lillard shared that it was recently shared with the board in a request from Averett University that this is a principal's decision and not the board for use of school facilities. Mr. Stokes shared that due to the amount of students he felt it was needed to share with the board and in speaking with Interim Principal Decolia Carter, she was in agreement to proceed.

Board Attorney Ron Bradsher noted concerns regarding if students are not picked up, who is responsible for them as well as noting the insurance contract needed to be reviewed as well as the standard rental agreement which should include the school system will be held harmless.

4. Caswell County Athletic Hall of Fame

Mel Battle shared information regarding a recently formed committee for Caswell County Athletic Hall of Fame. At this point, it will proceed if funding is available. Mel Battle requested permission to place plaques in the high school if the committee generates enough funds to make this happen.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to allow plaques to be displayed at the high school if funding is generated to proceed through the Caswell County Athletic Hall of Fame. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 2025-2026 Revised School Calendar

Discussion took place due to the recent inclement weather we have had as well as the recent issues with water contamination which caused schools to be closed last week. Changes have been made to the calendar to meet the 1,025 instructional hours; however, if any additional changes are needed to the calendar, spring break will be needed to assist in making up the time. Changes are as follows:

- Interim Reports will be issued on March 9, 2026
- March 26th is now a full day of school for students (no early release)
- The third quarter will end on March 27, 2026
- Report cards will be issued on April 2, 2026
- June 9th dismissal times will be extended
  - Elementary – dismiss at 1:40 p.m.
  - Middle – dismiss at 1:15 p.m.
  - High – dismiss according to exam schedule

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the revised 2025-2026 school calendar as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
February 23, 2026

CASWELL CO. SCHOOLS ACADEMIC CALENDAR 2025-2026 REVISED 02/23/2026

July 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	H	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	RWD	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	H	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	IR	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	ER	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	★24	25
26	RWD	28	29	30	31	

November 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	RC	6	7	8
9	10	H	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	OWD	H	H	29
30						

December 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	IR	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	ER	20
21	AL	AL	H	H	H	27
28	AL	AL	AL			

January 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				H	OWD	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	★16	17
18	H	OWD	RWD	22	23	24
25	26	27	RC	29	30	31

February 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	IR	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	★27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	RC	H	4
5	AL	AL	AL	AL	AL	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	IR	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	H	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	★9	RWD	RWD	RWD	13
14	15	16	17	18	RC	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

1st Day of 1st & 2nd Semester

Non-Student Days / Annual Leave (AL)

Holidays (H)

Independence Day = July 4, 2025

Labor Day = Sept. 1, 2025

Veterans Day = Nov. 11, 2025

Thanksgiving = Nov. 27-28, 2025

Christmas = Dec. 24-26, 2025

New Years Day = Jan. 1, 2026

Martin Luther King = Jan. 19, 2026

Good Friday = Apr. 3, 2026

Memorial Day = May 25, 2026

1st Day for Students = Aug. 25

Last Day for Students = June 9

1st Semeter begins = Aug. 25

1st Semester ends = Jan. 16

2nd Semester begins = Jan. 22

2nd Semester ends = June 9

Report Cards Issued (RC)

Interim Reports (IR)

★ End of Grading Period

Required Teacher Workday (RWD)

Optional Teacher Workday (OWD)

BOE Approved 01/27/25

Revised 07/08/25 and 01/12/26 and 02/23/2026

High School Graduation June 12, 2026

7:00 PM

School Start & End Times

8:00-3:10 North, South, Oakwood & Stoney Creek

7:45-2:45 Dillard

8:00-3:00 Bartlett Yancey

June 9th dismissal times:

Elem: 1:40PM/ Dillard: 1:15PM/ Highschool: TBD

Early Release Day (ER) Times

12:00 North, South, Oakwood & Stoney Creek

12:45 Dillard

12:00 Bartlett Yancey

Calendar is subject to change due to weather conditions or other disruptions in instances of calendar disruptions. NC School Calendar

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes thanked the Town of Yanceyville, Town Government and the Emergency Management Team for the recent collaboration on the water issue with the Town of Yanceyville.
- Mr. Stokes will be meeting with the homeschool organization and discussion to partner with them and work together for the children of Caswell County
- BYSHS Track team received first place state championship
- BYSHS basketball team is in the playoffs and middle school athletics are underway

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly shared thanks to Oakwood and Stoney Creek for the cards and posters to the Board and thanks to Food Lion for the donation of bottled water. Also, thanks were extended to the Board of Commissioners for the funding they provide to our district.

Lisa Johnson-Knight shared Governor Stein declared this Public Schools Week and thanked all our staff for all they do every day.

Nicole Smith shared she attended Bartlett Yancey's Senior Night and that went well. She also shared Averett used the Parks and Recreational facilities athletic fields for practice noting that she was regretful that we could not work with them and hoped in the future we can be more helpful. She noted the coach is an alumnus from the high school and would like to look at this going forward.

Mel Battle shared this has been a very unusual winter noting all the days we have missed and hope we continue to not miss any more additional days. He also shared he attended senior night at the high school and thanked the staff for all they do.

Joel Lillard thanked all our teachers and staff and congratulations to the teachers who received the bonus from the State for the scores. He also apologized to the staff for the recent working conditions they endured regarding having to flush commodes with buckets of water and carrying the water into the building.

Nicole McGhee shared she attended the basketball game and wish them luck in the playoffs. She expressed condolences to the families in the school system who lost loved ones. She

congratulated staff on meeting benchmark growths and shared to all teachers to continue working hard. She also shared thanks to all those who assisted with the water situation.

Trudy Blackwell shared she also attended senior night at the high school and everyone seemed very happy. She noted that the high school allows any family members to be recognized with the student and thought this was a nice gesture as all districts do not. She attended the middle school and met with the principal and also talked with the principal at the high school and discussed academics. She shared that Caswell County is being noticed for their improvement and hats off to all the teachers and continue to keep working and continue to grow.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Vennie Beggarly 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 numbers 1-4, 6, 8 & 9 as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing numbers 5 as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried 6-1 with Beggarly voting "No."

Requests for Transfer

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of transfer requests numbers 1-2 as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of transfer request numbers 3-4 as presented with options to go to South, North, or Stoney Creek Elementary. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly. The motion carried unanimously.

Transfer Requests 2026-2027

Byers, Levi	Caswell	to	Orange (3rd)
Myers, Mylez	Caswell	to	Person (K)

Transfer Requests 2025-2026

Newmann, Fitzpatrick	Stoney Creek	to	South (1st)
Newmann, Francis	Stoney Creek	to	South (5th)

Resignations	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Rafael Melendez, Custodian = Eff. 2/10/26
Central Office / Testing	Shanetta White, Testing Coordinator = Eff. 3/19/26
Retirement	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Brian Totten, CTE Teacher = Eff. 7/1/26
	Brian Stevens, Math Teacher = Eff. 7/1/26
Employment	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Sherman "David" Graves, Jr. – Interim Asst. Prin. = Eff. 2/25/26
Substitutes/Bus Drivers	
	Sheena Sigmon, EC Bus Driver = Eff. 2/25/26 (20 hours per week)
	Tawnie Bellamy, Tutor (Title 1) @ South Elementary = Eff. 3/1/26

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

XII OPEN SESSION

Trudy Blackwell made a motion to return to open session. Nicole McGhee seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. (Note: Joel Lillard and Vennie Beggarly left the meeting during closed session).

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee to offer Lance Stokes the position of Superintendent pending contract negotiations and reference checks (no effective date was given). The motion carried 4-1 with Smith voting "No." (Lillard and Beggarly were not in attendance at this time).

XIII. ADJOURN

Trudy Blackwell moved to adjourn the meeting, Nicole McGhee seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on March 9, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent