

**WATAUGA COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA**

**March Personnel Report  
Board Meeting – March 9, 2026**

**Resignations**

| <u>Name</u>    | <u>School</u> | <u>Assignment</u>         | <u>Reason</u>                  |
|----------------|---------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Amy Hiatt      | Hardin Park   | Media Specialist          | Retirement (6/30/26)           |
| Russel Hiatt   | Hardin Park   | Middle Grades Teacher     | Retirement (6/30/26)           |
| Lauren Hooks   | Hardin Park   | Teacher Assistant         | Resignation (2/19/26)          |
| Sheryl Lathrop | Green Valley  | Middle Grades Math        | Resignation (6/30/26)          |
| Danielle Lemay | Parkway       | After School Group Leader | Other Employment (3/13/26)     |
| Erin Scruggs   | Blowing Rock  | Part-Time Tutor           | Family Responsibility (2/6/26) |
| Jonathan Weant | Green Valley  | Bus Driver                | Resignation (2/25/26)          |
| Ashley Winkler | WHS           | Assistant Principal       | Other Employment (3/31/26)     |

**Administrative Personnel**

**Dr. Brian Bettis**

**Central Office**

**Chief Academic Officer**

Dr. Bettis earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2005. He completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2008. Brian earned his Graduate Certificate in School Leadership from Appalachian State University in 2015. He earned the degree of Education Specialist in Educational Administration from Appalachian State University in 2016. Brian completed the requirements for a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership at East Tennessee State University in 2023.

Dr. Bettis was an Elementary Teacher with Cleveland County Schools from 2005 until 2010. From 2010 until 2015, he was a Curriculum Technology Coordinator with Cleveland County Schools. Brian was an Assistant Principal with Cleveland County Schools from 2015 until 2017. Dr. Bettis served as the Principal at Bethel Elementary School from August 2017 until July 2023. Brian has been the Director of Elementary Curriculum with Watauga County Schools since July 2023. He will assume the role of Chief Academic Officer on July 1, 2026.

Dr. Bettis holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the following areas: 00011 - School Administrator: Superintendent, 00012 - School Administrator: Principal, and 00025 - Elementary Education (K-6).

**Jennifer Wandler**

**Central Office**

**Director of Student Services**

Ms. Wandler earned a Bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies at Berea College in 2005 and earned a Master's degree in Social Work at East Tennessee State University in 2007. Jennifer was employed as a Child and Adolescent Therapist with New River Behavioral Healthcare from 2007 until 2008. She has served as a Clinical Social Worker at Watauga High School since 2008.

Ms. Wandler holds certifications in Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM), Collaborative Assessment and Management of Suicidality (CAMS), and is a Certified North Carolina Clinical Supervisor.

Ms. Wandler is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in North Carolina and Kentucky and holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 00006 – School Social Worker.

## **Certified Personnel**

### **Extended Employment for Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Current Assignment</u></b> | <b><u>Employment Extension</u></b>    |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Caleb Brannock     | PE Teacher at Valle Crucis       | Substitute Bus Driver at Valle Crucis |

### **Transfer of Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Current Assignment</u></b>      | <b><u>New Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year</u></b> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Laura Carson       | 10 mos Career Development Coordinator | 11 mos Career Development Coordinator                  |

## **Classified Personnel**

### **New Employment**

|                           |              |                                  |
|---------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Annemarie Bakos           | Green Valley | Temporary Teacher Assistant      |
| Clara Brown               | Hardin Park  | Temporary EC Teacher Assistant   |
| Mallory Caraway           | County-Wide  | After School Group Leader        |
| Judith Erb                | Valle Crucis | Part-Time Tutor                  |
| Tyler Hagan               | Valle Crucis | Temporary PreK Teacher Assistant |
| Ashley Loggins            | Hardin Park  | Temporary Teacher Assistant      |
| Gracie Miller             | County-Wide  | After School Group Leader        |
| Taylor "Alexandria" Young | County-Wide  | After School Group Leader        |

### **Re-Employment of Previous Employees**

|                 |              |                       |
|-----------------|--------------|-----------------------|
| Nathan Jernigan | Valle Crucis | Substitute Bus Driver |
| Mandi Miller    | Green Valley | Substitute Bus Driver |
| Jonathan Weant  | Green Valley | Substitute Bus Driver |
| Alesia Wood     | County-Wide  | Cafeteria Substitute  |

### **Transfer of Assignment for Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Current Assignment</u></b> | <b><u>New Assignment for 2025-2026 School Year</u></b> |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Andrea Westwood    | Bookkeeper at Blowing Rock       | Administrative Assistant for Student Services at WHS   |

### **Extended Employment for Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year**

| <b><u>Name</u></b> | <b><u>Current Assignment</u></b>           | <b><u>Employment Extension</u></b> |
|--------------------|--------------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Michele Lee        | Bookkeeper at WHS                          | Special Events Custodian at WHS    |
| Gabriela Ramirez   | Temporary Teacher Assistant at Hardin Park | Bus Monitor at Hardin Park         |

## **Substitutes**

### **Name**

Dieunna “Jenna” Gaspard  
Camilla “Cam” Lopes\*  
Glory Rognstad  
Emma Shepherd

### **Education**

College – 2 Years  
Master’s Degree  
Master’s Degree  
Bachelor’s Degree

### **Experience**

YMCA Camp Counselor  
Director of Special Education in Wake County  
Previous WCS EC Teacher  
Music Teacher in Wilkes County Schools

\*Retired North Carolina Educator

## **Long-Term Substitutes**

Kerrah Conner  
Emma Dail  
Dr. Melanie Greene  
Mariel Harlow

Bethel  
Cove Creek  
Hardin Park  
Blowing Rock

Teacher Assistant  
Kindergarten  
Exceptional Children  
Middle Grades Math

## **Hospital/Homebound List**

JB Byrne  
Ali Pace

Bethel  
Hardin Park

Behavior Support  
Exceptional Children