CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
March 30, 2026 beginning at 5:00 p.m. with tours at Oakwood Elementary, BYSHS East Wing and Caswell County Civic Center

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a joint meeting with the Caswell County Board of Commissioners on Monday, March 30, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Lisa Johnson-Knight, Nicole McGhee, and Trudy Blackwell. (Nicole Smith was absent). Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, and Alan Poteat. Members present from the Board of County Commissioners: Finch Holt, Frank Rose, Tony Smith, John Claggett, Brian Totten, and Greg Ingram. Others present include Melissa Williamson, Stephanie Williams, Melissa Miller, and Keith Horton. Representatives from Brady were in attendance, Shannon Moretz, Kevin Lynn, and Samantha Bailey. (*Note: Others may have been present but did not sign the roster or names were not legible*).

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by both boards at 5:00 p.m. at Oakwood Elementary. Tours took place at Oakwood Elementary, Bartlett Yancey Senior High School, and the Caswell County Civic Center.

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Joel Lillard for the Board of Education to take a recess at 5:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Greg Ingram moved, seconded by Commissioner Brian Totten, to take a recess at 5:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The boards recessed for a meal.

The meeting was called back to order at 6:55 p.m. at the Central Office Administrative Building.

NEEDS BASED GRANT

Discussion took place on the Needs Based Grant. Mr. Stokes shared there has been much discussion and upon recent information from the NCDPI (North Carolina Department of Public Instruction) Caswell County Schools qualifies for a zero percent match; therefore, we are not required to do the 5% match as originally shared. Trudy Blackwell also shared that God can make a difference and this was a Jesus moment.

The amount available will be the $18.8 Million dollars without any matching funds. An agreement form needs to be signed by both boards.

Discussion took place on when the boards will review and the Board of Commissioners shared they will look at this at the April 6th meeting and the Board of Education will review at the April 13th meeting. This will allow legal representation to review also.

Representatives from Brady shared and emphasized the project will be developed based on the grant value amount. At this point without the five percent match, all of the projects may not be completed; however, there were several "like to haves" in the original amount so those needs will be reviewed and developed into the existing amount of $18.8 Million. It is a priority that the project does not exceed the amount funded. Representative from Brady shared they will be providing budget updates along the way. Brady serves as a design builder and the construction manager. Brady will report to both boards. It was questioned how Brady was selected and it was shared based upon the original grant in 2023 an RFQ was submitted. Brady was chosen based upon their qualifications and were to develop the scope of work, set budget and anything else needed for the grant.

Discussion took place on timeframes and Mr. Stokes shared the Board of Education needs to take action on the agreement with Brady; however, it was put on hold due to questions regarding the five percent match. It was shared that they anticipate construction to possibly begin in January and if things move quickly there are ways to expedite things.

Capital Reserve 888

A spreadsheet was shared with updates on projects using the Capital Reserve 888 funding. It was shared there were concerns using funding allocated for the Civic Center and now there is discussion for using it at the East Wing at the high school. Mr. Stokes shared some quotes have come in less expensive than anticipated and the maintenance department has been able to repair some items themselves. It was shared that at a recent commissioners meeting it was requested to look into the warranty on the roof at the civic center. Alan Poteat will provide this information to both boards.

Other discussion took place regarding using lottery funding and it was noted that both boards have to be in agreement.

It was suggested to move forward with the gutter repair at North and South Elementary over spring break while students are out. (Item # 15 and #20 on the spreadsheet).

It was questioned if lottery funds could be used for repairs at the civic center and it was noted that students are not occupying the building so it wasn't clear if this could be used.

It was shared that a former superintendent had advised the board to look into using lottery funds to make needed repairs at the Page Gym and the old gym. Mel Battle asked if this can be confirmed prior to the April 13th meeting with the Board of Education.

Continued discussion took place on the lottery funding and the amounts and if there is a match required. It was agreed to look into this to find out more specifics and update both boards.

Joel Lillard requested that an updated spreadsheet be provided to the Board of Education at the April 13th meeting to review existing needs for the 888 funds.

At this time by a motion from Commissioner Ingram, seconded by Commissioner Claggett, the Caswell County Board of County Commissioners adjourned their meeting.

The Caswell County Board of Education reviewed the gutter issues.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to proceed with repairs needed for gutter drainage at North and South Elementary with Custom Cuts at a cost of $12,500 per school. The motion carried unanimously. This will take place during spring break.

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared update on the potential football coach and shared his license has been confirmed and will be recommending to proceed. The board was in agreement and this will be voted on at the April 13th meeting.

ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. The motion carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on April 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle	Lance Stokes
Chairman	Interim Superintendent