CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 13, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 13, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard (arrived later in the meeting), Vennie Beggarly, Lisa Johnson-Knight, Nicole McGhee, and Trudy Blackwell. Nicole Smith was absent. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, Kevin Lynn, John Berdine, Adam Scepurek, Terri Gullick, Samantha Bailey, Jeff Joyce, Melissa Comalander, Thomas Long, Lisa Lassiter, Shannon Moretz, 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

Lisa Johnson-Knight moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2026 regular meeting as presented and the March 30, 2026 joint meeting as presented.

Trudy Blackwell requested that wording for observations be added to include she said (regarding the Needs Based Grant) that "God can make a difference and it is a Jesus moment." With those changes, the motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented with addition of Item # 8, Traffic Study at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes thanked Assistant Principals in recognition of Assistant Principal Week and the work they do. He referenced the Out of School Town Leadership Lab in which Danya Diggs and Julia Fair were involved. He also shared April is Autism Month.

Bus Drivers of the month were recognized. Those include: Thomas Long and Melissa Comalander.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

Auditors Report

Adam Scepurek with Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC reviewed the auditor's report. The report showed a clean, unmodified opinion. Mr. Scepurek noted information on Page 14, Exhibit 3 regarding the income statement and balance sheet and reviewed balances. He shared to be mindful where you are pulling cash and what funds are being used. He also noted the amount for charter schools have increased. Esser funds are depleted and these will not be applicable going forward. He shared that with the amount of funds that are used, within a two to three-year period you will eventually have no fund balance. This will boil down to cuts and savings as this has resulted in mostly a spending problem.

Page 22, Exhibit 7, was reviewed noting an increase in child nutrition. One finding included an internal control which resulted in a sequence of software procedures which is in regards to payments made in June/July and the end of the fiscal year. Two findings included budget violation and liability account not properly reconciled in June. These have been shared with the Finance Officer and she is aware of what accounts to look for going forward.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Capital Outlay 888

Updates were shared as requested listing the old spreadsheet and the revised spreadsheet which included upgrades for the Civic Center. Discussion took place on what the difference is from each sheet. Questions were asked on what other needs within the schools are needed and if a list could be provided to the board by the end of the school year. Maintenance Director Alan Poteat shared he is working with Brady on a three to ten-year plan and Mr. Stokes also shared that the state is requesting an updated facilities plan.

It was shared that the board approved the gutter work to take place over spring break and it was questioned if this occurred. Mr. Poteat shared all work was completed except for the underground work to be done. It was shared that the Interim County Manager and Interim Superintendent are working on scheduling a meeting with someone from DPI to get a better handle on the lottery funding and requirements. This will allow an opportunity to research what funds can be used for additional repairs. Mr. Poteat shared that some of the issues regarding the water at South will need to be taken care of when students are not in session and the Board of Commissioners are aware and that money will be earmarked.

Upon no further questions, Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the Capital Outlay 888 spreadsheet for repairs to be made as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Location	Vendor	Description	Amount
BYHS Carpentry Shop	Duggins Mechanical	HVAC	$6,500.00
BYHS East Wing	Duggins Mechanical	HVAC	$5,746.00
BYHS Cafeteria	The Garland Co.	Roof infared scan for leaks	$1,935.00
BYHS East Wing	Weatherproofing Technologies	Roof measurement pricing	$266.88
BYHS East Wing - Closet Unit	Duggins Mechanical	HVAC	$8,283.00
BYHS East Wing - Roof	Duggins Mechanical	HVAC	$22,757.00
BYHS East Wing	Duggins Mechanical	Roof repairs	$67,000.00
BYHS Old Cafeteria	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$2,850.00
BYHS Vocational Building	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$8,420.00
Civic Center	Duggins Mechanical	HVAC	$29,480.00
NL Dillard Middle School	Lozano Roofing	Storm damage - roof	$9,895.00
NL Dillard Middle School	Schneider Electric	Actuators/thermostats	$34,818.00
NL Dillard Middle School	Schneider Electric	Controls - Windows 11	$43,662.00
NL Dillard Middle School	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$3,570.00
North & South Elementary	Seven Oaks Doors	Boiler room door	$7,316.83
North Elementary	Chiller	Brady	$231,963.00
North Elementary	Custom Cuts	Gutter drainage	$13,000.00
North Elementary	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$5,250.00
North Elementary	American Industrial	Chiller controls	$22,000.00
South Elementary	American Industrial	Chiller controls	$22,000.00
South Elementary	Chiller	Brady	$234,564.00
South Elementary	Custom Cuts	Gutter drainage	$12,500.00
South Elementary	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$5,250.00
South Elementary	Water Purification Consultants	Sand filter	$8,215.31
South Elementary	Water Purification Consultants	Water Treatment Plant	$70,000.00
Stoney Creek Elementary	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$2,808.00
Whitley Bldg. - Bus Shop	TeamCraft	Roof repairs	$2,250.00

Totals: $885,452.02
Total Allocated: $888,000.00
Over/Under $ 2,547.98

(Will need to revisit Stoney Creek Elementary Water Tower = $102,500.00)

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   CTE Survey

2. Budget 2026-2027

   Vennie Beggarly asked if this could be moved to later in the meeting to allow time for a line by line item to be shared with the board. Mr. Battle asked Finance Director Brook Underwood to come forward and review what was shared with the board.

   An overview was given of the budget. Finance Director Brook Underwood shared she had never given a line item budget to the board until after the budget has been shared with the commissioners; however, upon discussion, it was requested that a line by line item budget be given to the board at the April 27th meeting. It was also asked to include what was spent in each line item and what is proposed as well as what the line item budget began with.

   The quarterly reports will be shared at the next meeting as well.

   Mel Battle shared upon consulting with Dr. Barker he noted the following:
   - A line by line item is needed
   - Third quarter reports need to be reviewed prior to the budget
   - Look into electrical increases (Duke Power)
   - Nothing is broken down by line items when presenting to commissioners for them to have a better understanding of what is being requested (looks better to show what was spent and what and why the board is requesting an amount)
   - Paving needs to be included and be specific of where it is needed. He noted that North and South should be needing repairs soon.

   Upon further discussion, it was shared that although the amount may not be approved, it is prudent to request what amount is needed to continue to maintain the buildings and operations.

   At the April 27th meeting a complete line by line item budget will be shared with the board as well as a realistic budget to submit to the commissioners.

3. Interim Superintendent Contract

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the interim superintendent contract as presented. The motion carried 4-1 with Beggarly voting "No." (Smith was absent and Lillard had not arrived at this time).

4. Needs Based Grant

   Brady Design Phase Proposal
   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the design phase proposal with Brady as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   Needs Based Public School Capital Fund Form Agreement
   Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the Needs Based Public School Capital Fund Form Agreement as presented. The motion carried unanimously.
   (It was noted that this requires the Chair of both boards signature and the Board of County Commissioners voted and approved at their April 6, 2026 meeting).

5. Avery-Robinson Training & Consulting, LLC

   Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve contract with Avery-Robinson Training & Consulting, LLC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   (At this time Joel Lillard arrived – 10:15 a.m.)

6. Methodological Solutions LLC

   Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve contract with Methodological Solutions LLC as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Memorandum of Understanding UNC Chapel Hill

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve Memorandum of Understanding with UNC Chapel Hill as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Traffic Study at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School

   Chief Operations Officer David Useche shared an overview of the recent traffic study at the high school. The information shared gave an overview of a new design layout for traffic flow at the high school. Approval is needed only to submit for construction and determine what costs are needed as well as what funds are available. It was noted that "they" will look into what funds can be used if this project is to move forward.

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve submitting the information for construction and determine what costs are needed regarding the proposed traffic study report recommendations. The motion carried unanimously. (No cost to the district).

Discussion took place regarding additional studies that are being done at North Elementary and Oakwood Elementary; however, no final recommendations have been made.

It was requested that the traffic concerns at North be shared with the committee regarding the driveway on highway 86 and the turning lane along with pear trees that prohibit the view that may need to be removed.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes shared we are in the fourth quarter and every day of instruction needs to be as close to perfect as possible. We have to focus as we approach the end of the year.
- Mr. Stokes acknowledged the work of the Assistant Principals and thanked all employees on the work they do.
- He noted it is easy to find what is wrong; however, we need to highlight what is right.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly

- Recognized Officer Helms who was at a ballgame (off duty) and assisted a handicapped gentleman in a wheelchair at the NL Dillard Middle School ballgames. She thought this showed a great deal of respect and was a testament to his character. She also noted the need for handicap accessibility at the baseball games for the middle school.
- She hoped everyone enjoyed spring break

Lisa Johnson-Knight

- Attended a non-school hours meeting with Educational Collaborative in Danville and shared the counselors were invited with information being shared on funding after school activities.
- Volunteered at Stoney Creek (Mrs. Lunsford's class)
- Visited NL Dillard and saw Ms. Gullick
- Visited South and shared they had a mock Battle of the Books
- Enjoyed the softball dedication for Mr. Jack Pointer

- Multiplication Madness went well and congratulations to all
- Visited Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School
- Had lunch with Mr. Stewart's class at Oakwood and visited the Pre-K and EC K classrooms
- Attended an event in which Mr. Battle was the speaker at the 4th Annual Boathouse Fundraiser
- Thanks to all our staff for what they are doing and hope all enjoyed a nice spring break

Mel Battle

- Attended Multiplication Madness and enjoyed the enthusiasm of the kids
- Attended the dedication for Jack Pointer at the softball field and his family was very appreciative.
- He shared that he observed a school system in Ohio recently and noted the kids that live within a certain mile radius walk to school

Joel Lillard

- Thanks to the Assistant Principals in recognition of Asst. Principals Week
- Hope everyone enjoyed a well-deserved spring break
- Noted we are in the home stretch and shared everyone will be getting ready for testing

Nicole McGhee

- Shared this is an important time of the year with all the end of year events
- Hope that everyone continues to work hard
- Enjoyed the recognition for Jack Pointer and it was good to see his family
- Wished everyone a good rest of the year

Trudy Blackwell

- Enjoyed the dedication for Jack Pointer and shared it brought back memories and was thankful and grateful to see community support for this event and others
- Visited the high school and met with the new Assistant Principal and noted there are a lot of good things going on at the high school and when walking through during the visit, students were well behaved from what she saw
- Thanked everyone for all the work that helps the wheels go round
- Thanks to the Assistant Principals noting we do not say thanks enough and personally say thank you
- Most important message to the students, parents, and everyone, it takes a village and we look to continue our growth process when testing happens as Caswell County is on the map

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion at 10:40 a.m. 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 and to discuss proposed superintendent contract for Lance Stokes. Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion.

IX. OPEN SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion to return to open session. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented with the exception of Item # 5. Nicole McGhee moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Sharon Hicks, Alternative Teacher = Eff. 4/1/26
Separations	
South Elementary	Vickie Terry, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 3/27/26
Employment	
NL Dillard Middle	Brittany Aldridge, Interim Media Coordinator = Eff. 4/15/26 through the end of the school year
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Trevor Smith, Cheer Coach for Football & Basketball = Eff. 4/14/26
	Ryan Johnson, Head Football Coach & will be placed in teaching position (TBD) = Eff. ASAP
Reclassification of Testing & Accountability Student Support Coordinator From a Certified teaching position ($4,100 – $5,595 per month) to a Classified hourly position, Scale 64 ($18.75 - $23.57 per hour)	

XI. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 p.m., Lisa Johnson-Knight seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on April 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle Chairman	Lance Stokes Interim Superintendent