

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

**May Personnel Report
Board Meeting – May 11, 2026**

Resignations

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Reason</u>
Nicole Adam	Cove Creek	Middle Grades Teacher	Relocation (6/30/26)
Angela Alexander	WHS	Cosmetology Teacher	Teach in Tennessee (6/8/26)
Lisa Bryant	Cove Creek	Middle Grades Teacher	Retirement (6/30/26)
Mallory Caraway	Valle Crucis	After School Group Leader	Continue Education (6/4/26)
Ida Grace Dishman	Hardin Park	EC Teacher Assistant & CNA	Relocation (6/30/26)
Deanna Gragg	Hardin Park	Grade 3 Teacher	Resignation (4/30/26)
Owen Gray	Parkway	Media Specialist	Relocation (6/30/26)
Renee Kapp	Hardin Park	EC Teacher	Employment w/ ASU (6/30/26)
Elaine Miller	Blowing Rock	Grade 2 Teacher	Resignation (6/30/26)
Elizabeth Price	Hardin Park	Teacher Assistant	Retirement (6/30/26)
Michaela Price	County-Wide	Middle School Cheerleading Coach	Declined Offer (5/4/26)
Beaver Robinette	Mabel	40% Music Teacher	Resignation (6/30/26)
Alicia Toomey	Cove Creek	ASL Hearing Interpreter	Resignation (6/30/26)
Riley Tuckmantel	Green Valley	After School Program Coordinator	Relocation (7/3/26)
Jan Ward	Hardin Park	EC Teacher Assistant	Retirement (6/30/26)

Administrative Personnel

New Employment

Dante Binotto

WHS

Assistant Principal

Mr. Binotto earned a Bachelor's degree in Geographic Information Systems from State University of New York College at Cortland in 2016. He completed the requirements for teacher certification at East Carolina University in 2018. Dante earned a Master's degree in School Administration from Appalachian State University in May 2026.

Mr. Binotto was a Middle Grades Science Teacher with Lee County Schools from 2017 until 2021. From 2021 until 2024, Dante was a Middle Grades Science Teacher with Watauga Virtual Academy. During the 2024-2025 school year, he was a Middle Grades Science Teacher at Parkway Elementary School. Mr. Binotto has completed his Principal Fellows Internship at Blowing Rock Elementary School during the 2025-2026 school year.

Mr. Binotto holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 78300 – Middle Grades Science (grades 6-9). He will apply for licensure in the area of 00012 – School Administrator: Principal.

Renewal of Administrator Contracts

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Contract Length</u>
Scott Carter	Cove Creek	Principal	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Dr. Kimberly Coleman	WHS	Assistant Principal	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Madison Hollar	Blowing Rock	Principal	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Dustin Kerley	WHS	Athletic Director	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Martha Korevec	Parkway	Principal	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Joseph Nash	Central Office	Chief Financial Officer	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)
Dr. Alison Schleede	Central Office	Director of Technology	4 Years (July 1, 2026-June 30, 2030)

Certified Personnel

New Employment

Bonnie Halle **Parkway** **Middle Grades ELA & Social Studies Teacher**

Ms. Halle earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Texas State University in 2002. She completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Reading/Literacy in Education from Eastern New Mexico University in 2013. From 2006 until 2008, Ms. Halle was a Technical Educator with Department of Defense Education Activity. Bonnie was a Curriculum Specialist and Educator with North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) from 2013 until 2016. She served as a Curriculum Specialist with Okaloosa Public School District in Florida from 2016 until 2020. Ms. Halle has been employed with Wake County Schools since 2021 as a Curriculum Specialist. Bonnie holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the following areas: 00100 – English (grades 9-12), 00190 – Reading (K-12), 00400 – Social Studies (grades 9-12), 78180 – Middle Grades Language Arts (grades 6-9), and 78400 – Middle Grades Social Studies (grades 6-9).

James Hawkins **WHS** **Social Worker**

Mr. Hawkins earned a Bachelor's degree in Parks and Recreational Management from Appalachian State University in 2024. He completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Social Work from Appalachian State University in May 2026. During the summer of 2023, James was the Director of Life Enhancement at Appalachian Brian Estates. He completed an internship in Social Work at Appalachian Brian Estates during the 2024-2025 school year. Mr. Hawkins has completed an internship in School Social Work at Watauga High School during the 2025-2026 school year. He will apply for a North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 00006 – School Social Worker.

Erin Strickland **Parkway** **Reading Specialist**

Ms. Strickland earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2016. She completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Literacy Education from Appalachian State University in 2018. Erin was an elementary teacher at Blowing Rock Elementary School from 2017 until 2023. Ms. Strickland was a tutor at Blowing Rock Elementary School from 2023 until 2025. She holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 00025 – Elementary Education (K-6) and will apply for licensure in the area of 00190 – Reading (K-12).

Dorothy Weller**Hardin Park****Middle Grades ELA Teacher**

Ms. Weller earned a Bachelor's degree in English from Davidson College in 2003. She completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Creative Writing from The University of Texas at Austin in 2009. Dorothy was a Teaching Assistant and Writing Center Consultant at The University of Texas at Austin from 2007 until 2009. From 2010 until 2021, Ms. Weller was an English Language Arts Teacher in Texas. She has been employed as a Teacher/Consultant with The Heart of Texas Writing Project at The University of Texas at Austin since 2011. Dorothy has been employed as a Middle School Language Arts Teacher/Curriculum Designer at Long-View Micro School in Texas since 2021. Additionally, Ms. Weller has been employed as an online High School English Instructor since 2025 with The University of Texas High School. She holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the following areas: 00100 – English (grades 9-12), 00110 – English as a Second Language (K-12), 78180 – Middle Grades Language Arts (grades 6-9), and 78400 – Middle Grades Social Studies (grades 6-9).

Edward Zigmont**Hardin Park****Media Specialist**

Mr. Zigmont earned a Bachelor's degree in Theatre Education from East Carolina University in 2002. He completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Library Science at East Carolina University in 2016. Edward was a teacher in Lenoir, Edgecombe, and Wayne County Schools from 2002 until 2012. From 2012 until 2015, he served as a Media Specialist in Beauford County Schools. Mr. Zigmont has been employed as a Media Specialist with Sampson County Schools since 2014. Edward holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the following areas: 00025 – Elementary Education (K-6), 00076 – Media Coordinator, and 00108 – Theatre Arts (K-12).

Re-Employment of Interim/Temporary Employee for 2026-2027 School Year

Linda Baker	Parkway	Art Teacher
Katy Davidson	Blowing Rock	Middle Grades ELA & Social Studies Teacher
Olivia Pound	WHS	Science Teacher

Re-Employment: Contract Teachers – One (1) Year Contracts for 2026-2027 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>
Laurie Blalock	Valle Crucis	Media Specialist
Sonya Burchell	Parkway	Middle Grades Teacher
Bailey Cook	Parkway	Elementary Teacher
Joanne Ferhadi	Bethel	Elementary Teacher
Moriah Franklin	Cove Creek, Green Valley	Music Teacher
Kaitlin Griggs	Hardin Park	Elementary Teacher
Kane Hall	WHS	CTE Teacher
Emily Hurd	Hardin Park	Elementary Teacher
Lauren Idol	Parkway	Elementary Teacher
Emma Kate Jones	Valle Crucis	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Jordan Kelley	Mabel	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Katie LeGrand	Cove Creek, Mabel	Agri-Science Teacher
Hester Claire Linville	Hardin Park	Elementary Teacher
Audrey Lipschutz	WHS	Mental Health Specialist
Derek Lisowski	WHS	JROTC Instructor

Samantha Mauney	Blowing Rock	Middle Grades Teacher
Elizabeth McClellan	Blowing Rock	Elementary Teacher
Grace McClure	Hardin Park	Elementary Teacher
Mason Morris	Blowing Rock, Hardin Park	CTE Teacher
Larry Mosley	Mabel	Middle Grades Teacher
Braley Neal	Green Valley	Elementary Teacher
Kathryn Overcash	Parkway	Middle Grades Teacher
Hope Peggottga	WHS	Science Teacher
Jennifer Privette	Cove Creek	Middle Grades Teacher
Rachel Rector	Valle Crucis	School Psychologist
Tiffany Perkins	Green Valley	Elementary Teacher
Elizabeth Rodden	Bethel	PreK Teacher
Cheyenne Ross	Bethel	Middle Grades Teacher
Dr. Julie Rowland-Gross	Hardin Park	50% Behavior Support Specialist
Hannah Schimpf	WHS	Math Teacher
Katrina Shook	Green Valley, Parkway	CTE Teacher
Madison Stamey	Bethel	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Amanda Stamper	WHS	CTE Teacher
Daniel Stark	WHS	CTE Teacher
Nora Sweeney	WHS	CTE Teacher
Rebecca Sykes	Hardin Park	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Deanna Taylor	Green Valley	Elementary Teacher
Maryam Thorpe White	WHS	Spanish Teacher
Elizabeth Valois	Mabel	Elementary Teacher
Chaselyn Vestal	WHS	Science Teacher
Kelly Ward	Mabel	Elementary Teacher
Rachel Wood	WHS	School Counselor
Sarah "Lane" Worrell Hoit	Hardin Park	Middle Grades Teacher
Austin Wright	Blowing Rock	Physical Education Teacher

Re-Employment: Contract Teachers – Four (4) Year Contracts for 2026-2027 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>
Hailey Aldridge	Green Valley	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Stephanie Allen	Hardin Park	School Psychologist
Tracy Baker	Hardin Park	EC PreK Teacher
Stephanie Ballance	Blowing Rock, Valle Crucis, WHS	ESL Teacher
Toni Berke	Green Valley	Middle Grades Teacher
Jackie Blow	WHS	Science Teacher
Carrie Boone	WHS	Social Studies Teacher
Sara Boyce	Parkway	Elementary Teacher
Caleb Brannock	Valle Crucis	Physical Education Teacher
Cori Braxton	WHS	Exceptional Children's Teacher
Jennifer Brown	Blowing Rock	Elementary Teacher
Jonathan "JC" Byland	WHS	Social Studies Teacher
Sarah Cardwell	Central Office	Blended Learning Coordinator

Jesse Carswell Charlene “Char” Chiarolanzio Lisa Clinard Krista Cohen Sheri Collier Melody Cook-Bridges	WHS Parkway Blowing Rock Hardin Park Hardin Park Blowing Rock	Alternative Learning Program Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Middle Grades Teacher Speech-Language Pathologist Media Specialist
Lora Davis Roberto de la Cerda Andrea Decker Amber Dollyhigh-Kwong	WHS Blowing Rock WHS Hardin Park	Healthful Living & PE Teacher Elementary Teacher English Teacher Speech-Language Pathologist
Chelsie Eldreth Olivia Emmert Dylaney Ferguson Celeste Fluchel Agnes-Marie Fox	Bethel, Valle Crucis Bethel Bethel Hardin Park Bethel	CTE Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Exceptional Children’s Teacher Speech-Language Pathologist
Robin Gardner Joseph Gragg	Bethel WHS	Elementary Teacher CTE Teacher
Ryan Habich Tonya Hamby Ward Rockelle Hancock Lauren Harkey Shelby Hatton Courtney Hicks Phillip Hicks Netta Sue Hill Kirsten Hodges Heather Holbrook Sarah Holt Joni Horine Amanda Huff	WHS Blowing Rock Hardin Park Valle Crucis Valle Crucis Valle Crucis WHS Bethel Parkway Cove Creek, Green Valley Blowing Rock Hardin Park WHS	Healthful Living & PE Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Middle Grades Teacher Elementary Teacher Math & Science Teacher Middle Grades Teacher School Counselor Social Worker Elementary Teacher Intervention Specialist Exceptional Children’s Teacher
Carrie Ingram William “Bill” Ireland	Blowing Rock WHS	Middle Grades Teacher Exceptional Children’s Teacher
Claire Jensen	Hardin Park	School Counselor
Sarah Kanipe Kellia Kidda McKinley Kunz	WHS Parkway Bethel	English Teacher School Counselor Reading Specialist
Jennifer Lambert Frankie Lancaster Meagan Langdon Sadie LaPointe Kathleen Larsen Katherine Lentz-Martin Blakely Lord Brian Lynch Terry Lyon Natasha Lyons	Cove Creek WHS Bethel, Mabel, Parkway Green Valley Hardin Park Hardin Park WHS Mabel Bethel, Valle Crucis Valle Crucis	Elementary Teacher Chorus Teacher Social Worker Middle Grades Teacher Elementary Teacher Exceptional Children’s Teacher English Teacher Middle Grades Teacher Music Teacher Middle Grades Teacher
Courtney McWhorter Alexandra Miller Lisa Miller Emily Morris	Blowing Rock, Cove Creek Hardin Park Blowing Rock WHS	Art Teacher Exceptional Children’s Teacher Elementary Teacher Math Teacher

Dr. Laurie Nelson-Gill Brittany Norris Crystal Norris Karen Norris	Blowing Rock Blowing Rock Hardin Park County-Wide	Reading Specialist Elementary Teacher Reading Specialist GEAR UP Coordinator
Gayle Oliver	Mabel	Elementary Teacher
Victoria Parsons Patricia Pfister Lindsey Postlethwait Jessica Presnell-Greene Kimberly Pryor	Green Valley Cove Creek Bethel, Valle Crucis Hardin Park Parkway	Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Art Teacher Elementary Teacher Middle Grades Teacher
Olivia Reeves Melanie Rogers Joshua Roberts Shawn Roberts Riley Rozanski Annie Russ	Parkway Valle Crucis WHS Green Valley, Parkway Green Valley Green Valley	Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Science Teacher Band & Orchestra Teacher Speech-Language Pathologist Elementary Teacher
Lindsay Scarborough Erin Scott Meghan Scott Kelly Seehorn Erin Selle Kristina Shableski Amy Smith Christie Stafford Victoria Stapleton Adrienne Stumb Brianna Swartz Megan Szep	Cove Creek, Mabel Blowing Rock Hardin Park Valle Crucis Hardin Park Parkway WHS Green Valley Hardin Park WHS Parkway Hardin Park	Band & Orchestra Teacher Exceptional Children's Teacher Elementary Teacher Middle Grades Teacher EC PreK Teacher Elementary Teacher School Counselor Middle Grades Teacher Middle Grades Teacher English Teacher Elementary Teacher Exceptional Children's Teacher
Amy Thomas Erin Thompson Heath Tucker	Parkway Valle Crucis Mabel	Physical Education Teacher AIG Specialist Physical Education Teacher
Samuel Vining	WHS	Social Studies Teacher
Zachary Walker Heather Ward Amy Warren Haleigh Waterman Stacie Webb Tammy Whichard Cassie Wilhelm April Wilkinson Sumer Williams Lindsey Wilson Sarah Wilson Jessica Wyatt	WHS Green Valley Cove Creek Parkway WHS Hardin Park Mabel WHS WHS Hardin Park Hardin Park Green Valley	Theatre Arts Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Exceptional Children's Teacher Exceptional Children's Teacher Speech-Language Pathologist Exceptional Children's Teacher Math Teacher Elementary Teacher Elementary Teacher Middle Grades Teacher
Kathryn Yanacek Ashlyn Yates	Hardin Park Hardin Park	Exceptional Children's Teacher Reading Specialist

Transfer of Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year</u>
Tiffany Perkins	Grade 4 Teacher at Green Valley	Grade 4 Teacher at Cove Creek

Extended Employment for Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>Employment Extension</u>
Tammy Whichard	EC Teacher at Hardin Park	Bus Monitor at Hardin Park

Classified Personnel**New Employment**

Zachary Gage	Hardin Park	After School Group Leader
Jake Lathrop	Mabel	Part-Time Tutor
Levi Lemons	Bus Garage	Mechanic

Transfer of Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>New Assignment for 2026-2027 School Year</u>
Hannah Ford	12 mos Bookkeeper at Blowing Rock	10 mos Bookkeeper at Blowing Rock

Extended Employment for Summer 2026

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>Employment Extension</u>
Tana Brophy	Family Resource Coordinator at Hardin Park	ESY Services as Family Resource Coordinator
Becky Wood	EC Teacher Assistant at Hardin Park	Summer Receptionist at Hardin Park

Extended Employment for Remainder of 2025-2026 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>	<u>Employment Extension</u>
Ashley Loggins	Teacher Assistant at Hardin Park	Bus Monitor at Hardin Park
Joshua Phillips	After School Group Leader at Hardin Park	After School Substitute

Substitutes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
Mandi Miller	Associate's Degree	Teacher Assistant & Bus Driver
Jeremiah Tarbutton	Master's Degree	Teacher in Texas

Hospital/Homebound List

Joni Horine

Hardin Park

Exceptional Children/Math Intervention

Athletics

Samantha Mauney
Mason Morris
Melissa Wrenn

Blowing Rock
Blowing Rock
County-Wide

Girls' Basketball Coach
Volleyball Coach
Middle School Cheerleading Coach