CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
April 27, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, April 27, 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, Nicole Smith, Nicole McGhee, and Trudy Blackwell. Lisa Johnson-Knight was absent. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, John Berdine, April Harris, Vito Stolfo, Paul Robinson, Alice Robinson, 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

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the agenda. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes thanked Administrative Assistants in recognition of Administrative Assistant's Day recently.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Harris addressed the board in regards to an email she has recently sent to the board regarding her daughter being assaulted and shared it is on video. She shared she has spoken with the superintendent and was told not to come to the meeting tonight. She has also spoken with the principal and told that she would handle this situation but nothing has been done. She has been in contact with principal for over a month. Her child was grabbed by the wrist; however, the principal said she was being held by the hand. The superintendent saw this and is in agreement. The principal has been very ugly and unprofessional when speaking with her and has hung up on her as well as yelled and screamed. She is worried about her child and the effect it is having on her as she once loved to go to school and now is afraid.

Joel Lillard questioned if the superintendent has advised her of the grievance policy and she responded "yes." Nicole Smith questioned who told her not to attend the meeting tonight and she responded that the superintendent did.

Vito Stolfo addressed the board with similar concerns sharing this is his granddaughter and she has loved to go to school until now. He was out of town and drove all night to attend this meeting but was told not to come and shared the meeting would most likely go late. He questioned what this teacher is doing behind closed doors and referenced the principal walking out of the meeting they had. He shared it is against the law to touch a child and his granddaughter is no different. He questioned why this is taking place and noted it has been drawn out for over a month. He expressed concerns with the interim superintendent and felt he is telling untruths and trying to downplay this situation. He shared something needs to be done and felt the board is doing nothing but trying to keep things quiet.

II. REPORTS

Quarterly Report
Finance Officer Brook Underwood reviewed the quarterly reports.

School Inspection Reports
Discussion took place on some of the concerns that were listed noting the high school and it is a fairly new school. Maintenance Director Alan Poteat shared that some of the issues may have come from custodians not using the correct chemicals to clean and it has caused issues. He shared Saffelle is willing to do a training if we are willing to pay for it. Continued discussion took place regarding the need for a lead custodian and who is giving the custodians orders on what areas to clean, etc. It was shared that a plan needs to be finalized and it was shared that at one time the custodians reported to the maintenance director and there may be a need to revisit this.

Action: Mr. Stokes was asked to bring a plan back to the board on custodians and duties/responsibilities and identify who is in charge of custodian duties as well as keeping up with cleaning products.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Budget 2026-2026 (Capital Outlay /Local)

Finance Officer Brook Underwood reviewed the proposed budget which will be submitted to the Board of County Commissioners.

Concerns were voiced with individual who is the athletic director when this was reviewed in the budget. It was shared his teaching license is for CTE and it will possibly be listed on the exemption list. Mr. Stokes shared when he was hired it showed his license had been applied for; however, when reviewing his transcripts, it showed his license is only for CTE. It was questioned why the board is just now being notified of this and indicated that when asked recently the board was told

there were no exemptions. Concerns were shared regarding the need to cut items where not needed noting the amount that has been used from fund balance previously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the request for teacher supplement in the amount of $221,859. Trudy Blackwell questioned if this is only for teachers and it was confirmed this would go to teachers, counselors, and nurses. The motion carried 4-2 with Blackwell and Beggarly voting "No."

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the capital outlay budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the local budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

This will be presented to the county commissioners in a written form for their consideration and approval.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Joel Lillard requested the items be voted on separately.

   The motion made by Trudy Blackwell, seconded by Nicole Smith to approve the consent agenda for request for transfer carried unanimously.

   Request for Transfer

Neal, Olivia	Caswell	to	Rockingham (5th)

   Joel Lillard questioned the need for the Huddibox purchase and shared concerns with the amount with the uncertainty of who may be the principal next year and using that amount. He suggested holding this until next year for the principal at that time to have input. These funds will be carried over if not used. Vennie Beggarly questioned if our IT Department could review to see if this will be beneficial. It was noted that this equipment cannot be used for athletics if paid for by Title I funds. Mr. Stokes shared it is a screen with speakers and can be used indoors or outdoors and would be used for parental involvement. Joel Lillard expressed that he would feel better waiting to allow review at the beginning of school next year and if the need is still there he has no issues with it.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to table this item until next school year for further review with current administration at that time. The motion carried 4-2 with Blackwell and McGhee voting "No."

2. Budget Amendment

Discussion took place in the pre-meeting when reviewing board packets regarding budget amendments. Concerns were shared regarding budget amendments being brought to the board when moving money. Finance Director Brook Underwood shared the board made a change in the resolution previously for local and capital outlay with purpose codes and that is the process that is being followed. Joel Lillard shared that was not his understanding and asked that the minutes be pulled. His understanding that any money that was moved would need to be in the form of an amendment and brought to the board. The board requested that the wording include line by line. Finance Director Brook Underwood confirmed that wording was included; however, it did not include the last digits. Upon continued discussion it was confirmed that was the intent.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to change the resolution for local and capital outlay to include that all money moved should come to the board in the form of a budget amendment. The motion carried 5-1 with Blackwell voting "No." Finance Director Brook Underwood shared that this will make it difficult to operate and operations are going to stop.

Action: A resolution will be brought back to the board at the next meeting.

3. Transportation Survey 2026-2027 Results & Recommendation

Chief Operations Officer David Useche and Transportation Director John Berdine shared an overview of the recent transportation survey results regarding changes to the start time for students. Upon review, the recommendation was to proceed with Option B as it was the most popular. This would have the high school starting at 8:45 a.m., middle school at 8:30 a.m. and elementary at 7:30 a.m. Discussion took place regarding the amount of bus riders and how this would affect parents who drive students to school and need to be at work at 8:00 a.m. John Berdine shared this will assist in the efficiency rate and there would be no additional cost to the district. He felt this will also assist with routing with the transitions that will be needed at Oakwood next year. It was questioned how this would effect PCC students and Mr. Stokes shared they follow the high schools schedule and noted they have not been informed of any changes and their schedule is posted reflecting our current model at this time.

Mr. Stokes recommended Option B as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee. The motion tied 3 to 3 and therefore the motion fails. (Blackwell, McGhee, Battle voted Yes / Lillard, Beggarly and Smith voted No).

The current bell schedule will continue for the 2026-2027 school year.

4. Summer Hours

Mr. Stokes shared options for the board to consider regarding summer hours. Discussion took place with concerns that the guidelines were not followed last year. Nicole McGhee questioned why everyone should be penalized for the errors of just a few and felt that those individuals should be addressed. Joel Lillard shared it was brought to the interim superintendent's attention noting two principals who were not clocking in and not working the set times the board had requested and nothing was done. He agreed it was not fair to penalize everyone; however, it seems that each year this occurs there are certain individuals who abuse it. Mel Battle concurred and shared that other districts offer this and some do not. He had no issues with the maintenance and transportation; however, if office staff participate he felt only one option should be offered. He agreed that there needs to be accountability. People need to be where they are supposed to be at all times and also shared we have this conversation every year.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve summer hours as follows:

Maintenance	6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday thru Thursday)
Maintenance Office (Alan/Kathy)	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday thru Thursday)
Transportation	6:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Monday thru Thursday)
Transportation Office (John/Debra)	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday thru Thursday)
All office & school staff	7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. (Monday thru Thursday)

Begins the week of June 15th and ending on the week of August 3rd (last Friday off will be August 7, 2026).

The motion was made under the stipulations that if anyone abuses the guidelines, summer hours will be stopped at any time. The motion carried unanimously.

(Note: July 4th week will allow summer workers to be off on July 2nd and 3rd due to the Holiday being on Friday).

Mr. Stokes questioned if the buildings are to be open to the public during those times and it was confirmed they will.

5. Memorandum of Understandings for ABA Services
   - SpringHealth
   - Pediatric Staffing
   - Amergis
   - Blue Gems

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Memorandum of Understandings for ABA services as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Contract – Consultant to the Board

   Mel Battle shared the contract included for approval was to consult with Dr. Douglas Barker on an as needed basis. He shared he had sent an email over the weekend with information regarding budget information. The intent to work with Dr. Barker was to assist with financial information and special projects. He will only bill the system when someone reaches out to him on a fifteen-minute interval.

   Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the contract with School System Consulting Services, LLC (with Dr. Doug Barker) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes shared he and Finance Director Brook Underwood met with the county representatives and DPI to receive an overview of funds available to schools and what the restrictions are. He shared balances that are available and emphasized that both boards must agree before requesting the funds. $961,300.03 (ADM), $826,677.55 (lottery funds), $2,234,986.80 (Repair/Renovation).
- Mr. Stokes shared that the state is requesting an updated facilities plan
- Thanks were extended to Stoney Creek and our maintenance department on a recent power outage and also thanks to Piedmont Electric who were able to make repairs in time for the dance which was planned.
- Updates were shared in the email Mr. Stokes shared in his weekly update regarding roof repairs and warranty at the Civic Center.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly

- Attended ballgames and was thankful that a volunteer fireman assisted a student recently who had gotten hurt. She felt this may be something to look into for future games.

- Congratulations to NL Dillard volleyball for winning two years in a row and winning the conference tournament tonight. Hats off to Angela Ouzts and Ruth Miller. Thanks also to Rick Hill for assisting in the concession stand recently.
- Request from a parent when discussion took place at the last meeting regarding handicap accessibility at the middle school and was asked that a ramp of some type be looked into for the high school for softball and baseball.

Nicole Smith

- Attended ballgames and shared the need of a porta-john at the middle school noting the safety concerns for individuals entering the building.

Mel Battle

- Attended ballgames and offered thanks to the maintenance department noting the lights were all working (except for one). He noted it is good to have competition and shared that NL Dillard is represented well for volleyball. He suggested recognizing them at the next meeting.

Joel Lillard

- North's Spring Fling was a nice event. He shared the football coach was there and took the students and they volunteered at the event and he heard many good compliments on this.
- He shared that having the three games at the high school was nice and brought in a lot of people.

Nicole McGhee

- Shared that social media is a good form of communication to get information out and noted that some of the newer coaches are doing this.
- She gave a shout out to all of our staff and the work they are doing.

Trudy Blackwell

- Visited with several individuals at the Central Office and had discussions about the end of the year. She shared all was good information. She visited Whitley and the transportation department but they were at a meeting.
- Visited NL Dillard and spoke with a few teachers.
- Attended the carnival at North and enjoyed BINGO and noted the nice prizes and hats off to Mr. Artis.
- Attended games at the high school and thanked those for manning the concession booth. She was glad to see good attendance and nice to have more than one game going on at a time. Thanks to community for the support and thanks to the staff at North for their time at the Spring Fling. She also shared she received nice comments from the staff at South on the board personally handing out the end of year banquet invitations.

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. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion.

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 as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
NL Dillard Middle	Brittany Aldridge, Interim Media Specialist = Declined Position
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Laura Webb, English Teacher = Eff. 6/12/26
Oakwood / North Elementary	Julia Fair, Music Teacher = Eff. 6/12/26
Employment	
Central Office / Testing	Jeffrey Stauber, Testing & Accountability School Support Coordinator = Eff. TBD Salary Scale = 64 (1 year of experience)

Oakwood Staffing / Relocation Plan

Mr. Stokes recommended Scenario D for Oakwood Staffing as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

SCENARIO D: 0 Families impacted with split siblings' locations

School	Grade Level	Full Size Classrooms / Sections
NL Dillard	Self-Contained	EC Suite
South	K-5	16
North	PreK	1

Implications of Scenario D

- No families impacted by split sibling placements. (Except for potential PK cases)
- Students may need temporary reassignment in Infinite Campus to balance class sizes.
- South Elementary currently has only 15 potential vacant classrooms, creating a significant capacity challenge.
- Existing South Elementary intervention rooms, offices, specialty rooms, and flexible-use spaces may need to be converted into classrooms.
- May create varying enrollment pressures at South: To accommodate Oakwood, some South Elementary grade levels may need merged classrooms or larger class groupings.
- Oakwood staff can function as one complete team, allowing clearer supervision, communication, scheduling, and support.
- Reduces the complexity of supervising students and staff across multiple campuses.

Administrative Staffing Considerations (All Options)

To reduce operational impact, Oakwood support staff may be placed as follows:

Independent Spaces Needed
- Principal
- Data Manager
- School Counselor

Shared Functional Spaces
- Nurse
- Receptionist
- Media Specialist

Additional Coordination
- SRO placement to be determined after final option approval.

Staffing Projections (Allotments)
Mr. Stokes recommended approval of staffing projections (but not placement of people) as presented with exception of the two classified positions. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Athletic Positions
Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the athletic positions. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the fall and winter athletic positions which will include doing away with weight training and men's tennis and adding men and women indoor track and all other sports will need to come back to the board for approval. This will make a change to the coaching allotment scale. The motion carried 5-0 with Mel Battle abstaining.

Fall Sports 2026-2027		
Sport	**Level**	**Name**
Varsity Football		
Head Coach (1)	11-months salary	Ryan Johnson
Asst. Coach	L10	Rickey Blackstock
Asst. Coach	L10	(Possibly Hancock)
Asst. Coach	L10	Quinton Cooley
JV Football		
Head Coach (1)	L10	Justin Shumaker
Asst. Coach	L10	Armani Williams
Asst. Coach	L10	Mykel Williams
Athletic Trainer	L10	Crystal McCraw
Cheerleaders	L3	Brianna McCandies
JV Cheerleaders	L3	Trevor Smith
Volleyball Coach	L10	Angela Ouzts
Asst. Volleyball	L5	Ruth Miller
JV Volleyball Coach	L5	Anna Foster
Women's Tennis	L5	
Cross Country	L5	Tia Foster
Men's Soccer	L10	Lynn Massey
JV Men's Soccer	L5	

Winter Sports 2026-2027		
Sport	**Level**	**Name**
Basketball		
Women's Coach	L14	Marvin Wimbush
Women's Asst. Coach	L7	LaQuita Warner
Men's Coach	L14	
Men's Asst. Coach	L7	
JV Men's Coach	L7	Ian Witzgall
Cheerleaders	L3	Brianna McCandies
JV Cheerleaders	L3	Trevor Smith
Men's Indoor Track	L5	Mykel Williams
Women's Indoor Track	L5	Breanna Lane
Men's Wrestling	L10	Rick Hill
Asst. Wrestling	L5	Noah Tart
Athletic Trainer	L7	Crystal McCraw

Spring Sports 2026-2027		
Sport	**Level**	**Name**
Men's Baseball		
Head Coach (1)	L10	Tyler Coleman
Asst. Baseball Coach	L5	Chase Johnson
JV Baseball Coach	L5	
Women's Softball	L10	Jessica Kenny
Asst. Women's Softball	L5	Steve McGowan
JV Softball Coach	L5	
Women's Track	L10	Breanna Lane
Asst. Women's Track	L5	Tia Foster
Men's Track (Outdoor)	L10	Mykel Williams
Asst. Men's Track	L5	Armani Williams
Golf (men)	L5	Ian Witzgall

Spring Sports 2026-2027		
Sport	**Level**	**Name**
Women's Soccer	L10	Lynn Massey
JV Women's Soccer	L5	

(A revised coaching supplemented position form will be updated with effective date of April 27, 2026) and shared with the board.

Contract Renewals

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the contract renewals as presented with exception of Assistant Principal at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of four-year contract renewal for Megan Ray at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee. The motion tied and therefore failed. (Voting Yes = Blackwell, Smith, McGhee / Voting No = Lillard, Beggarly, Battle).

One (1) Year Teacher Contract Renewals (2027)					
BYSHS	**NLD**	**NORTH**	**OAKWOOD**	**SOUTH**	**SCES**
Bennett, Paula	Anika, Andrea	Ashe, Brittney	Bunch, Andrea	Bunting, JoAnn	Graves, Tosha
Brandon, Faye	Hammock, Stephanie	McCandies, Brianna	Glass, Earl	Barry, Parker	Lunsford, Jessica
Brooks, Vicentia	Hancock, Steven	Owen, Kimberly	Nelson, Rebecca	Bondurant, Mary	May, Hannah
Chambers, Lester	Jeffers, Nannie	White, Amber	Peprah, Stephanie	Corbett, Breya	McPherson, Monica
Cline, Charlotte	Johnson, April	Whitley, Katie	Smith-Graves, Romanda	Grubbs, Mary-Hannah	
Cook, Antwain	Kernodle, Sheronda		Williams, Julie	Howell Turner, Angela	
Franklin, Heather	McGhee, Tondea			Johnson, Kaiya	
Fryczynski, Fletcher	Moore, Mikayla			Norris, Heather	
Graves, Breanna	Recore, Joshua			Roberts, Tiffany	
Hawk, Makaila	Suitt, Dawn			Robinson, Jasmin	
Mustain, Taylor	Toomer, Larry			Westbrooks, Megan	
Nimmons, Casey	Trent, Latonga				
Post, Brittany					

BYSHS	NLD	NORTH	OAKWOOD	SOUTH	SCES
Preston, Michael					
Stephens, Ta'Niya					
Tidwell, Beverly					
Williams, Dakota					
Williams, Mykel					
Witzgall, Ian					
Central Office = 1 Year (2027)					
Duncan, Natalie (Support Svcs.)					
Reagan, Emily (Support Svcs.)					
Four (4) Year Teacher Contract Renewals					
BYSHS	**NLD**	**NORTH**	**OAKWOOD**	**SOUTH**	**SCES**
Camp, Stephen	Bambury, Teresa	Chavez, Mary	Allen, Julie	McCollister, Laura	Moretz, Lynn
Carver, Daryl	Brooks, Stephanie	Diggs, Danya	Allison Haney, Laura	Scruggs, Justin	Parsons, Melissa
Creed, Hannah	Gillespie, Michael	Jones, Teletha	Cumbo, Sue		
Denny, Harlee	Gunn, Neter	Lakey, Emily	Powell, Elizabeth		
Hawker, Teresa	Overman, Paul	Lawson, Leslie	Wilmarth, Kathryn		
Ingram, Carshina	Walker, Kyle	Myers, LeAnna			
Joubert, Noelle	Walters, Jonathan Matt	Smith, Laura			
McVay, Kelly		Smith, Emily			
Patton, Christie		Streit, Stephanie			
Phelps, Erik		Ward, Heather			
Roberson, Patricia					
Springer, James					
Springer, Miriam					
Pruitt, Emily					
Woods, James					
Central Office (4 year) 2030					
Day, Rebecca (EC Psychologist)					
Administrator Contracts (4 year) 2030					
Artis, Avery			Admin. 4 year (12 month)		
Bradley, Elizabeth			Admin. 4 year (11 month)		
Parker, Teresa			Admin. 4 year (12 month)		
Shaw, Brian			Admin. 4 year (11 month)		
Non-Renewals					
Ray, Megan			Admin. (11 month)		

Interim Positions Ending:
Anderson, Sydney
Brown, Miceia
Miller, McKenzie
Clendenin, Charles
Galloway, Victoria
Plum, MaKenna

XI. ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved to adjourn the meeting on Tuesday, April 28th, at 12:10 a.m., Nicole Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on May 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

_____ _____

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent