CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
May 11, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, May 11, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Nicole Smith, Nicole McGhee, Lisa Johnson-Knight and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, Paul Robinson, Alice Robinson, John Berdine, Shannon Moretz, Sara Broadwell, Hazelene Chandler, Vito Stolfo, 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

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 regular meeting as presented with change to word on page 2 which was misspelled. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented.

Nicole Smith requested the Huddiebox Invoice be added back to the agenda. Joel Lillard requested the tiered bus times be added back for discussion and Vennie Beggarly requested the EC program being moved to NL Dillard due to renovations at Oakwood be discussed and added to the agenda. With those additions, Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the agenda with changes as noted. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared updated information on the CANVAS breach and noted all in the state of North Carolina have been impacted.

- Mr. Stokes acknowledged the track team and shared that eight students have qualified.
- Budget request has been submitted to the county commissioners
- End of Year Banquet is planned for Wednesday
- We continue to press forward as the end of the year is approaching and thanked all staff for what they are doing.

The NL Dillard volleyball team was present and recognized for their accomplishments this year. Principal Terri Gullick acknowledged the team, sharing they are first students and athletes second

and their commitment to doing their best shows. She congratulated the team on their championship season. Coach Angela Ouzts also shared this team worked hard and recognized the seniors on the team. She shared they were undefeated.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Alice Robinson addressed the board and shared she was led to come to the meeting and share a scripture from the Bible sharing that she felt someone here today needed to hear it. She shared scripture from Proverbs 6: 16-19. There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: **17**haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, **18** a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, **19** a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.

II. REPORTS

None at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

   Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the consent agenda as presented. Joel Lillard questioned the chromebooks for CTE. David Useche, COO, shared that a plan was implemented years ago when we received chromebooks to refresh gradually so not all will go bad at the same time. This is pending availability of funds. Funding will be used from CTE and RLIS.

   The motion made by Nicole Smith, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the consent agenda as presented carried unanimously.

   <u>Request for Transfer</u>

Cobb, Annabelle	Caswell	to	Orange (10th)
Cobb, Luke	Caswell	to	Orange (7th)
Poole, Allyson	Caswell	to	Person (8th)

   <u>iReady Teacher Toolbox</u>
   Cost = $16,168.85
   Funding = PRC 061 (Elementary Curriculum Funds)

Memorandum of Understanding – Duke University
Renewal for the 2026-2027 school year.
No cost / Funding is not needed for this agreement

CDW-G Quote (chromebooks)
Chromebooks – Total of 100
Cost = $61,905.66
Funding Source = CTE and RLIS

NCASA Invoice
2026-2027 District Membership – Cost = $2,800
Funding Source = Memberships

2. Transfer Request Procedures

Discussion took place in regards to the upcoming renovations at Oakwood and the requests that have been submitted. Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared he needed guidance from the board on how they wanted this to be handled. He shared that currently numbers at North are exceeding what the State allows and previously approved inter-district transfers may have to be reviewed.

Mel Battle shared that the current procedures we have in place are working well and felt we should continue to proceed as we have and monitor the numbers. Joel Lillard shared that we may need to request that all transfer requests be submitted by a certain date and bring them all to the board at once so that numbers of students and teachers can be reviewed

Upon discussion it was agreed to communicate this information to all parents especially at Oakwood with the upcoming transition. It will be shared on the website, social media and information will be sent home with all elementary students. It was agreed that all requests will be brought back to the board in June for review and consideration for approval.

3. Edmentum: Exact Path

Alyson Beavers reviewed request to purchase Edmentum for NL Dillard for the 2026-2027 school year. She shared it has key components similar to iReady; however, it also has instructional resources. She noted that Principal Terri Gullick has been researching alternative programs to use and this is a cost savings versus iReady. The total is $18,888.86 and will use Title I School level funds. She will research the agreement terms.

Alyson Beavers will look into term conditions noting contract is for three-years based on pricing and she will update accordingly.

Upon review, Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve purchase of Edmentum: Exact Path as presented at a cost of $18,888.86. The motion carried unanimously.

Cost = $18,888.86
Funding Source = Title I (School Level Funds)

4. Policy # 1740/4010-E Parent or Student Appeal Form

   Mr. Stokes shared a request was made at the last meeting for a form to coincide with our policy. A draft copy was shared for consideration. Upon review, it was suggested that information be added to indicate who the grievance is being made toward. This will be revised and brought back to the next meeting for consideration.

5. Oakwood Traffic Analysis

   David Useche reviewed updated information regarding traffic patterns at Oakwood. Option D is recommended which will provide a road behind the school. It will also assist with ADA upgrades as needed and would be great timing with the scheduled renovations and students not being in the building. Concerns were noted regarding safety behind the school and Mr. Stokes shared that plans would need to be made suggesting a gate to stop drivers when needed.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve Interim Superintendent to approve Option D for the NC DOT plan. The motion carried unanimously.

   NC DOT will research options for funding to proceed with Option D.

6. Interim Superintendent Contract

   Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the interim superintendent contract as presented. The motion carried 4-3 with Beggarly, Lillard, and Smith voting "No."

7. Huddibox Invoice

   Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the purchase of the Huddibox that was presented at the last meeting. The cost was $9,999.99 and will be paid from Title I funds. The motion carried unanimously.

   Nicole Smith shared after the meeting she reached out and was told that this could be used for graduation and could be used in multiple ways.

8. Tiered Bus Routes

Joel Lillard shared he voted no at the last meeting for tired bus routing and since then he has been approached by parents with concerns noting there was no afterschool care at the middle school. He questioned if the times for schools could be flipped and felt if this was done, the proposal would work better. He shared concerns he has heard regarding the hours needed for elementary. Discussion took place regarding questions and concerns board members had received and noted that the survey was shared and the option to change was the most favorable vote. There was some discrepancy with the number of people that voted and the comments noting not all votes included comments and some were not in favor of changing the time.

It was suggested that the middle school begin at 7:30 and the high school at 7:45 with elementary beginning at 8:45 as it was noted that an hour is needed for the tiered bus routing to work.

Lisa Johnson-Knight expressed concern with working parents and how this would be feasible for parents who need to be at work by 8:00 a.m. Vennie Beggarly questioned if this will cut down on the bus routes and eliminate the two-hour bus routes for students. Transportation Director John Berdine shared that no route should be longer than an hour and a half noting that is the goal. It was shared with Mr. Berdine that if this proposal is approved he must make it work as the board will receive the feedback if it is not working and there should be no double routes with this proposal and will avoid the extremely long routes. Concerns were shared that everyone may not be able to afford the before or after school care and this could create hardships. It was shared that parents would have a window of time for drop offs just as they currently do. Staff will need to be at school to provide coverage. It was expressed that if the numbers increase the cost may go down if the numbers are higher than they currently are. Other questions included how this will work with the upcoming South/Oakwood situation. Mr. Berdine shared the buses will be the same for Oakwood students but will just be transporting them to South. There are some kinks that need to be worked out regarding where buses will need to be parked, plus extra staff parking.

It was requested that a plan for South Elementary (Oakwood transition) be brought back to the board at the next meeting.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the tired bus schedule as follows:

NL Dillard Middle	7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
BYSHS	7:45 a.m. to 2:45 p.m.
Elementary	8:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (unless change is needed)

The motion carried 5-2 with Beggarly and Johnson-Knight voting "No."

9. EC Program move to NL Dillard due to Oakwood transition

Vennie Beggarly shared she has concerns and has received concerns from parents regarding placing the EC students at NL Dillard. Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared that this is the self-contained EC program and the classroom at NL Dillard meets the standards. The courtyard area will be used for the playground and equipment will be brought in the enclosed area. Calla Wilson, EC Director, has reached out to NCDPI consultant to confirm this is feasible. It does not meet guidelines for NC Pre-K.

Upon discussion, it was questioned why the students cannot be housed at North Elementary and the playground equipment is already there and would provide a space which puts students in their classroom that are the same age. Mr. Stokes shared the biggest issue was transportation and felt keeping them centrally located was the best option as it would be a challenge to move students to North.

It was requested that information be brought back to the board to include number of students, age group, number of EC and self-contained and look at student's IEPS to see how this affects the move. Calla Wilson will also be included in the discussion when this information is reviewed prior to bringing back to the board.

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes shared he will continue to monitor the CANVAS issues
- Facility Plan is in the early phase and will begin working on this and suggested the board check their emails often as he will be providing updates
- House Bill 990 Supt. Survey – regarding allotment for funding and noted the survey just came out this weekend and is due Wednesday. This may allow more funding for low wealth counties
- Budget Amendment / Resolution as requested at last meeting is not complete and Mr. Stokes asked for clarification on what purpose code the line by line items were to reflect. He shared Draft 1 and Draft 2 and it was confirmed Draft 2 was the format that the board has requested.

  Discussion took place regarding the request the board has made regarding line by line items and budget amendments. Mr. Stokes shared the Finance Officer shared this will put us in a bind with emergency situations if money cannot be moved for purchases. Mel Battle shared contingency funds are in place for those needs. Concerns were expressed that this should have already been in place as it has been requested by the board.

- Mr. Stokes reminded all that testing will be in progress soon. Joel Lillard shared that Mr. Artis included in his weekly message how testing will be given through the end of year and he found this very helpful. This would be nice for all schools to do if they are not already.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly

- Thanked parents and committees for their involvement in teacher appreciation week.
- Special Olympics was very nice
- Thanks to the football coach for the Mother's Day breakfast noting it was very nice and it was nice to see the students share kind words about their mothers
- DARE graduation was very nice
- Enjoyed volunteering at Rainbow Daycare
- Thanks to Connie for what she does for the board

Lisa Johnson-Knight

- DARE graduation was very nice
- Special Olympics and the Mother's Day Breakfast (Football) was nice
- Staff recognition for teacher appreciation was nice for all staff and it seemed that schools made it very successful

Nicole Smith

- Echoed sentiments as shared from Vennie Beggary and Lisa Johnson-Knight. She shared the NL Dillard band concert was wonderful. Thanks to the Teresa Dabbs family and Calla Wilson for their work with Special Olympics. She recently has spent time at the Parks and Rec and noted the crowd that is there and felt it may be a good idea for the board to set up a tent one night to showcase what the school district offers and entice students to return to Caswell. She also shared that the high school paid for all seniors to go on a recent field trip and she was appreciative of that.

Mel Battle

- DARE Graduation was very nice. He commended Officer Helms on the work he does and noted he receives respect from the students. Attended a ballgame in Providence Grove. Was nice to see the display of appreciation for Teacher Appreciation Week. He also shared he attended the prom.

Joel Lillard

- Thanks to all who supported our teachers and staff this past week and made it fun for them. It was a busy time at all schools but the enthusiasm was well received. He thanked the high school staff for how they handled the students at the prom due to an unforeseen event that occurred near the prom location (no relation to the school) and making sure the students arrived safely home.

Nicole McGhee

- Thanks to the NL Dillard band as she enjoyed the concert noting the students did a great job. Attended Special Olympics and it was very nice as well as the DARE Graduation. Also a shout out to Coach Johnson for the Mother's Day breakfast and thanks to Vennie Beggarly for her time volunteering and providing crafts to the students at Rainbow Daycare.

Trudy Blackwell

- DARE Graduation was very nice. She shared the young lady who won did an outstanding job with her speech and congratulations were extended to her. She shared she visited NL Dillard and talked with the principal and it was shared how important attendance is and encouraged parents to make sure their children are at school noting the importance of testing. Thanks to the Caswell community for their support in recognizing our teachers and staff

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Nicole Smith made a motion at 10:50 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. Lisa Johnson-Knight 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 (1-9 and 15). Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
NL Dillard Middle School	Brendan Nunnally, 8th grade Science = Eff. 6/12/26
Central Office	Vivianna Jaramillo Orozco, ESL Coordinator – Eff. 6/12/26
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Christian Rengifo Daza, Language = Eff. 6/12/26
Employment (Re-hire)	
NL Dillard Middle School	Miceia Brown, 6th Grade Math = Eff. 8/10/26 (one year contract)
	McKenzie Miller, 6th Grade Science – Eff. 8/10/26 (one year contract)
	Charles Clendinen, 7th Grade Math = Eff. 8/10/26 (one year contract)
	Victoria Galloway, 6th Grade ELA Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (one year contract)
	MaKenna Plum, 7th Grade Science Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (one year contract)
Employment	
NL Dillard Middle School	Amos Poole, Custodian (12 month) = Eff. 5/13/26 (Pay Scale 54 / Step 0)

Non-Renewal Contract

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the non-renewal contract as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Non-Renewal
Jerica Brooks (NL Dillard = 8th Grade ELA)

Contract – One-year extension

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the one-year extension per request from Dr. Megan Ray. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith. The motion carried 6-1 with Beggarly voting "No."

Summer Reading Employees

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the summer reading employees as presented. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Summer Reading Program / (June 15 – July 2, 2026)

Kim Shelton (School Nurse)
Brittany Ashe (First Grade)
Leslie Lawson (First Grade)
LeAnna Myers (First/Second Grade)
Hannah May (Second Grade)
Melissa Parsons (Second Grade)
Danya Diggs (Third Grade)
Teletha Jones (Third Grade
Geneive Jones (Instructional Assistant)
Sheila Maldonado (Instructional Assistant/Bus Driver)
Bushia Moore (Instructional Assistant/Bus Driver)

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, that all coaching cost sheets be submitted to the board for approval prior to payment. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to remove the contract for athletic director and only offer teaching contract for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to have the consultant to the board review the allotment positions as shared with the board. The motion carried unanimously.

Nicole Smith shared the last time the consultant shared two pages of information and nothing was discussed and she expressed she hoped we would discuss the input that is shared with us going forward.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve principal supplement of $7,500 (if not already received any other supplement) for Decolia Carter (current Interim Principal at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School) to be paid out in May. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to cancel the May 25th meeting. Revised schedule for June meetings will include June 1st, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. and June 29th, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

The motion carried unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS

Mel Battle read aloud three notes to the Board. Those include:

- Thank you from Amy Neal regarding resolution for her father
- Thank you from Rhonda McFalls for the donation to the cancer society
- Thank you from Jack Pointer for recent recognition in honor of him for the softball field

- Joel Lillard questioned how to handle the Athletic Director position noting we will not meet again until June. Mr. Stokes shared the board may need to be polled.

XI. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:45 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 June 1, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent