CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
June 1, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, June 1, 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, Lisa Johnson-Knight and Trudy Blackwell. Others present include Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, John Berdine, April Harris, Amy Howard, Keith Lewis, Jennifer Wallace, Emily Finch, Brenda Ura, Daniel Lambert, Ian Witzgall, Brittany & Nick Pearson, Brittany Crisson, Scotty & Belinda Williamson, Shannon Moretz, Sara Broadwell, Tia Foster, Julisa Lea, Doreisha Gilmore, Thomas Hamlett, Emma Cook, Kevin Lynn, Cheyenne Fuqua, Brittany Vernon, 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

A point of order was raised by Joel Lillard. Joel Lillard shared at the May 11, 2026 regular meeting, the Board was under the impression that the Interim Superintendent had made the recommendation to the Board that Decolia Carter be named the principal of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. A motion was made, received a second, and passed with a unanimous vote of the Board of Education. However, the Interim Superintendent had not actually vocalized his recommendation. By virtue of North Carolina law, a local board of education may only hire pursuant to the recommendation of its superintendent.

Mel Battle, Chairman, shared that no board member raised a point of order to correct the procedural error at the previous meeting; however, this error constitutes a continuing breach of NC law and a point of order may be raised at this time.

Mel Battle shared the action previously taken was improper in that the Interim Superintendent did not express his recommendation to hire Decolia Carter as the principal rather than interim principal of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School and such is therefore rescinded.

Vennie Beggarly asked that the motion made regarding athletics be rescinded as it was made due to incorrect information being shared. Vennie moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to rescind the motion for athletics. The motion carried unanimously.

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the minutes from May 11, 2026 with the point of order and revisions as made. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented. Joel Lillard moved to approve agenda with additions of Item # 9, Tired Bus Routing Schedule and Item # 10, Oakwood Renovation Update. The motion was not seconded but carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared we are nearing the end of year and also 76 days away from the first day of school.

Back to School Blast will be held on August 15, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation building.

Bartlett Yancey Senior High School track team members were present and recognized for their achievements by Coach Graves. Those include:

Kevin Gwynn, Jr.
Jarvis Lane
Miracle Morton
Galleon Johnson
SaMyah Williamson
La'Zariya Graves

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

April Harris addressed the board and expressed concerns sharing she went through the grievance policy and has asked for help numerous times. She has requested a letter of apology noting the letter she received is not acceptable. She shared when reaching out her father has been banned from attending any events at the school and did not merit this action. She shared her concerns and felt it was very sad to ask for help and receive nothing as well as have the matters basically swept under the rug. In conclusion, she has been treated disrespectful and the teacher should not have touched her child in the first place.

Amy Howard shared concerns with the approved starting times for school. She shared these are serious concerns with the times and logistics and for working parents, these are unrealistic times for families. Most parents are commuting and their jobs begin at 8:00 a.m. She felt this will be a strain on parents and with the transition for the Oakwood students this year it will be something extra. She felt if the times remain the same, it will force parents to take their children out of Caswell. She also shared the later start times for elementary disrupts school routines as well as after school routines. She noted that everyone cannot afford before and after school care as well and is unsure this will solve the routing issues that the district is facing. She asked the board to reconsider and

keep the starting times the same as they previously were as well as take into consideration working parents' schedules.

Daniel Lambert shared concerns with the new start times and shared he and his wife both will have difficulty arriving to their work with this schedule. Before and after school care is not an option and shared that he, as well as other parents, do not want to participate in that option. He shared the survey that was sent out to parents was misleading and Option B was the highly favored option; however, this is not the option the school board is choosing. He asked that the previous schedule from last year remain in place. He thanked the board for their time and the work they do. He also thanked Nicole Smith and Trudy Blackwell for calling him promptly and listening to his concerns.

Allison Bernard shared she is a parent of a middle school and elementary school student. With the new starting times parents will be put in a difficult situation as most places being work at 8:00 a.m. Young children cannot be left alone for safety reasons. The current bus situation is messy and routes are already very long and unreliable with drivers. This year alone, with the move for South and Oakwood, will be difficult for parents and students and this is an added burden on families. She asked the board to reconsider the starting times.

Chair Mel Battle shared that the board will be addressing and revisiting this topic.

II. REPORTS

None at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

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

This policy was brought back for review with additional boxes added. Nicole McGhee shared she would like to see an additional box for "other" and lines to explain the reasoning before the policy is approved.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the first reading of Policy # 1740/4010-E Parent or Student Appeal Form with the change of additional line. The motion carried unanimously.

Traffic Plan for Oakwood/South transition

A copy of the traffic plan was shared with the board. Concerns were expressed that the car rider line may have approximately 300 cars and how will you be able to funnel all of them in one line. It was felt that another option was needed and not tie up the main drive.

Continued discussion took place on how the school will be divided. Chief Operations Officer David Useche shared logistics and shared the schools will merge somewhat. Discussion took place sharing this is not what the board approved noting it was to be basically two schools separately functioning in one building. Nicole McGhee shared she has concerns with all students entering at the same time and how you will distinguish the students. Options were discussed on how things may be implemented to make the flow work smoothly.

Joel Lillard shared he would like to see something in writing from Department of Public Instruction (DPI) indicating they have approved our plan for Oakwood to move to South and confirm that funding will still be in place for the principal, office, etc. Trudy Blackwell also concurred in talking with DPI to make sure all of this is confirmed regarding the Oakwood/South move.

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared he will go back and regroup and bring updated plan to the board.

Budget Resolution

Discussion took place on the updated budget resolution that was shared with the board.

Lance Stokes shared this will place us in a precarious situation noting we are at the end of the fiscal year. He also noted that repairs are not taking place as all spending is on hold. It is critically important to keep operations going. If things come to a halt it will not be beneficial. Mr. Stokes shared that the resolution drives the budget amendments.

Trudy Blackwell asked the finance officer how much is in the current fund balance. Brook Underwood, Finance Director, shared she was not sure of the exact amount but shared it was approximately $1.5 million.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to table this until the June 29th meeting.

Lengthy discussion took place on budget amendments coming to the board and noted we are at the end of the year and we are only on Budget Amendment #4 today. This is the concern of the board that money is being moved and never shared with the board as requested.

The motion made by Joel Lillard, seconded by Vennie Beggarly was defeated 4-3 with Battle, Blackwell, Lisa Johnson-Knight, and Nicole McGhee voting "No."

No other action was taken at this time.

IV. CLOSED SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion at 6:15 p.m. to go into closed session for the purpose of consulting with board consultant regarding allotments and for the purpose of discussing information that is privileged, confidential or not a public record (NC General Statute 143-318.11(a)(1). Nicole Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

V. OPEN SESSION

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon returning from closed session, Mel Battle suggested moving Item # 9 and Item # 10 and Item # 4 for discussion in that order and then follow the agenda as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Tiered Bus Schedules/Routing

Proposed drop off times and school starting times as follows:

Elementary	Drop Off: 7:50 a.m.	School Times = 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Middle	Drop Off: 7:10 a.m.	School Times = 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
High	Drop Off: 7:20 a.m.	School Times = 7:45 a.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes shared in consideration of the temporary relocation at Oakwood Elementary students during the construction period, it is recommended that a designated community bus stop be established for families currently assigned to the Oakwood attendance district.

The addition of a community stop would provide greater flexibility in meeting the transportation needs of elementary students and their families during this transition. This option would help reduce transportation challenges, support consistent student attendance, and provide a centralized location for families who may be impacted by adjusted bus routes and travel times resulting from the relocation.

The community stop would be strategically located to ensure student safety, accessibility, and operational efficiency while minimizing disruptions to existing transportation services. Transportation staff would work closely with school administration and families to identify an appropriate location and communicate all procedures and expectations.

This recommendation is intended as a temporary measure during the construction and relocation period and will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to meet the needs of students, families, and the district.

The proposed time for the community stop would be 7:50 a.m. to 8:00 a.m.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the recommendation as shared regarding tiered bus schedule and school starting times. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Oakwood Renovation Updates

Information was shared with updates that are needed to move the EC Self-Contained students to North Elementary. A quote was shared in the amount of $998.00 for updates that will need to be made. Interim Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of using funds to make the upgrades needed at North Elementary.

He shared if the students remained at NL Dillard as originally planned, there would be no additional cost as the adaptive classroom suites met specifications. It was questioned if additional playground equipment would have been needed if students were at the middle school and Mr. Stokes shared a grant would have been applied for through PRC 119 and if approved this would have purchased the playground equipment. Calla Wilson, EC Director, shared if the grant was approved and playground equipment purchased and placed at the middle school that it would need to be moved back to Oakwood when renovations are completed.

Lance Stokes recommended approving the repairs at a cost of $998.00 for North Elementary. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly.

Joel Lillard moved to amend the motion, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the repairs using EC Local funds to cover the cost of $998.00. The motion carried unanimously.

The original motion of approving the repairs at a cost of $998.00 for North Elementary. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Brady - Standard Form of Preliminary Agreement

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Standard Form of Preliminary Agreement with Brady as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

The board attorney has reviewed this document.

4. Consent Agenda

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

BYSHS Coaching Supplemented Positions (board was polled)
NLD Middle Coaching Supplemented Positions (board was polled)
Purchase of Storage Tubs for Oakwood transition (board was polled)

Request for Transfer

Pagan, Sofia	Danville	to	NLD (8th)***
Pagan, Moshe	Danville	to	BYSHS (12th)***

***Parent employee of Caswell County Schools

Ellis, Ryan	Caswell	to	Rockingham (10th)
Ellis, Paige	Caswell	to	Rockingham (7th)
Shoemaker, John	Caswell	to	Rockingham (2nd)
Vernon, Sarah	Caswell	to	ABSS (12th)

Child Nutrition Vendors 2026-2027
Grocery = Sysco Raleigh
Chemical & Supplies = Riverside Paper Supply
Fresh Produce = R&H Produce
Water & Beverages = Pepsi split with Sysco Raleigh
Milk/Dairy = PET Dairy

NCSBT Errors & Omissions/General Liability Fund
Renewal for the 2026-2027 school year.
$7,079.00
Funding Source = Memberships = 2.6910.801.361.810.000.00

NCSBA Invoice (renewal)
$12,277.00
Funding Source = Memberships = 2.6910.801.361.810.000.00

Behavior Support Surveys (Parent/Student/Staff)

Professional Development = Lance Stokes
September 14-15, 2026 = NCASA School Law & Policy Symposium
Raleigh, NC
Funding Source = Workshops = 2.6941.028.312.810.000.00

5. Stiles Contract

Federal Programs Director Alyson Beavers reviewed the quote for Stiles. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve contract with Stiles as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Stiles = Middle School Curriculum
Cost = $22,845.95
Funding Source = PRC 131, State Textbook Funds

6. North Elementary Traffic Analysis

Plans were shared with the board on the traffic pattern for North. It was shared that creating a right turn would create more traffic accidents due to visibility and was not included in the plan.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the plan as presented to submit to North Carolina Department of Transportation. The motion carried unanimously.

This will allow NCDOT to look into funding sources. There is no cost to the school district.

7. Capital Reserve - 888

Mr. Stokes shared information on the expenditures and remaining funds. The quotes for the roof came in higher and is over the amount remaining. Upon discussion, it was suggested to make repairs to the HVAC units at the Civic Center (two units) and use the remaining amount for coils for HVAC needs at the high school.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve using the remainder of the Capital Reserve 888 funds for two HVAC units at the Civic Center and remainder of funds to purchase coils for the high school HVAC. The motion carried unanimously.

8. Spring Policy Updates

Updates from the North Carolina School Board were reviewed and discussed as follows:

- 1310/4002 – Parental Involvement
- 2330 – Board Meeting Agenda
- 2340 – Parliamentary Procedures
- 3225/4312/7320 – Technology Responsible Use
- 4318 Option A – Use of Wireless Communication Devices

- 5071/7351 – Electronically Stored Information Retention
- 6220 – Operation of School Nutrition Services
- 7130 – Licensure
- 7325 (new) – Video and Audio Recordings by Employees
- 1510/4200/7270 – School Safety
- 3430 – School Improvement Plan
- 3565/8307 – Title I Program Comparability of Services
- 4001 – Equal Educational Opportunities
- 7530 – Military Leave

Policies # 4318 and 7325 were pulled until a later date to allow more time to review and make changes based on needs and to coincide with student handbooks.

Policy # 2330 was suggested to leave wording as it currently is. Mel Battle shared he was not in agreement with the suggested changes. It was also suggested that it may be needed to include the word "email" in regards to information being sent to the board.

Policy # 2330
Current wording:
The superintendent, as secretary to the board, will prepare a proposed agenda for each board meeting. A board member may submit an item to be placed on the agenda of a regular or special meeting of the board by submitting the item in writing to the superintendent's office no later than 5:00 p.m. five days prior to the meeting at which consideration is requested. A member of the public may submit a request for an item to be placed on the agenda in accordance with policy 2310, Public Participation at Board Meetings. A copy of the proposed agenda shall be mailed to each board member, the media, and any other intended recipients three days prior to the meeting, and the proposed agenda will be available for public inspection at that time.

Proposed changes:
A board member may have an item placed on the agenda of a regular or special meeting of the board by submitting the item in writing to the superintendent's office no later than 5:00 p.m. five working days prior to the meeting. An agenda item requested less than five working days prior to the meeting will be included only if: (1) the inclusion of the item will not unduly prolong the meeting, and there is adequate time available to prepare any necessary materials; or (2) the superintendent determines the item is of an urgent nature. Otherwise, an untimely requested item will be added to the agenda for the next regular meeting. A member of the public may submit a request for an item to be placed on the agenda in accordance with policy 2310, Public Participation at Board Meetings. Items may be added to the proposed agenda by the superintendent at the beginning

Policy # 2340 was suggested to leave the same.

The policies will be brought back to the next meeting for second reading.

Trudy Blackwell suggested discussing the policies that needed more discussion to the work session on June 8th.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve first reading of all policies except #4318 and #7325, and that policies lay on the table for second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

9. 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."

10. Budget Amendment # 4

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the budget amendment as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS — BUDGET AMENDMENT # 4

Caswell County Board of Education made the following resolution:

Be it resolved that the following amendments be made to the
Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30,2026

#	Account Code							Description	Debit	Credit
1	2	6941	028	342	000	000	00	POSTAGE	1,200.00	
	2	6941	028	411	000	000	00	SUPPLIES		1,200.00

1 Purchase Tubs from Sams for Oakwood Move

Funding Source: Local

Total appropriation in current budget:	$3,903,515
Amount of increase/decrease of amendment:	$0
Total appropriation in amended budget:	$3,903,515

Passed by majority vote of the Caswell County Board of Education
on the 1st day of June 2026

VII. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes shared update on assurances noting they will come back to the board in July for approval.

VIII. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

IX. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vennie Beggarly

- Attended the high school athletic banquet and it was very nice. Excited for North's Pre-K scores! Thanks to all who are assisting with testing.

Lisa Johnson-Knight

- End of Year banquet was very nice and happy to see a large turnout for the service awards and retirees. Thanks to Connie and the team who pulled this together.
- Enjoyed Aladdin performance at Oakwood and with Mrs. Fair leaving it will be a loss as she does a wonderful job with the students.
- Volunteered at Oakwood on career day. A lady from Pittsylvania County was there with the animal shelter and shared the students really enjoyed this as well as staff.
- Academic Awards was very nice as well as BYSHS dance performance.
- Visited NL Dillard and talked with Mrs. Gullick.
- South's field day was fun and students enjoyed it.
- Attended athletic banquet at the high school.
- Proctoring at Oakwood and hope all the students did well

Nicole Smith

- Thanks to Connie and others that helped on the End of Year Banquet. She knew it involved a lot of work and thanks to all of our staff for their hard work.
- Attended the NLD Sports Banquet.
- Please continue to lift up prayers for our two students at NL Dillard.

Joel Lillard

- Expressed concern for the students and also asked to remember these students and families in prayer.
- Realized there is a lot going on in all our schools and it is crunch time noting graduation is next week.
- Students are trying hard and our staff and students are working hard.

Nicole McGhee

- Agreed with much of what has been said and emphasized our two students who need prayers.
- Attended athletic banquet at the high school.
- End of Year Banquet was enjoyable and everyone had a nice time.
- Thanks to all of our staff and students and we need to speak it into existence that our students are going to do well

Trudy Blackwell

- Agreed with Nicole to speak it into existence! Our students are going to show growth and meet our expectations.
- Attended several events and is very proud of Caswell County Schools and the work they are doing and shared to keep up the good work!

X. CLOSED SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion at 9:00 p.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. Nicole Smith Knight seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

XI. OPEN SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion to return to open session. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

XII. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented with exception of Item # 10. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Charles Saunders, Custodian = Eff. 5/13/26
	Dr. Megan Ray, Asst. Principal = Eff. 6/30/26
	Faye Brandon, EC Teacher = Eff. 6/12/26
	James Motley, Bus Driver = Eff. 5/13/26
	Beverly Tidwell, Math Teacher = Eff. 6/12/26

Employment	
South Elementary	Dylan Cook, Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Quinton Simpson, Custodian = Eff. 6/2/26
	Asst. Varsity Football Coach = Eff. 6/2/26
NL Dillard Middle School	Sarah Chandler, 8th Grade Science = Eff. 8/10/26
Bus Driver	Christine Shelton (current Sub TA) = Eff. 8/17/26

Current Budget Resolution

It was agreed to continue with the current budget resolution (from October 2025) and budget amendments will be brought to the board for approval.

Limited License Requests

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of limited licensure requests as presented. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the limited licensure requests as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Jessica Lunsford, Stoney Creek Elementary
Jenny Benson, Oakwood Elementary

Additional Contracts / Summer School Reading Employee

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the additional contracts and for the summer reading program additional employee as presented. Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

One Year Contract

Benson, Jenny	Oakwood Elementary
Cox, Karoline	BYSHS
Davis, Bessie	Oakwood Elementary
Hudson, Lindsey	Oakwood Elementary
Lunsford, Jessica	Stoney Creek Elementary
Stewart, Jadasha	North Elementary

Pending Licensure – these individuals will qualify for a one-year contract once they have established a clear license.

Claiborne, Vanezzia	North Elementary
Fountain, Sade	North Elementary
Hepler, Emily	South Elementary
Long, Tiffany	Oakwood Elementary

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

Kimberly Jones

Work Session = June 8, 2026
It was agreed in previous work session to schedule another work session for athletics for Monday, June 8, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

XIII. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:59 p.m. Trudy Blackwell seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on June 29, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Interim Superintendent