CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
WORK SESSION
July 27, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, July 27, 2026, at 3:30 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 Superintendent Lance Stokes. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Mel Battle.

II. CLOSED SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion at 3:35 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). Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

III. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

IV. MEETING FORMAT

Discussion took place on the current Board of Education agenda format. It was suggested to look at going to a new format in which a work session would occur on the first meeting of the month and allow time to gather information on items that are needed to be on the agenda. The second meeting of the month would allow the items to be voted on and assist with the length of the night meetings.

Discussion took place among the board members with ideas and suggestions. Concerns included not being able to vote on items but once a month and asked if this was feasible. It was then suggested to have a regular short meeting to include closed session on the first meeting of the month and then have a work session following the regular meeting. This would allow the board to stay in compliance with the current board policy of two meetings per month.

V. CLOSED SESSION

Vennie Beggarly made a motion 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). Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously

VII. MEETING FORMAT

Continued discussion took place on the current Board of Education agenda format took place.

It was agreed to continue with two regular meetings and change the format of the agenda to include closed session at the beginning after the "Call to Order", and list a specific timeframe for the closed session to begin and end and list the time that the open meeting portion will begin. It was also suggested to continue to include public comments in both meetings to allow opportunities for the public. Other items on the first meeting will be listed as discussion items with no action taken unless it was time sensitive. Directors will be on call as needed to discuss items they have on the agenda but are not needed to sit through the entire meeting. If a second closed session is needed it will be listed on the agenda.

Other discussion included the goals of the board. Chairman Mel Battle shared a handout of the superintendent evaluation form and asked the board to review and would need to discuss at a future work session.

VIII. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:05 p.m., Nicole Smith seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on July 27, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Superintendent