

August Personnel Report Board Meeting – August 10, 2026

Adele Byrd**Mabel****Grades 4/5 ELA & Social Studies**

Ms. Byrd earned a Bachelor's degree in Special Education from Appalachian State University in 1996. She completed the requirements for a Master's degree in Reading at Appalachian State University in 2016. Adele earned a School Leadership Graduate Certificate from Appalachian State University in 2021. From 1996 until 2001, Ms. Byrd was a teacher with Anderley Academy. From 2006 until 2008, she was a Teacher Assistant and Tutor at Beech Mountain Elementary School. Adele served as an Exceptional Children's Teacher at Avery High School from August 2020 until June 2022 and MTSS Coordinator /Title I Interventionist at Cranberry Middle School from 2022 until 2024. Ms. Byrd has been an Exceptional Children's Teacher and MTSS Coordinator with Avery County Schools from January 2025 until June 2026. Adele holds a valid North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the following areas: 00012 – School Administrator: Principal, 00025 – Elementary Education (K-6), 00190 – Reading (K-12), and 88086 – Learning Disabled.

Cassidy Miller**Parkway****Grade 2 Teacher**

Ms. Miller earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2026. She completed her student teaching at Westwood Elementary School during the spring semester of the 2025-2026 school year. Cassidy is a recipient of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship. Ms. Miller will apply for a North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 00025 – Elementary Education (K-6).

Jack Peacock**Hardin Park****Behavior Support Teacher**

Mr. Peacock earned a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 2019. He is currently pursuing a Graduate Teaching Certificate in Teaching at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Jack has been employed with Watauga County Schools as an Exceptional Children's Teacher Assistant since 2023. Mr. Peacock will apply for a North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in a Special Education area.

Olivia Shepherd**Blowing Rock****Grade 3 Teacher**

Ms. Shepherd earned a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Appalachian State University in 2024. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education at Appalachian State University. Olivia was employed with Hickory City Schools from January until June 2025 as a Sixth Grade Math and Science Teacher. During the 2025-2026 school year, she was a Middle Grades Math Teacher in Virginia. She will apply for a validated North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 00025 – Elementary Education.

Tonya Watson**WHS****Cosmetology Teacher**

Ms. Watson complete the requirements for a Cosmetology License in 2007 at Artistic Academy. She earned her Cosmetology Instructor License from Artistic Academy in 2008. Tonya completed the Leadership Academy at Wilkes Community College in 2025. During the 2009-2010 school year, Ms. Watson was a Cosmetology Instructor at Artistic Academy. She was employed with Wilkes Community College from 2010 until 2022 as a Cosmetology Instructor. Tonya was the Coordinator of the Cosmetology Program at Wilkes Community College from 2022 until January 2026. Ms. Watson has served as the Director of Cosmetology Education at Wilkes Community College since February 2026. She will apply for a North Carolina Professional Educator's Certificate in the area of 74030 – Cosmetology.

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

Kate Younger

Hardin Park

Part-Time School Psychologist

Classified Personnel

New Employment

Natalie Artica Catalan	Valle Crucis	After School Group Leader
Micaela Curry	Hardin Park	After School Group Leader
Bailee Groppe	Cove Creek	After School Group Leader
Olivia Huffman	Hardin Park	After School Group Leader
Meredith McCaffrey	Green Valley	After School Group Leader
Jennifer Shout	Hardin Park	Bus Driver
Audrey Sito	Hardin Park	EC Teacher Assistant
Tiffany Stephens	Mabel	Head Custodian
Daniel Talbert	Hardin Park	EC Teacher Assistant

Re-Employment 2026-2027 School Year

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Current Assignment</u>
Jennifer Lawrence	Bethel	Part-Time Tutor
Audrey Watson	Central Office	Interim Accounts Payable Specialist

Substitutes

<u>Name</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Experience</u>
John Gesse	Bachelor's Degree	Previous Substitute
Deanna Gragg	Bachelor's Degree	Previous WCS Teacher
Leslie Howser*	Bachelor's Degree	Retired WCS Teacher
Eunice Johnson*	Master's Degree	Retired WCS Teacher
Jessica Kraynak	Bachelor's Degree	Previous Substitute
Frankie Musser	Bachelor's Degree	Previous Substitute
Reid Nisley	College – 2 Years	Previous Substitute
Avery Smith	Bachelor's Degree	Previous Substitute
Ella Akers	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Valle Crucis
Olivia Anderlonis	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Parkway
CJ Andrews	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Mabel
Avonlea Arnette	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS
Megan Ayers	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Bethel
Claire Baetcke	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Valle Crucis
Paige Bowers	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Mabel
Kayla Coonfare	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Cove Creek
Anthony Cornetta	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS
Shepherd Cowan	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Cove Creek
Maggie Fields	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Parkway
Lauren Hutchens	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Blowing Rock
Allie Inman	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Cove Creek
Sandra McKay	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS
Faye Myers	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Valle Crucis
Macie Nance	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Mabel
McKinley Palmer	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Joshua Phillips	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Braidyn Pike	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS

Kaylann Pond	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Valle Crucis
Samantha Pote	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Meade Richter	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Jake Russolea	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS
Amelia Sampson	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Gracie Sloop	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Hardin Park
Isabella Strupp	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Cove Creek
Kade Sutton	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at WHS
Chloe Swanger	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Blowing Rock
Abigail Turner	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Parkway
Ruby Wilson	College – 3 Years	Student Teacher at Green Valley
*Retired North Carolina Professional Educator		

Long-Term Substitutes

Gracie Breckenridge	Parkway	Grade 3
Lisa Carlson	Blowing Rock	
Stacey Troisi	Hardin Park	Middle Grades Science