CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
July 13, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, July 13, 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, Lisa Johnson-Knight and Trudy Blackwell. (Dr. Nicole McGhee was absent). Others present include Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, John Berdine, Alan Poteat, Alyson Beavers, 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

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the minutes of the June 25, 2026 work session and the June 29, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of agenda as presented.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Lance Stokes shared the State recently passed the budget. He thanked the Board of County Commissioners for the local budget and will be seeking additional input moving forward.

Mr. Stokes shared on August 18th Farmers Lake will be hosting a fishing day event. On August 12th, Open House will take place for South, NL Dillard and Bartlett Yancey Senior High School and on August 13th, Open House will take place for Stoney Creek, Oakwood, and North. Both days will be from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On August 15, 2026, the Back to School Blast will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Parks and Recreation.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

Federal Programs – Statement of Assurances
Alyson Beavers reviewed the statements of assurances regarding the Federal Programs as provide for acknowledgement.

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

Saffelle Inspection Reports
The reports were reviewed and shared with the board.

Maintenance Director Alan Poteat shared he is looking at having training with all the custodians.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Policy # 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to remove Policy # 4318 from the table for second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

It was shared that wording needs to be removed from the first paragraph regarding phones being used during the high school day and also the times needs to be changed as they will not be allowed during the instructional day. It was also questioned how smart watches would be impacted with this new policy. It was agreed to include the wording smart watches in the paragraph as well.

Upon no further discussion, Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve second reading of Policy # 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices, with changes as discussed. The motion carried 4-2 with Beggarly and Smith voting "No." (McGhee was absent).

Policy # 7325, Video & Audio Recordings by Employees

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to remove Policy #7325 from the table. The motion carried unanimously.

Discussion took place with how this policy will be put into effect regarding the audio portion. It was shared that signage will need to placed where videos are being recorded that have audio. There were several concerns with moving forward with this policy. The recommendation came from the North Carolina School Boards Association and noted this is a new policy.

It was suggested to hold this until later in the meeting and to review with the board attorney who was not present 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 shared he had reservations with approving all of the items without having a budget and shared he was not against any of the contracts; however, with budgetary constraints this year, there may be areas we need to look and review. He noted that all contracts should be going through the CFO for budgeting. The CFO, Brook Underwood, reviewed the contracts as listed on the consent noting which would be coming out of local funds. Those included: NCSBA webhosting, Insurance renewals, LINQ, Brightly Software to mention a few. She would need to confirm a few others.

Upon further discussion, Joel Lillard requested that next year that all contracts come to the board earlier and list the funding source.

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

Request for Transfer

Blackwell, Deuralion	Oakwood	to	North (3rd)
Milam, Louis	Oakwood	to	North (3rd)
Smith, Conner	Caswell	to	Rockingham (5th)

PTEC Invoice
Cost = $16,000
Funding = Memberships (Title II)

NCSBA Online Webhosting/Custom Policy Updates
Cost = $10,550
Funding = Memberships (Local)

Approved Charter Bus 26/27
Academy Bus LLC (Durham, NC)
First Class Tours (Winston-Salem, NC)
Sunway Charters (Winston-Salem, NC)
W&W Luxury Limousine Service (Danville, VA)
Carolina Livery (Durham, NC)
Holiday Tours, Inc. (Randleman, NC)

Blue Diamond Transportation, Inc. (Raleigh, NC)

Insurance Renewals / Surry Insurance Coverage

Auto & Garage	$34,174.15
Inland Marine	$250
Workers Comp	$64,887
Boiler & Machinery	$8,169
Cyber Liability	$9,024
Volunteer Accident	$400
Crime	$1,604
Total Surry Coverage:	$118,508.15

Young Group

Student Accident	$9,487.50

Property Damage

Dept. of Insurance Property	$88,192.00

LINQ
Cost = $23,970.35
Funds = Local

Brightly Software Inc. (Maintenance)
Cost = $6,389.00
Funds = Local

Schindler Elevator Corporation
Cost = $3,602.25
Funds = Local

Automated Logic Contracting Services
Cost = $4,500.00
Funds = Local

Brady – Preventative Maintenance
Cost = $9,556.56
Funds = Local

Saffelle, Inc.
Cost = $6,700.00
Funds = Local

2. School Handbooks 2026-2027

Alyson Beavers reviewed the elementary handbook and middle school handbook.

Vennie Beggarly reviewed a list of items she had found upon reviewing the handbook that needed to be changed. A listing was reviewed during the meeting and changes will be made. Discussion took place with the times listed noting that the bell times have changed for this upcoming school year and this needs to be reflected in all handbooks in areas including cell phones, etc. Vennie Beggarly requested that when a policy is mentioned that the policy number and title be included in the handbook to assist parents.

Other discussion included the code of conduct that is no longer used but is referenced in some of the handbooks. This needs to be taken out.

Concerns were shared by Vennie Beggarly that some of the consequences do not seem harsh enough and felt that discipline is not dealt with looking at the amount of chances a student has when not adhering to the handbook guidelines. She also shared that some of the concerns she has is the discipline on the bus and felt riding a bus is a privilege and if a student cannot follow the rules that the current guidelines allow too many chances and this reflects towards our bus drivers noting the difficulty in employing drivers and length of service. In her opinion, a bus driver nor a teacher should be disrespected.

Lengthy discussion took place on footwear and flip-flops. Vennie Beggarly requested that a work session be held to discuss dress code further.

Other concerns included vaping is not being taken seriously and the consequences should be stricter.

A listing of all changes was duly noted and will be reflective in the revised handbooks.

It was requested that the process for PE uniforms be looked at and what the current process is.

Wording regarding EOG testing and not being promoted also needs to be revisited as information was not shared correctly with parents this past school year.

It was requested to review Policy # 3420 at a future work session.

Mr. Stokes reviewed the high school handbook as no one was present to review the changes as presented.

Again, discussion took place on times regarding the new bell schedules, attendance, tardiness and dress code concerns including hats (which was not specifically listed; however, the board policy lists the word hats).

Other concerns included the chromebook agreement and signature page. It was questioned who is responsible for collecting the signed documents and was shared that some parents never filled the paperwork out last school year. It was questioned how a parent can be held responsible if the school doesn't have a signed document indicating so. Mr. Stokes was asked to look at the procedure for this.

Vennie Beggarly shared several corrections to the handbook she had found and these were noted for revision.

It was questioned how students can use the QR codes if they cannot have their cell phones out during the school day. It was shared the chromebook can be used with the QR code.

It was requested that discussion take place on cell phones and consequences at the next work session and also to retrieve input from bus drivers.

Upon no further questions, Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve all handbooks with all the revisions as expressed and noted to those responsible for updating. The motion carried unanimously.

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to take a ten-minute break. The motion carried unanimously.

3. Surplus Listing

Discussion took place regarding the listing that was shared. It was questioned if all of the items are damaged. Mr. Stokes shared that a lot of the items are damaged; however, it was shared that the items cannot automatically be scrapped and there was discussion regarding surplus items and how to move forward. The topic of a surplus auction was brought up noting we have not had one in many years and this may be a good opportunity to remove items that are no longer used. Based upon board policy, we cannot scrap items that are not damaged until they have been deemed surplus and offered for sale. Lengthy discussion took place and the board was in agreement for a surplus auction to take place in the near future. A listing was requested to be brought back to the board of all surplus items for approval and look into moving forward with the auction and securing an auctioneering company.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to deep the items as presented as surplus. The motion carried unanimously. An additional listing will be brought back to the board for items that are damaged so they can be approved as scrap.

South Elementary (Surplus Items)	Quantity
Rec. folding tables (brown laminate)	15
Round folding tables	3
Student desks	50
Student desk frames	16
Teacher desks	2
Small wood-top student desks	4
Wooden lectern/podium	1
Miscellaneous wooden desk/table parts	8 pieces
Plastic student chairs	90
Blue plastic classroom chairs	15
Folding chairs	30
Black rolling office chair	1
Metal filing cabinets (4-drawer)	4
Metal filing cabinet (dark green)	1
Vertical file cabinets	2
Wood cabinets/cubbies	3
Alphabet cube storage cabinet	1
Small bookshelves/cabinets	3
Gray locking storage cabinet	1
Laptop charging carts	6
Rolling AV Carts	3
CRT televisions	3
Computer monitors/displays	15
Xbox 360 console & VCR/DVD combo player	1
Wire book / magazine carts	3-4
Mobile whiteboard/easel	1
Fabric photo booth backdrop panel	1
Red wooden bench/box	1
Wire display racks	2

4. Resolution

Trudy Blackwell read aloud the resolution for Linda Dillard. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the resolution for Linda Dillard as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of Linda Adams Dillard

WHEREAS, Linda Adams Dillard, was born on June 4, 1954, and resided in Danville, Virginia, until the time of her death on June 28, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Linda Dillard, was a faithful and loving wife, mother, sister, niece, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Linda Dillard, was educated in the Caswell County School System and graduated from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School. She furthered her education at Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina where she received her Bachelor of Arts in 1976; and

WHEREAS, Linda Dillard pursued her career in early childhood education working in various capacities in the city of Danville and at Caswell County Schools until she retired in 2015; and

WHEREAS, Linda Dillard was a member of New Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church in Ruffin, North Carolina and served as the church clerk for many years. She later joined the Bennett Missionary Baptist Church in Danville, Virginia and served as the secretary for the Programs Committee; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Linda Dillard and expresses its sympathy to her family by causing a copy of this Resolution to be spread upon the official minutes of the Board of Education and a copy forwarded to the family.

This the 13th day of July 2026.

5. Classified Salary Schedule 2026

Based upon the recently passed state budget, a 3% increase was approved for classified employees effective July 1, 2026. The current salary schedule was updated and presented to the board.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the updated classified salary schedule as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

(chart is too large to include in minutes)

V. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes thanked board members for attending the leadership retreat. He shared he will be meeting with individual board members to discuss goals and visions. He shared that he is working on meeting calendars and looking at having work session to be more open with staff.

- Mr. Stokes shared that in contacting NCDPI we can put both schools at the same site (Oakwood/South) and shared email with next steps plan and noted that both schools will be funded as long as they are using their individual school codes. A handout was shared with the board.

- A priority listing was shared to assist with preparing the budget. This will be reviewed at an upcoming work session.

- Mel Battle inquired on the land at Stoney Creek and questioned what we can do with it.

VI. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VII. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Board members shared comments on events they had attended.

Discussion took place regarding the format for work sessions and felt it is needed to meet to align the boards' goals for the superintendent and give direction regarding where the board would like to see things go as well as discussion meeting format.

It was agreed to have a work session on July 27, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.

VIII. CLOSED SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion at 12:12 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. Lisa Johnson-Knight seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

IX. OPEN SESSION

Mel Battle made a motion to return to open session. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy # 7325, Video & Audio Recordings by Employees

The board attorney was asked to give input on this new policy. Attorney Ron Bradsher hared it does protect the school system and would need time to review further.

At this time, it was noted that handbooks with updated revisions will be held for printing until the decision is made on how to proceed with Policy # 7325. This will be brought back to the July 27, 2026 meeting for a final decision.

X. PERSONNEL LISTING

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented (1-24). Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented (#25, 26, 27 & 28). Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Michael Preston, Athletic Director = Eff. 7/30/26
	Richard Franklin, CTE Teacher = Eff. 8/8/26
North Elementary	Ryan Moretz, PE Teacher = Eff. 7/31/26
	Kimberly Owen, 5th Grade Teacher – Eff. 8/9/26
Oakwood Elementary	Kaytrah Connally, TA = Eff. 8/1/26
Declined Position	
Oakwood	Alphie Battle, K Teacher
	Chasity Abbott, Pre-K Teacher
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Wesly Horton, Asst. Principal
	Destinie Robinson-Henderson, Data Manager
Employment (pending licensure)	
NL Dillard Middle School	Joslynn Clark, Media Specialist = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Silvana Mazo)
	Roveta McCain, ELA Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Victoria Galloway)

South Elementary	Nhi Nguyen, 2nd grade teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (vacant position)
Oakwood Elementary	Malynda Johnson, EC teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (vacant position)
	Cameron Arender, EC teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Sharone Hamlett)
	Alannah Haggerty, Pre-K Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Vanezzia Claiborne)
	Kelly Barber, EC teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (vacant position)
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Lakesha Murchison, ELA teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Laura Webb)
	Davina Metts, EC Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Faye Brandon)
	Ashley Bagamary, English Teacher = Eff. 8/10/26 (replaces Stephen Camp)
	Zyandrea Carolina, Custodian = Eff. 8/1/26 (replaces Charles Saunders)
	Dr. Brian Shaw, Asst. Principal (12 months) (currently has an existing contract)
	Jermany Mabe, Asst. Prin. (11 months) = Eff. 8/1/26
Transportation	Jonathan Barnes, Bus Custodian (Summer Temporary Work) = Eff. 7/14/26 – Pay Scale 54 – Step 0 (20-30 hours per week)
Substitute	Sade Fountain = Eff. 8/10/26 (was a 2nd grade teacher at North) will be on sub list now

Additional Approvals (included with personnel)

EC Department:

Rebecca Day — Continue 11.5% supplement for 2026-2027 school year paid from PRC 306 (Medicaid Funding)

Natalie Duncan	Moving from 10-month to 11-month employee for 2026-2027 school year Paid from PRC 027 (Behavior Support Funding)

Nursing Placement (2026-2027)

Kim Shelton	North Elementary
Kim Miller	South/Oakwood Elementary
Amy Harger-Carter	Stoney Creek
Laine Lockwood	NL Dillard
Amy Adkins	BYSHS

Custodial Placement (2026-2027)

Custodial staff from Oakwood will be placed in vacant positions within the district where applicable. Once Oakwood renovation is complete, staffing will be reviewed and returned.

Athletic Director at this time will be the current assistant principal and more information will be brought back to the board.

XI. ADJOURN

Vennie Beggarly moved to adjourn the meeting at 3:05 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 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