CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
August 24, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Mel Battle, Vice Chair Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, Nicole Smith, Dr. Nicole McGhee, and Trudy Blackwell. Lisa Johnson-Knight was absent. Others present include Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, Jane Frazier, Shannon Moretz, and Board Attorney Jill Wilson with Brookes & Pierce. 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.

I. B. CLOSED SESSION

Joel Lillard 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) and to confer with legal counsel and to discuss confidential student information protected by NC General Statute 115C.402. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

I. D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Vennie Beggarly questioned if there were any updates on the contract with Pepsi contract and if the cell phone plan for maintenance had been looked into. Mr. Stokes shared he did not have anything at this time.

I. E. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the agenda and requested Item # 1, Budget 2026-2027, be discussed further in the second closed session. The motion carried unanimously.

I. F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Lance Stokes shared we are in the second week of school and things are going well. He reminded everyone of the upcoming Labor Day holiday and also shared the Governor's supplies will be distributed to South/Oakwood.

Mel Battle read aloud a thank you note from the Levi McKinney family.

I. G. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

None at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel Listing (deferred until after the second closed session).

2. Mental Health Plan

   Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of the mental health plan as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the mental health plan as recommended. The motion carried unanimously.

3. 2026-2027 Budget

   The budget was reviewed with the board with updated changes.

   Questions were asked regarding athletics.

   Concerns were expressed by Joel Lillard noting the amount for fund balance and noting that every district is having to make cuts. With the current recommendations we will have three years to operate and noted the county is not generating any money. He felt that more cuts are needed with the fund balance and shared more discussion is needed during closed session.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the 2026-2027 capital outlay budget as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Summer Policy Updates (NCSBA)

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the summer policy updates as presented and waived the second reading. The motion carried unanimously.

Policy # 3200, Selection of Instructional and Supplementary Materials
Policy # 3210, Inspection of and Objection to Instructional & Supplementary Materials
Policy # 3510, Religious-Based Exemptions from School Programs
Policy # 6442, Vendor Lists
Policy # 9115, Prequalification of Bidders for Construction Projects
Policy # 9120, Bidding for Construction Work

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Mr. Stokes shared information on graduation rate, attendance numbers, etc. and felt this needs to be discussed in the current superintendent evaluation. Lisa Johnson-Knight had also shared information that was sent from State Superintendent Maurice Greens' office.
- It was requested to move the September 14th meeting to 3:00 p.m. due to a training exercise at the high school that morning. It was agreed to have a work session at 3:00 p.m. on September 28th prior to the regular meeting at 5:30 p.m.
- Discussion took place with topics for work sessions and noted that some items that have been requested were not included. All input should be considered for work session topics.
- Mr. Stokes shared enrollment updates and as of today the total enrollment was 1,970 students. Traffic concerns at North are being looked into and modeling the plan that South/Oakwood is currently using.
- Concerns were shared with the middle school car rider line noting that there may be safety concerns with an EC student unloading and other cars are going around that car. This needs to be looked into.
- Mel Battle shared he would like to discuss board observations at the next work session.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Updates were shared with Caswell Online. Mr. Stokes shared this is offered for 9th grade to 12th grade students and is our own virtual online class. Requirements are approved by semester and student has to show success to continue. It is also offered in some 6th – 8th grade classes.
- Mr. Stokes shared that he would like to start more recognition for culture/climate, academic achievement/re-engagement with community partnerships.

VII. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- It was shared that there are concerns at Stoney Creek with using talking points. Mr. Stokes was aware and this is being looked at. It was requested that all staff are using this.
- Concerns were shared regarding students at PCC and the use of chromebooks. There are challenges to using it due to the security restrictions. It was asked if restrictions could be lifted for those students as the professors are not allowing time for the transition to take place. It was shared that some of the Microsoft platforms are not working and it was shared that all of our students are not in a position to purchase their own laptop.
- It was questioned why some students are still eating in the classroom.

IX. CLOSED SESSION

Mel Battle 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) and to confer with legal counsel and to discuss confidential student information protected by NC General Statute 115C.402. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

X. OPEN SESSION

Joel Lillard made a motion to return to open session. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. 2026-2027 Budget

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, for the leadership team to bring back local budget with fund balance not to exceed $300,000. The motion carried 5-2 with Blackwell and Johnson-Knight voting "No."

6. Personnel

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of personnel excluding Items # 11 and # 12. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve personnel listing excluding items # 11 and #12. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of Item #11. Nicole McGhee moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell.

Trudy Blackwell and Lisa Johnson-Knight both shared they are related to Jerome Wilson and based on the information they have received they do not believe it is a conflict of interest.

Joel Lillard, Vennie Beggarly, and Nicole Smith shared that they are not voting against the person and all were in agreement Mr. Wilson is a wonderful person and does a great job; however, it was more for the ability to work a consistent schedule.

The motion made by Nicole McGhee, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve Jerome Wilson as Interim Principal at North was approved 4-3 with Lillard, Smith and Beggarly voting "No."

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of Item # 12 (Andy Tyrrell). Nicole McGhee moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve three names on the athletic listing (tennis, soccer, football) as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
North Elementary	April Johnson, 2nd grade teacher = Eff. 8/10/26
North /Oakwood Elementary	Elizabeth Powell, EC Teacher = Eff. 8/20/26
NL Dillard Middle	Emily Reagan, Dean of Students = Eff. 8/13/26
South Elementary	Deana Murphy, Custodian (4 hours) = Eff. 8/13/26
BYSHS	Tyler Coleman, PE Teacher & Varsity Baseball Coach = Eff. 9/23/26
Declined Position	
	Davina Dawson, Bus Driver
Employment	
North Elementary	Jerome Wilson, Interim Principal = Eff. 8/25/26
	Andrew Tyrrell, Interim Principal = Eff. 8/25/26
Substitute / Bus Driver	

	Deana Murphy (moving from custodian to Substitute Teacher) = Eff. 8/26/26
	Kimberly Scott, Bus Driver = Eff. 8/25/26
	James Fowler, Substitute Bus Driver and Substitute for Child Nutrition = Eff. 8/26/26
Custodial Team @ Oakwood/South will share responsibility for whole school together Hyler/Coleman/Wilson/Hughes/Stanfield (2 hours)	
ATHLETIC UPDATES – BYSHS / NLD (Fall Sports)	
Men's Soccer = BYSHS	Stephen Camp (L10 = 20 years)
Asst. Football = NLD	Eric Simpson = Volunteer (unpaid)
Tennis – Girls = NLD	Kwanna Byrd (L3)

Mel Battle asked if board members are planning to attend the LEAD meeting in Winston-Salem. Other discussion took place on ordering shirts.

XI. ADJOURN

The board agreed to move the next meeting from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Closed Session will begin at 3:05 p.m. to 4:05 p.m. with the regular meeting beginning at 4:15 p.m.

Lisa Johnson-Knight moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m. Nicole McGhee seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on September 14, 2026 at 3:00 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Superintendent