CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
September 14, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 14, 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

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. Nicole Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. OPEN SESSION

Nicole Smith made a motion to return to open session. Lisa Johnson-Knight seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

A moment of silence was held and the following was shared in the loss of employee Kim Shelton.

In Memory of Our Dear School Nurse, Kim Shelton

Today, we pause to reflect, remember, and honor the life of our dear School Nurse, **Kim Shelton**.

We are deeply saddened by the recent and unexpected loss of such a special lady. Kim's devotion to our students was truly exceptional. She cared deeply for the children she served and was a valued and cherished member of the Caswell County Schools family.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the staff of **North Elementary School**, Kim's Panda family, as they navigate this difficult time. We also extend our deepest condolences to Kim's family and loved ones. We know that her loss is felt deeply by all who had the privilege of knowing and working alongside her.

Kim was an invaluable member of our nursing staff and played an important role in building the relationships and connections that make our school community so special. Her kindness, compassion, dedication, and genuine love for others will not be forgotten.

As we take this time to remember Kim, may we find comfort in the many memories she created and the lives she touched throughout Caswell County Schools. Though our hearts are heavy, we can be grateful for the time we were blessed to have her with us and for the lasting impact she made.

At this time, we invite you to join us in remembering and celebrating the life of a truly special lady as we listen to "The Goodness of God."

Kim Shelton will be deeply missed, lovingly remembered, and forever a part of the Caswell County Schools family. Let us never forget the goodness she shared with others.

At this time a moment of reflection was had followed by the pledge of allegiance.

I. E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the agenda and Mr. Stokes asked if the agenda could be amended to add additional technology upgrades

Joel Lillard shared that the agenda presented is not following the process the board agreed to noting with the addition there will be nine emergency items and felt that the September 30th deadline for spending funds has always been in place and questioned the urgency. Vennie Beggarly shared she had similar concerns.

Upon no further questions, the motion made by Trudy Blackwell, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight to approve the amended agenda carried 5-2 with Lillard and Beggarly voting "No."

I. G. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Lance Stokes expressed sympathy to the family of Kim Shelton.

Other information included:

- Road closures due to the arrival of a turbine which will effect bus routes and the community stop at the Civic Center.
- Immunizations are due and students will be contacted that have not met the requirements.

I. H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

An accountability report was shared regarding student achievement.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2026-2027 Local Supplement / Local Budget

Finance Officer Brook Underwood shared information on the teacher supplement and low wealth information. Options were shared with the board.

Upon discussion, Joel Lillard shared he felt that the county appropriated $240,000 to be paid to the teachers and not to be used to balance the budget and the amount should be increased to $1,200.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Trudy Blackwell, to approve the supplement in the amount of $1,200 which was set aside by the Board of Commissioners and to approve the low wealth supplement based on the staff we have. The motion carried unanimously.

Upon review of the local budget it was questioned how moving the money from the charter school line would work as it will be needed to use the amount we had budgeted, if not more, for this line item. Joel Lillard shared he felt this was not realistic and doesn't fix our budget for next year. It was shared that in order to fix the budget, things are going to have to be cut and noted this was the direction that was shared with the superintendent at the last meeting.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to bring options back to the board at the next meeting for the 2026-2027 local budget with fund balance not to exceed $300,000. The motion carried 6-1 with Blackwell voting "No."

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel Listing

   Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing. Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the personnel listing. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignations	
South Elementary	Geneive Jones, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 9/11/26
Employment	
North Elementary	Kimberly Owen, 2nd Grade Teacher = Eff. 10/15/26 (Replaces April Johnson)
Stoney Creek Elementary	Erin Morgan, K Teacher (new position) = Eff. 9/15/26
Oakwood (North for this year)	Madison Murphy, K-5 Self Contained Teacher = Eff. 10/26/26 (Replaces Elizabeth Powell)
South Elementary	Jamari Stanfield, After School Care = Eff. 9/16/26 (Replaces Justin Scruggs)
Before School Care = Oakwood/South **Combine BASC due to low enrollment & staffing**	
ATHLETIC UPDATES – BYSHS / NLD **(Fall Sports)**	
Men's Basketball Asst. Coach = BYSHS	Phillip Lipscomb
JV Men Coach = BYSHS	Amari Williams
Basketball Coach– Girls = NLD	Josh Powers

2. STEAM Teacher Assistant Job Description

   Superintendent Lance Stokes recommended approval of the job description for the STEAM Teacher Assistant.

   Questions were raised regarding where this position would be utilized and whether Title I funds would be used to support the position. It was confirmed that Title I funds would be used.

During further discussion, Joel Lillard questioned whether the kindergarten teacher position previously approved for Stoney Creek Elementary was being funded through Title I and noted that when the position was approved, the motion indicated that Title I funds should be used if available and questioned why those funds were not utilized. It was communicated that the Superintendent had requested that state funds be used instead.

Discussion then continued regarding whether an additional teacher assistant position, not specifically associated with STEAM, could be considered, as concerns had been expressed by Stoney Creek Elementary regarding the need for additional assistance. It was shared that Title I funding could be used for an additional position at this time; however, additional funding options would need to be explored before confirmation could be provided for both positions to be funded using Title I funds.

A question was also raised as to whether the Federal Programs Director had been consulted during the development of the job description for this position. It was confirmed that she had not been consulted regarding the job description.

Upon further discussion, Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the job description for the STEAM Teacher Assistant. The motion failed 3-4 with Battle, Lillard, Smith, and Beggarly voting "No."

3. Fundraising Requests 2026-2027

Concerns were shared with Facebook post for wrestling with incorrect information. The post was taken down and will be updated upon approval of the event.

Nicole Smith moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve the 2026-2027 fundraising requests as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

<u>NL Dillard Middle School</u>

9/26-10/26	Kona Ice (Football Games)
10/26	Dominos Slice the Price
3/26 & 5/26	Kona Ice (Spring Break Treat)
10/27/26	Concessions for Trunk or Treat

<u>Oakwood Elementary</u>

(month/year)	
10/26	Creative Foods
10/26	Online Spiritwear
10/26	Fall Pictures

10/26	Fall Festival
11/26	Book Fair
12/26	Angel Tree
02/27	Spring Pictures
02/27	Creative Foods / Popcorn
03/27	Book Fair
04/27	5th Grade Grad. Pictures

Bartlett Yancey Senior High School

Sept.	Cheerleaders Baby Bucs Cheerleading Camp
Oct. – Nov.	Vertical Raise (Boys Basketball)
Home Games	50/50 Raffle (Boys Basketball)
TBD	Pre-Season Jamboree
Nov.	Pro Wrestling Ticket & Concession
	Pro Wrestling Event
Dec.	50/50 Wresting
Jan. 2027	Baby Bucs Cheerleading Camp
Jan.	Buccaneer Cup 50/50 Drawing (wrestling)
April	Pro Wrestling Ticket & Concession

4. Technology Upgrades

Information was shared on the upgrades requested which include:

Dell Chromebooks (200)
Vendor = Arey Jones Educational Solutions
Total Cost = $108,453.73

iPads (35)
Vendor = Apple
Total Cost = $17,747.52

Newlines (6)
Vendor = Camcor, Inc.
Total Cost = $12,287.84

Total Cost = $138,489.09

Funding Source = Title I, PRC 050 (Grant Year 5)

(Carryover funds from Grant Year 5, fiscal year 2024-2025, will be used. The carryover amount for FY25 totals $291,901.50. These funds will expire September 30, 2026).

Technology Upgrades

Dell 15 Pro (Teacher Instructional Device) = 51
Vendor = Lakeshore IT Solutions
Total Cost = $73,269.66 ($4,945.70 = Sales Tax)

Funding Source = RLIS & Title IV, PRC 108 (Grant Year 5 and 6)

RLIS (Grant Year 5)	$42,386.37
RLIS (Grant Year 6)	$ 9,227.77
PRC 108 (Grant Year 5)	$26,601.22

(Carryover funds from grant year 5, fiscal year 2024-2025 and grant year 6, fiscal year 2025-2026, will be used. Grant year 5 funds will expire on September 30, 2026. Grant year 6 funds will expire on September 30, 2027).

Total Cost = $78,215.36

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve all technology upgrades as requested (as listed above). The motion carried unanimously.

5. Auditing Services

The auditing services information was reviewed. Questions were asked how this was posted. Finance Officer Brook Underwood shared it was posted online only. In the past, information has been shared in the local news outlets. Joel Lillard questioned if this was sufficient to only post on the website and felt more opportunities should have been shared.

Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the auditing services contract with Anderson Smith & Wike, LLC. It was questioned if a three-year contract was required. It was shared it is not; however, it does assist with pricing be locked in.

Pricing was shared as follows:

June 30, 2026	$34,000
June 20, 2027	$34,750
June 30, 2028	$36,300

Trudy Blackwell moved, seconded by Lisa Johnson-Knight, to approve the auditing contract with Anderson Smith & Wike, LLC. The motion carried 6-1 with Lillard voting "No."

(It was not specified to the length of the contract).

6. Stronger Connections Grant Expenditures

   Dr. Medina Jones reviewed the grant expenditures as presented. The high school will have a drone academy and will be offered to grades 5-12.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Stronger Connections Grant Expenditures as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   Funding will purchase:
   - Purchase of drones for students 5th through 12th
   - Robots for grades 5th through 12th

   Funding Source = PRC 145 (Stronger Connections Grant)

7. Comprehensive Services, NL Dillard / BYSHS

   Information was reviewed regarding the proposal for Comprehensive Services for NL Dillard and Bartlett Yancey Senior High School.

   Upon lengthy discussion, this item was pulled from the agenda.

8. Comprehensive Teacher Support for Beginning Teachers

   Information was shared regarding the proposal for Comprehensive Teacher Support for Beginning Teachers. Personnel Director, Jane Frazier, shared that at this time we currently do not have anyone offering support and she felt this was needed. Upon reaching out to UNCG who has assisted in the past, they have decided to restructure their plan and was unavailable to assist this year. Other districts who are using this company include Guilford, Rockingham, Alamance-Burlington and Chapel Hill-Carrboro.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the Comprehensive Teacher Support for Beginning Teachers as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

   Contract = Education Resource Group
   Funding Source = Title II Carryover Funds (Fiscal Year 6) – (Available balance is $115,671.56)
   Total Cost - $76,500.00

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS

- Transportation Mechanic 1: Fuel Truck Operator / Bus Driver Job Description
  Upon review of this updated job description, it was suggested to see if our own current mechanics are interested in acquiring the tow truck endorsement and look at giving them a $2.00 to $3.00 per hour raise. This will assist without funding another position. An updated plan with funding amounts will be brought back to the board at the next meeting. (It was shared that this position was also posted and needed to be removed).

- NL Dillard Surplus Property
  A listing was shared for additional items to be declared surplus. This will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

- Transportation Surplus
  A listing was shared for additional items to be declared surplus. This will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

- Auction Proposal (Detweiler Auction & Realty, Inc.)
  Discussion took place regarding the proposal and it was noted that it was not in the best interest to pursue an auction due to the condition of the items. Items will continue to be listed on Gov.deals and if not sold will look at scrapping the items. It was suggested to update the board on the status if things are sold, etc. The goal is to move forward with removing all of the surplus items. The items can be sold in large bundles if this assists in the process.

- Just Crusin' Driving Academy
  Information was shared by the owner of this company asking for permission to share this at the high school. Discussion took place and it was agreed that the current provider is doing a good job and there is no need to pursue any additional companies at this time.

- Work Session = September 28, 2026
  Discussion took place on the upcoming work session and how to better move forward with items on the agenda. Topics that have been submitted include:
  - Superintendent Goals
  - Board Member Observations
  - Booster Club Procedures
  - Board procedures for modifications to facilities
  - EVAAS (this may need to be shared in a separate meeting)

It was also shared that the Board of Commissioners have suggested to jointly meet on October 8th at 6:00 p.m. This date did not work for the board. An option of October 26th at 3:00 p.m. was suggested.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Joint training with the high school and law enforcement took place earlier in the day. More information will follow on how this went.
- As of current we have 220 more student bus riders than we did last year.
- Thanks to the Maintenance Department for working on the fire ant issues at NL Dillard.
- High praise was given to North Elementary and the way the staff handled the recent situation with the loss of Kim Shelton.
- Dr. Pettiford is scheduled to begin on September 21st at North
- The community stop at the Civic Center is almost at capacity. An additional bus may be needed.
- Plans to recognize Caswell champions within the district.

VII. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- All members expressed continued sympathy to the Shelton family and to other families in the loss of loved ones recently.
- Request that the art teachers be kept abreast of the upcoming North Carolina School Boards Annual Conference where artwork is submitted.
- Thanks was expressed to all school staff for last week that stepped up during the extreme unexpected situation.
- It was expressed it was good to hear good news regarding student achievement grades.
- Thanks for the recent Governor's school donations.

IX. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on September 28, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building. (A work session will be held at 3:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting).

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Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Superintendent