CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES
September 28, 2026

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2026, at 5:30 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 Lisa Johnson-Knight. Trudy Blackwell was absent. Others present include Superintendent Lance Stokes, Brook Underwood, John Berdine, Jane Frazier, Shannon Moretz, and Board Attorney Maya Weinstein 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. Joel Lillard seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. OPEN SESSION

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

I. D. INVOCATION/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIENCE

A moment of silence was held followed by the pledge of allegiance.

I. E. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2026 regular meeting as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. F. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the agenda with amendments to include adding Items # 5, Fuel Tow Truck Driver and Item # 6, Attorney Meeting Schedule. The motion carried unanimously.

I. G. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Lance Stokes gave thanks to community and shared update on progress reports. Mr. Stokes also shared that on October 5 a Bike Tour will be taking place and there may be delays to traffic. Also, Duke Energy will be having another transport with tentative dates of October 5-7, 2026. October is National Principals Month and he introduced Mr. Pettiford, Principal at North Elementary, who was in attendance. Mr. Stokes also thanked all of our principals for the work they do each day.

I. H. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None at this time.

II. REPORTS

None at this time.

III. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2026-2027 Local Budget

Finance Officer Brook Underwood shared updated information on the 2026/2027 local budget. Additional changes were made to decrease the amount of fund balance being spent. Those changes were reviewed and discussed.

Maintenance contracts were discussed and noted that some of the contracts we are using are not current and it was questioned if any of these could be used with capital outlay.

Upon discussion of the Board of Education's supply line item, it was shared that when the laptops were purchased for board members this would prevent printing of board packets. It was suggested to reduce the amount by $500 and all members to use the laptops as originally discussed.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, for board meeting packets to be 100% electronic and reduce the supply line item by $500 with the new format as discussed in a previous meeting. The motion carried 5-1 with Beggarly voting "No." (Blackwell was absent)

Continued discussion took place regarding the budget and the amount of fund balance being used. Joel Lillard shared this is still not the budget that was requested. Mel Battle felt like we have made all the cuts we can at this time and need to move forward. Nicole Smith questioned the amount of current fund balance which was shared by the Finance Officer of $1.2 Million. Nicole Smith shared she understands the rationale from Joel Lillard with trying to keep the fund balance to the amount and noted concerns for the upcoming years if changes are not made. Joel Lillard shared more difficult cuts will need to be made next year. Nicole Smith questioned if there are additional savings with Oakwood not being operational this year. Alan Poteat, Maintenance Director, shared

that he wasn't sure and shared that the power is still being used. It was questioned if we would not see a significant decrease with the water/sewer as this will not be used. The additional person for the Maintenance Department was reviewed and discussed. Per Mr. Poteat, he definitely needs the additional person and shared if we are to outsource work that needs to be done we will pay more in the long run than hiring an additional person.

Upon further discussion regarding the budget, Lisa Johnson-Knight moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve the local budget as presented with changes as directed tonight. The motion tied 3-3 (Battle, McGhee, Knight = Yes / Lillard, Smith, Beggarly = No / Blackwell = Absent). Therefore, the motion failed.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the local budget with changes as directed tonight and to change the additional maintenance position to a half-time position. The motion carried unanimously.

Auditor's Contract

Discussion was had regarding the auditor's contract and clarification for how many years the contract was approved for.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the current auditors contract for one-year and begin the process for moving forward with the bid process to meet board policy and also to request a different partner be used within the auditing company. The motion carried unanimously.

Finance Director Brook Underwood shared that a different partner may not be doable depending on what the current partners have booked on their schedules.

Educentric Contract

Mr. Stokes reviewed the Educentric contract which was pulled at the last meeting for more clarity. Concerns were shared that this only would be eligible for two schools and felt all of our schools were worthy of extra support. The schools that would be included are Bartlett Yancey Senior High School and NL Dillard Middle School. Other concerns included the virtual portion and felt it needs to be done in person as well as concerns with disbursing the funding before services are rendered.

Nicole McGhee shared that benchmarks needs to be established to see improvements and would like the board to receive follow-up information to see accomplishments and noted that this company has not worked with many schools in North Carolina. She requested the board receive reports at checkpoints and noted that in other contracts that are approved, the board does not receive any follow-up to show if things worked or not and felt the board should be aware.

Mr. Stokes shared that if approved, the contract includes two surveys that will need to be sent out which will require board approval.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole McGhee, to approve the Educentric Contract with the condition that all sessions be in person (no virtual) and the surveys to be approved with no objections by end of day on Tuesday. The motion carried unanimously.

It was also noted that reports are to be brought to the board to show status of how this is working.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Personnel Listing

   Mr. Stokes reviewed the teacher assistant position and noted that he was informed that in past years, it was the board's pleasure to have an assistant for all kindergarten teachers. Using Title I funds, two additional teacher assistants can be hired. This will provide all of our kindergarten teachers with an assistant. This will be for one year only and review funding next school year.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the two teacher assistant positions as discussed for one year only using Title I funds. The motion carried unanimously. (Teacher Assistant for South and Stoney Creek Elementary).

   Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing with exception of Item #3. Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to approve the personnel listing with exception of Item #3. The motion carried unanimously.

   Mr. Stokes recommended approval of the personnel listing Item #3. Nicole McGhee moved, seconded by Mel Battle, to approve the personnel listing Item #3. The motion tied 3-3 (Battle, McGhee, Knight = Yes / Lillard, Beggarly, Smith = No / Blackwell = absent). The motion failed.

   Joel Lillard shared his vote was not against the person; however, he felt we needed to look within first.

   A ten-minute recess was taken.

Resignations	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Mykel Williams, Alternative Teacher = Eff. 10/16/26

Retirement	
North Elementary	Rita Lea, Teacher Asst. = Eff. 12/31/26
Employment	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Carl Lennon, EC Teacher = Eff. 10/1/26 (Replaces Faye Brandon)
Substitute	
	Bonita Brown, Sub. Teacher (BYSHS & NLD Only) = Eff. 10/1/26
	Josh Powers = Sub. Bus Driver = Eff. 10/1/26

Posting of Interim Social Worker (must be licensed NC Social Worker due to Title IV (PRC 108) funding.

2. Surplus Items / NL Dillard & Transportation

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

Cafeteria Storage (Behind Cafeteria)

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Folding cafeteria tables (flip/stack style, attached folding bench seats)	Cafeteria Storage	4	Broken/Unusable

Room D109

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Student combo desks (wood tablet-arm, chrome legs, wire book basket)	D109	40	Broken/Unusable
Stacking chairs (navy blue plastic seat/back, chrome legs)	D109	15	Broken/Unusable
Wire book baskets (detached, loose)	D109	10	Broken/Unusable
Gray metal 2-drawer file cabinets	D109	2	Broken/Unusable
Overhead projector (Apollo brand, on rolling cart)	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
Rolling cart/stand (projector cart)	D109	1	Broken/Unusable

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Black rolling office chair	D109	2	Broken/Unusable
Manual wheelchair	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
Gray open-shelf bookcase/cabinet unit	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
Tall tan/wood storage cabinet (double door)	D109	2	Broken/Unusable
Portable whiteboard/dry-erase stand (freestanding)	D109	2	Broken/Unusable
Green chalkboard panel (rolling/portable, grid-lined)	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
White wicker/rattan armchair	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
Black round ottoman/beanbag seat	D109	1	Broken/Unusable
Box of loose blue old calculators cases	D109	1 box (~10 pcs)	Broken/Unusable

Mechanical Room C139

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Stacking chairs (navy blue plastic seat/back, chrome tube frame)	C139	10	Broken/Unusable
Wooden storage cabinet/drawer unit (built-in style, laminate top)	C139	1	Broken/Unusable
Fume hood / exhaust enclosure (glass-front cabinet with ductwork, rust/staining)	C139	1	Broken/Unusable
Flexible exhaust ducting/hose (attached to fume hood unit)	C139	1 (attached)	Broken/Unusable
Metal counter/cabinet base (dark surface)	C139	1	Broken/Unusable
Student desk (wood tablet arm, chrome frame, partially visible)	C139	1	Broken/Unusable
Green plastic milk-crate style bin	C139	1	Broken/Unusable

Storage Room A123

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Student combo desks (wood tablet-arm, chrome legs, wire book basket)	A123	18	Broken/Unusable

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Stacking chairs (navy blue plastic seat/back, chrome frame)	A123	12	Broken/Unusable
Wire book baskets (detached/loose)	A123	5	Broken/Unusable
Gray 4-drawer metal file cabinet	A123	1	Broken/Unusable
Tan/beige 4-drawer metal file cabinet	A123	1	Broken/Unusable
Upholstered armchair (floral cushion, wood/wicker frame)	A123	1	Broken/Unusable
Wooden cabinet/drawer unit (small, tan)	A123	1	Broken/Unusable
Wood-top rolling cart/table (small)	A123	1	Broken/Unusable

Storage Room F109

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Old CRT televisions (large, dark gray/black casing, dusty, rear-view shown)	F109	2	Broken/Unusable
Panasonic CRT TV/DVD combo unit (silver, on rolling cart)	F109	1	Broken/Unusable
Rolling metal utility cart/stand (holds TV)	F109	1	Broken/Unusable
Gray metal storage cabinet	F109	1	Broken/Unusable
Broom/mop handles (wood, long)	F109	2	Broken/Unusable
Manual wheelchair	F109	1	Broken/Unusable
Black office/task chairs (rolling, leather-style, worn/damaged)	F109	2	Broken/Unusable
Small wood-top desk/cart (with drawer)	F109	1	Broken/Unusable

Mechanical Room F110

Item (Description)	Location	Quantity	Condition
Teacher's desk (wood laminate top, wood side drawer unit, chrome legs)	F110	1	Broken/Unusable
Student stacking chairs (navy blue plastic, chrome frame, wire book basket)	F110	2	Broken/Unusable

Transportation Surplus

8106 Child Nutrition Van (engine issues/driver door hinges broken)
8107 2004 International Bus, 175963 miles, fuel leak on the lower fuel pump
8090 2011 International Bus, 148562, will not run
8091 2014 International Bus, 192398, will run but not accelerate properly

(Approved previously)
(4) Floor Jack Stands
Floor Air Jack
Battery Charger
(2) Hand trucks
Engine Lift

3. Custom Cuts Outdoor Maintenance = Addendum to contract

Due to fire ants at several schools, Custom Cuts has made an amendment to the current contract agreement. The amendment will add fire ant treatment to the regular landscaping schedule. This will allow school grounds to be checked and treated on a consistent basis.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to approve the amendment to contract with Custom Cuts as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Resolutions

Resolutions were read aloud for former employees who recently passed away. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Joel Lillard, to approve resolutions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of Jessie Poteat Totten



WHEREAS, Jessie Poteat Totten, was born on June 17, 1924, and resided in Reidsville, North Carolina, until the time of her death on September 12, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Jessie Poteat, was a faithful and loving wife, mother, sister, grandmother, great-great grandmother, great-great-great grandmother, aunt, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Poteat was employed with Caswell County Schools as a Custodian for nineteen years prior to her retirement; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Poteat was a member, along with being the oldest member, of Beulah Missionary Baptist Church in Leasburg, North Carolina, where she served on the Pastor's Aide and as Missionary eagerly for the Lord; and

WHEREAS, Jessie Poteat enjoyed her life after retirement and enjoyed cooking and most importantly loving on all of her many grandchildren; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Jessie Poteat 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 28th day of September 2026.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of Margie Elaine Foster

WHEREAS, Margie Elaine Foster, was born on May 25, 1950, and resided in Providence, North Carolina, until the time of her death on August 31, 2026, and

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

WHEREAS, Margie Foster was employed with Caswell County Schools as a Teacher Assistant until she retired in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Margie Foster attended St. Luke Episcopal Church prior to its closure and most recently attended Prospect Methodist Church; and

WHEREAS, Margie Foster was known for her signature fashion items which included a scarf and something shiny to brighten up her outfit. She enjoyed throwing Christmas parties and decorating for the season. She also enjoyed traveling and enjoyed the feel of the ocean air; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Margie Foster 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 28th day of September 2026.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of Kimberly Raynor Shelton

WHEREAS, Kimberly Raynor Shelton, was born on March 22, 1967, and resided in Dry Fork, Virginia, until the time of her death on September 10, 2026, and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shelton, was a faithful and loving daughter, wife, mother, sister, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shelton graduated from Dan River High School. She pursued her education and graduated from The Memorial Hospital School of Nursing in Danville, VA. She received a BS in Nursing from Old Dominion University in Danville, VA and received additional credentials which include Certified Legal Nurse Consultant, Intermediate CRC Training, and Certified Clinical Research Coordinator; and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shelton was employed with Caswell County Schools for over twenty years. Serving as Lead School Nurse. She was assigned to North Elementary and also served at South Elementary and throughout the district whenever her support was needed. Kim served in various roles within the county through partnerships to better serve the students of Caswell County Schools; and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shelton was a member of Hopewell Church and recently attended The Jesus Gathering on White Oak Mountain; and

WHEREAS, Kimberly Shelton was more than just a school nurse. She made relationships with the students and staff and shared her medical wisdom with many. She went above and beyond to help the students and her coworkers if they were going through difficult times. Kim will be remembered for the many acts of kindness she shared with so many and the devotion and loyalty she displayed daily; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Kimberly Shelton 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 28th day of September 2026.

Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of JoAnn Carter Watlington

WHEREAS, JoAnn Carter Watlington, was born on March 8, 1944, and resided in Yanceyville, North Carolina, until the time of her death on September 1, 2026, and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Watlington, was a faithful and loving wife, sister, and friend and her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Watlington graduated from Pleasant Garden High School. She graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in elementary education. Following graduation, she moved to Yanceyville where she worked for the Agricultural Extension Agency. She later opened and operated her own daycare, Play Haven Day Nursery, for many years. She later began a long and fulfilling teaching career as a second grade teacher at (Jones) Duncan Elementary for numerous years and later taught art at Oakwood Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, JoAnn Watlington was a member of Prospect United Methodist Church where she began singing in the choir for more than 25 years. She was instrumental in organizing the church's annual stew and was actively involved in working with the youth and in her free time, she enjoyed playing with the Bridge Club; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of JoAnn Watlington 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 28th day of September 2026.

5. Tow Truck / Fuel Truck Driver

   Joel Lillard shared he had requested additional information regarding tow truck driver be brought back to the meeting and it was not.

   Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly, to pay the transportation employees who have the license to drive tow truck/fuel truck an additional $2.00/hour until a current plan is in place. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Attorney Schedule

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, based off discussion at prior work session and budget restraints, to only have board attorney present at the first meeting of the month. The motion carried unanimously.

V. DISCUSSION ITEMS = None at this time

VI. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

- Mr. Stokes was invited to attend a small rural school meeting and will be discussing an advocate with legislators for districts similar in size to ours.
- Notices for pesticide spraying will be sent out to North Elementary and NL Dillard Middle School.
- Thanks to the Board for their tenacity and in-depth responsibility.

VII. ATTORNEYS REPORT

None.

VIII. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

- Board members shared visits they had made to schools.
- Thanks to the football coach for the recent event held at the high school for Amari Graves. Although it was not well attended, it was nice to see community, staff, board members all come together for one purpose.
- Thanks to all our principals in recognition of upcoming Principal Month.

IX. CLOSED

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

X. OPEN

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to return to open session. The motion carried unanimously.

XI. COMMUNICATIONS

An upcoming field trip was reviewed and discussed as it is an overnight trip and out of state. It was suggested that an additional chaperone attend. Mr. Stokes shared he has spoken with Teresa Crumpton and Principal Michelle Robinson and both are in agreement for Mrs. Crumpton to attend. Discussion took place with the current board policy with concerns of travel.

Joel Lillard moved, seconded by Nicole Smith, to waive board policy #3320, School Trips, for this specific trip due to the unique situation. The motion carried unanimously. This will allow public transportation to be used upon arrival and also to have parents sign a waiver form prior to departure. The motion carried unanimously.

Joel Lillard suggested that Policy # 3320, School Trips, be discussed at a future work session.

XII. ADJOURN

Joel Lillard moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 p.m. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on October 12, 2026 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

_____ _____

Mel O. Battle
Chairman

Lance Stokes
Superintendent