

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

November 25, 2019

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, November 25, 2019, at 9:00 a.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chair Donna Hudson, Wayne Owen, Ross Gwynn, Vennie Beggarly, Mel Battle, and Tracy Stanley. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, Amy Chandler, Andrew Tyrrell, Chuck Hudson, Jennifer O'Briant, Medina Jones, Adam Scepurek, Carla Murray, Kim Mims, Carol Boaz, Relisa Thomas, Ryan Strader, Nicole McGhee, Karen Self, Katie Louhoff, Sheletha Mims, Michelle Robinson, Davin Wilson, Steve Evans, David Useche, Romanda Smith-Graves. Board Attorney was not in attendance. 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 Chairman Garland who asked that the Board continue to keep Mrs. Beggarly and her family in their thoughts in the recent loss of her mother. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wayne Owen moved, seconded by Mel Battle, to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2019 regular meeting as presented and October 31, 2019 emergency meeting with changes to include the approval of Jerome Wilson as interim assistant principal at Bartlett Yancey High School. The motion carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Dr. Carter recommended approval of agenda as presented. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley, to approve the agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Carter shared several recognitions that include:

- Dr. Carter and board members recently attended the North Carolina School Board Association Annual Conference in Greensboro, NC. Out of 400 student art entries, 4 students from Caswell County Schools received honorable mention. Dr. Carter will invite them to the January board meeting for recognition.
- Congratulations to the Bartlett Yancey High School football team on a wonderful season. Plans are to have the team at the December meeting for recognition.
- Dr. Carter shared certificates with elementary schools on recent school performance grades. Certificates were sent from State Superintendent Mark Johnson. Presentations went to North, South and Stoney Creek Elementary for Meeting Growth and to Oakwood Elementary for Exceeding Growth.

Personnel Director, Nicole McGhee, introduced Debra Bradshaw. Ms. Bradshaw is the new receptionist at NL Dillard Middle School.

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Finance Director, Amy Chandler, recognized and presented certificates to Relisa Thomas (bookkeeper at Bartlett Yancey High School) and Romanda Smith-Graves on their recent completion of Treasurers Academy.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ryan Strader, 1776 Bethesda Church Road, Ruffin, NC, shared concerns with the board. He shared he has two small children who will start kindergarten next school year and has been advised among teachers in the county not to send them to Caswell County Schools. He shared that elementary was not so much a concern as the middle and high school. Concerns were shared regarding students at the high school taking online courses and not having full time teachers, decreasing school report card scores, and the continuous turnover in teachers and administration. Mr. Strader shared that he and his wife both work in the county and are vested in the county and he is concerned with having to look elsewhere to send his children to school. He also noted that a new shiny high school is fine; however, it will not change the situation that is going on and questioned when schools will be back on track where it used to be.

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

School Improvement Plans were reviewed at the October 29, 2019 meeting. Dr. Carter recommended approval of all School Improvement Plans. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Mel Battle to approve School Improvement Plans for all schools. The motion carried unanimously.

III. REPORTS

Auditors Report

Adam Scepurek with Anderson, Smith & Wike, PLLC, presented an overview of the recent audit for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019.

Mr. Scepurek shared that Caswell County Schools met all requirements and reviewed items most important to the Board. Those include:

- Page 13, Exhibit 3 = Local Funds noting the decline of \$234,000 from previous year. He noted the decline in county funding which was used, in the past, to pay teacher supplements that was picked up by the local fund balance and created the decline. When looking at fund balance and fund balance usage the auditors look at sustainability and noted it is very difficult to use fund balance on expenditures that are reoccurring noting that finding funds to replace what is used is an uphill battle to get back to where you were. At this time it is not detrimental; however, it should be noted.

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- Local (Special Revenue) – this includes special grants and criteria lists the funds have to be spent a certain way noting the 1:1 initiative (chromebooks). Report shows \$255,000 have been used.
- Capital Outlay balance = \$510,000 and \$130,669 for individual schools.
- School Food Services/After School Care were reviewed and noted that these two entities operate as a “business.” It is difficult to measure how they performed based on fund balance and instead need to look at cash. A significant amount of cash was used this year and using \$100,000 in a program designed to fund itself is hard to sustain over a period of time. Participation is a main driver and noted that missed school days play a part in this and shared there were several missed school days due to inclement weather last year that were not made up.

Overall, a “clean report” was received from the auditing firm.

Mel Battle questioned if all schools were audited. Mr. Scepurek shared that only three onsite visits were made and they are done on a rotation.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the auditor’s report as presented. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen to approve the auditing report as presented for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2019. The motion carried unanimously.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

Follett is the hosted service for both library (books and materials) and resource (computers) manager inventory and circulation for all schools and the central office. This is a 1-year subscription and is paid using State Technology funds (PRC 015). Total cost = \$11,805.15.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda as presented. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Mel Battle to approve the consent agenda as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Policy # 440, Student Records

Assistant Superintendent, Andrew Tyrrell, shared updates to policy # 440 noting sections “A” (Annual Notification of Rights) and “G” (review of video/audio recordings). Mr. Tyrrell noted that changes include giving the parents a right to review audio or video documents; however, they are not required to receive a copy.

Donna Hudson questioned if a student records an incident on their cell phone and a principal uses it would this be included. Mr. Tyrrell shared he felt this would not be considered as an educational video; however, he will follow up.

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Wayne Owen questioned if a parent comes to school and a student is 18, how will the principal know if the student is claimed as a dependent. Mr. Tyrrell shared if they are filed on the tax return they are included as a dependent. Dr. Carter shared that it is usually up to the student to bring information indicating something otherwise. Mr. Tyrrell will get clarity and share information at the next meeting.

Donna Hudson shared that years ago school records were made available to the public to assist in purging. She suggested looking at how long we are required to keep records.

Upon no further questions, Dr. Carter recommended approval of first reading of Policy # 440, Student Records, as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Wayne Owen to approve first reading of Policy # 440, Student Records, as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Policy # 440 will lie on the table for second reading.

3. Policy # 740, Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators
Assistant Superintendent, Andrew Tyrrell, shared updated information from the North Carolina Department of Transportation as well as from the North Carolina School Board Association on changes necessary to comply with safety motor federal regulations. The information was received in November and the deadline to implement is January 2020 thus the urgency for a first reading at the meeting today. An overview of the updates was shared.

Vennie Beggarly questioned if the word “drug” should be added to paragraphs B1, B2 and B3. Mr. Tyrrell will look into this prior to the second reading.

Upon no further questions, Dr. Carter recommended approval of first reading of Policy # 740, Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators, as presented. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to approve first reading of Policy # 740, Drug & Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators, as presented. The motion carried unanimously. Policy # 740 will lie on the table for a second reading.

4. Resolution for Andy Hawks
Vice Chair Donna Hudson read aloud the resolution for former employee, Andy Hawks, who recently passed away. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve resolution for Andy Hawks. The motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
William Anderson “Andy” Hawks*

WHEREAS, William Anderson “Andy” Hawks, or often called “Coach Hawks,” was born on November 2, 1954, and resided in Graham, NC, at the time of his death on November 9, 2019, and

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WHEREAS, Andy Hawks, was a faithful and loving son, grandson, and friend and his family’s welfare was his major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Andy Hawks was a native of Galax, VA and later was raised by his grandparents, on a beloved farm in Haw River, NC. Andy always considered himself a “country boy” despite all his achievements he remained a humble man; and

WHEREAS, Andy Hawks graduated from Graham High School and then attended Elon University on a full scholarship with wrestling and football. While at Elon, Andy became a two time conference champion in wrestling. He finished off his senior season of wrestling nationally ranked. Upon graduation from Elon in 1977, he earned a Master’s Degree in Biology; and

WHEREAS, Andy Hawks was an employee of Caswell County Schools and served as a teacher and wrestling coach at Bartlett Yancey Senior High School as well as 7 other high schools. He led his teams to multiple championships. Coach Hawks was selected five times for “Who’s Who of American Teachers.” He is a legend in the field of wrestling among his former colleagues and students. He is on the North Carolina High School Athletic Association wall of fame for 31 conference championships and 25 times conference coach of the year. Coach Hawks was awarded the “Dickie’s American Worker of the Year” and in the fall of 2019, he published his book entitled “Coach, You are Crazy.” Coach Hawks touched the lives of many students throughout his career by offering a kind smile or a friendly hello. He will be remembered by his Community and Board of Education for his leadership and his commitment to education; and being known for his benevolence and servant’s heart to children; and

***NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Caswell County Board of Education wishes to honor the memory of Andy Hawks and expresses its sympathy to his 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 25th day of November 2019.

Gladys Garland, Chairman

Donna R. Hudson, Vice Chairman

Mel O. Battle

Vennie Beggarly

Ross Gwynn, Jr.

Wayne Owen

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

5. Resolution to Remit Civil Penalties (North Carolina Public Schools)

Dr. Carter shared information received from the North Carolina School Board Association regarding a 2008 court order that civil penalties be awarded to school systems to assist with technology. As of this time, no monies have been received and the NCSBA urges school systems to remit the resolution and send to local authorities.

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Dr. Carter recommended approval of the resolution to remit civil penalties as presented. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen to approve resolution as presented regarding civil penalties. The motion carried unanimously.

Resolution

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION RESOLUTION
Resolution Urging the State to Take Action to Remit Civil Penalties Unconstitutionally
Withheld from North Carolina's Public Schools

Whereas, the North Carolina Supreme Court ruled that under Article IX, Section 7 of the NC Constitution that the public schools are entitled to the clear proceeds of specific civil penalties collected by various state agencies, including the Department of Revenue (DOR), Department of Transportation (DOT), the campuses of the University of North Carolina (UNC), the Department of Commerce (DOC), the Employment Security Commission (ESC), state owned psychiatric institutions in the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR, now DEQ); and

Whereas, in 1997, the General Assembly created the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund in G.S. 115C-457.1 and provided that the clear proceeds of all civil penalties collected by state agencies should be paid into the fund; and

Whereas, in 2008, the NC Superior Court upon remand from the NC Supreme Court ruled that state agencies were in clear violation of the State Constitution by improperly withholding \$747,883,074 that should have been paid to the Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund from January 1996 through June 2005; and

Whereas, the 2008 court order lists the amount to be paid by each state agency to public schools: DOR \$583,340,162; DOT \$104,071,323; UNC \$42,368,982; ESC \$18,017,467; DHHS \$53,955; DOC \$10,404; DENR/DEQ \$20,781; and

Whereas, the legislature declared that such funds should be used exclusively for school technology and appropriated to the individual public-school units on a per pupil basis; and

Whereas, public school units are in dire need of additional technology funding; and

Whereas, according to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), only 38% of North Carolina's 115 local school districts in 2018-19 reported having achieved the State's 4-year replacement goal for student devices (Chromebook, iPad, laptop, etc.); and

Whereas, more than 30% of school districts in 2018-19 reported having no resources budgeted for replacement devices; and

Whereas, investing in current technology is necessary to achieve a 21st century education that utilizes innovative, collaborative, and learner centered experiences; and

Whereas, since 2008, the public schools have received only \$18.1 million, approximately 2.5% of the total amount owed; and

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Whereas, the defendants have not fulfilled their constitutional obligation to make up for the remaining \$729,699,823 that was diverted from public schools; and

Whereas, on March 6, 2019, a consent order was entered to extend the enforceability of the existing unpaid 2008 judgement to prevent it from expiring; and

Whereas, the plaintiffs have tried to work with state leaders for almost fifteen years to find an amicable resolution to this matter; and

Whereas, the plaintiffs continue to seek a win/win outcome and remain willing and ready to work on a mutually beneficial resolution.

Therefore, be it resolved that Caswell County Schools Board of Education respectfully requests the General Assembly to approve during its January 2020 session a multiyear plan to pay the remaining \$729.7 million judgment for civil penalties that should have gone to public school units for school technology but were diverted to other purposes in violation of the North Carolina Constitution.

Adopted by the Caswell County Schools Board of Education this 25 day of November, 2019.

Gladys Garland, Chairman

Donna R. Hudson, Vice Chairman

Mel O. Battle

Vennie Beggarly

Ross Gwynn, Jr.

Wayne Owen

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

6. Employee/Christmas Bonus

Dr. Carter shared that Chair Gladys Garland had mentioned adding a Christmas bonus for employees to the agenda and Dr. Carter followed up with Finance Director to share options with the board if there is interest in doing this again this year. It was noted that last year teachers received a supplement and the bonus only went to non-instructional staff. The amount is higher this year as it will be offered to all full time employees. Dr. Carter shared she would recommend Option "A" if the board is in agreement.

Donna Hudson expressed concerns, based on the auditor's report, of using fund balance and noted that she felt we cannot continue to keep dipping into the fund balance. However, she also noted that additional funding was not received from the commissioners for supplement and felt that it is worthwhile as our employees deserve this.

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Upon no further comments, Dr. Carter recommended approval of Option A for Christmas bonus for employees. Wayne Owen moved, seconded by Vennie Beggarly to approve Christmas bonus as presented in Option A. The motion carried unanimously.

Option A is for all full-time permanent employees (certified and classified) who do not receive any supplement and who are employed as of the date the bonus is to be paid.

\$300 full time / \$200 part time	
Beginning Unassigned Fund Balance	2,395,619.00
Less: Option A Bonus	<u>(122,000.00)</u>
Ending Unassigned Fund Balance	2,273,169.00

IV. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

Dr. Carter shared updates on the following:

- Bids were received and opened on November 20, 2019 for the field house. Two bids came in under estimated cost and information will hopefully be shared at the next county commissioners meeting. If all goes accordingly the first phase will begin by the middle or end of December.
- Dr. Carter attended the last commissioners meeting where discussion took place regarding Project Manager Bill Powell. The commissioners were in agreement to enter into a contract with him contingent upon the county manager (who was absent due to a family conflict) and the county attorney’s approval of contract wording. The attorney for the Board of Education will also need to review. Dr. Carter looks forward to setting up a meeting in the next few weeks.

Tracy Stanley shared that although the board has been updated that we are on target, she felt that the public needs to be informed and also reassured that we are not going to lose the grant money. Mrs. Stanley felt that information needs to be shared in the Caswell Messenger.

- Dr. Carter shared school vestibules are almost complete and the technology portion is still in progress. Approval for plans is needed from the State Department on Stoney Creek Elementary corridor. Mrs. Stanley shared concerns with not being able to use the door at NL Dillard and was shown by a teacher on a recent visit. Dr. Carter shared that will be addressed.
- Reminder of the upcoming Yanceyville “12 Days of Christmas” parade and shared that Caswell County Schools will have a float this year. If board members plan to ride on the float please let Dr. Carter know.

V. CLOSED SESSION

Tracy Stanley 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

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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. Donna Hudson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VI. OPEN SESSION

Donna Hudson made a motion to return to open session. Mel Battle seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. PERSONNEL LISTING

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the personnel listing as presented. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen to approve the personnel listing as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation	
Central Office	LaTore Foster, Lead Data Manager, Central Office = Eff. 11/12/19
Bartlett Yancey High School	JoAnna Gwynn, Principal, Bartlett Yancey High School = Eff. 10/31/19
Retirement	
NL Dillard	Mae Sue Poteat, Custodian = Eff. 1/1/20
South Elementary	Ronnie Wilson, Custodian - Eff. 1/11/20
Employment	
Central Office	Jamie Buchanan, Data Mgmt. & Digital Learning Coordinator (11-month position) Eff. 11/26/19
North/Oakwood Elementary	Julia Fair, K-5 Music Teacher = Eff. 1/3/2020
South Elementary	Teresa Crumpton, Data Manager/Bookkeeper = Eff. 11/26/19 (12 month position)
Substitute	
	Shirley Long, Administrative Assistant = Eff. 11/26/19

VIII. COMMUNICATIONS

December meeting = Dec. 16, 2019 with lunch at Stoney Creek Elementary

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X. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

None at this time.

XI. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:55 a.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education will be held on December 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent