

CASWELL COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

September 28, 2020

The Caswell County Board of Education met in regular session on Monday, September 28, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building of Caswell County Schools. Members present: Chairman Gladys Garland, Vice Chair Wayne Owen, Ross Gwynn, Tracy Stanley, Donna Hudson, Vennie Beggarly, and Mel Battle. Others present include Superintendent Dr. Sandra Carter, HR Director Nicole McGhee, Debra Ferrell (Caswell Messenger), Finance Officer Amy Chandler, Assistant Superintendent Andrew Tyrrell, Kim Meadows, Danielle Flores, Katherine Pinkleton, Nicole Smith, and Bill Powell (Project Manager) virtually. Connie Kimrey recorded the minutes.

I. A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Garland. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Wayne Owen moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to approve the minutes of the August 24, 2020 regular meeting. The motion to approve the minutes carried unanimously.

I. C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

I. D. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Carter acknowledged that the Finance Department received the State Board of Education Award for Excellence in Financial Management. For the State Board of Education Award for Excellence in Financial Management, seven parameters are considered. In order to receive an award, the Local Education Agency must earn at least 10 points out of the maximum 12 possible. Caswell County Schools received 11 out of the 12 points.

Dr. Carter on behalf of the Board of Education extended congratulations to the Finance Department and to the Chief Financial Officer, Amy Chandler.

I. E. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Katherine Pinkleton, 635 Rocky Ridge Road, Leasburg, NC, 27291
(NCAE/CCAE Representative)

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Mrs. Pinkleton addressed the board on behalf of staff concerns and noted she was the NCAE representative recently held by Jonathan Barnes. She shared concerns with Plan B. She shared, with respect to the actual number of Covid cases in the county, as of September 24th, there were 329 compared to 222 on October 24th. Authorities expect that rural areas such as our county may not have hit the peak number of cases yet. A list was provided to the board that included the following:

- Students may wear masks incorrectly or remove them.
- Students may not follow social distancing guidelines.
- What about during lunch --- faces have to be uncovered to eat.
- Bathroom logistics for students / We are concerned that this will be a risky time for students.
- Manipulatives (and lab materials) can't be shared. This presents a problem when teaching EC and younger students, as well as in science classrooms where students commonly work with partners. We don't have the resources for each student to have his/her own materials.
- Students arriving at school sick (this already occurs) and many people with Covid are contagious before they exhibit symptoms such as fever.
- Some teachers are reporting that a majority of students are attending live sessions, turning in work, and have established a routine. If we go with Plan B and have to later close due to an outbreak, we may lose this advantage.
- If staff become sick, even with non-Covid illness, we will have to stay home. What plans are in place for getting substitutes? This was difficult before Covid.
- In the event that staff must quarantine to await results of Covid test, do we use sick time for this or would this be a work-from-home scenario? A substitute would still be required for the classroom.
- Parents may be electing to send their children back to school without knowing or understanding the whole picture (masks, staying six feet apart, not leaving the classroom) - it will not be like a normal routine.
- Students at elementary level and middle school level will have to stay in the same rooms all day, which will result in an increase in disciplinary problems and will be unpleasant.
- Flu season is approaching. What is our procedure for dealing with a situation where a student has symptoms which are consistent with flu and Covid?
- Please understand that we do miss and worry about our students and we understand the risks that are posed to them in not returning to face-to-face instruction. We want our students back, but not under these circumstances.

Mrs. Pinkleton concluded by thanking the board for their time and shared she understood this will be a difficult decision.

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Nicole Smith, 10918 S NC Hwy 62, Burlington, NC 27217

Mrs. Smith addressed the board and shared she has a son in middle school who is typically a straight "A" student. At this time he has been failing some of his classes due to the implementation of Plan C. Mrs. Smith acknowledged the principal and staff at NL Dillard Middle for being helpful with her son to assist with his grades to bring them up. She shared that her son's friends are not doing well either and would like for the students to go back to school. Mrs. Smith shared several CDC (Center for Disease Control) guidelines which recommend going back to school. Mrs. Smith also shared examples of how well some schools are doing as well as the need for social and emotional skill development. Other concerns included nutritional factors regarding students that are not receiving food as well as loss of physical activity and in some cases, the increase in obesity. Upon Covid-19, the United States is the only place that has not gone back to school. She expressed her desire for students to return to school and hoped the board would take this into consideration. If students do not go back, in her opinion, we are "dummying our kids down for the next generation."

II. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None at this time.

III. REPORTS

Bill Powell, Project Manager for the Bartlett Yancey Senior High School construction, shared a PowerPoint presentation and update (virtually).

An updated on the temporary classroom building was shared which included the projected budgeted amount of \$1,057,852 and the bid went to Quality Construction in the amount of \$1,033,000. At this time, the certificate of occupancy was received on August 14, 2020 and the punch-list is still in progress. The project was completed "on time" and "within the budget."

Updates were shared with the renovations to the high school which include project bid date of May 5, 2020 and a contract with CT Wilson Construction for \$23,250,685 (projected budgeted amount was \$29,123,510) being signed on June 16, 2020. The USDA loan closing took place on June 16, 2020 and on June 19, 2020 a notice to proceed was given. Completion of the two-story building is anticipated to be finished on August 2, 2021.

Mr. Powell acknowledged that for a project to succeed everyone must work together and much advance planning is required. Mr. Powell acknowledged the architect, county and school district for handling everything smoothly and expeditiously.

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Questions were asked of who actually was involved in the walk-thru. Mr. Powell replied that himself, the architect and Jerry Hatchett. It was shared that in the past, the Board of Education has usually participated in walk-throughs and requested that this be kept in mind once the final high school is finished. Mr. Powell shared he was not aware but would make a note of this.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Consent Agenda

Dr. Carter recommended approval of the consent agenda and noted an updated copy of the contract with the Caswell County Health Department. Dr. Carter also shared the donation to the Art's Council is in the amount of \$100. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Ross Gwynn. The motion carried unanimously to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Consent Agenda

Transfer Requests

Brantley, Autumn	Stoney Creek	to	Oakwood (K)
Williams, Robert	Stoney Creek	to	Oakwood (4 th)
McKinney, Charles	Caswell	to	Rockingham (10 th)

Memorandum of Understanding (Caswell County Schools & Caswell County Health Department)

Contract for School Services with Caswell County Schools & Caswell County Health Department

Caswell Council for the Arts = \$100.00 donation

Funds: 2.6910.801.361.810.000.00 (Board Memberships)

2. iReady ELA & Math (polled on September 16, 2020)

Dr. Carter recommended approval of iReady as presented. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve iReady as presented. Question was asked on the rationale of approval of items 2-5 as they have previously been polled. Gladys Garland shared that approval was needed for the official minutes as the polling was not unanimous. Question was asked if teachers were involved in requesting to use iReady. Dr. Carter shared that middle school teachers specifically requested to use this.

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The motion to approve iReady as presented carried 6-1 with Stanley voting "No."

Funds: Middle School = \$20,400 from Federal RLIS Funds (3.5110.109.418.000.000.00) and \$7,096.05 from Federal Title I funds (3.5330.050.418.000.000.00). iReady is a program previously utilized by middle school teachers to identify students with disabilities/exceptional education students as well as students who need additional support with closing attainment of essential skills gaps for content mastery. This serving as an overall diagnostic and intervention support tool for our students.

3. Learning.com (renewal of licenses for students)

Dr. Carter recommended approval of Learning.com. Donna Hudson moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve Learning.com for digital literacy needs as presented. The motion carried 6-1 with Beggarly voting "No."

License renewals

Funds: PRC 078 (NCDPI K-8 Digital Literacy Initiative)

Amount: \$12,180 (allocated by the state for this item only) / (Digital Learning Curriculum funded by the state under State Contract for Tier 1)

4. UPS Battery Backup System with CDW-G

Dr. Carter recommended approval of contract with CDW-G for UPS Battery Backup System. Ross Gwynn moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley. The motion carried 6-1 with Beggarly voting "No."

Funds: Lottery Funds / Safety Upgrade

Battery backup system for all network sites = Amount = \$13,006.90

5. Chromebooks = CDW-G

Dr. Carter recommended purchase of chromebooks with CDW-G as presented. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Donna Hudson. The motion carried 5-2 with Battle and Beggarly voting "No."

Funds: PRC 124 (Corona Virus Relief Funds)

Purchase of 130 chromebooks to replace first group of 800 old (out-of-date) chromebooks in 2021.

Amount: \$58,382.53

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6. Driver's Educational Proposal

Dr. Carter share that due to Mr. Lindsey Page retiring from the Driver's Ed. program alternative options were reviewed. Three quotes were received and Dr. Carter recommended approval of NC Driving School as presented and shared that the board attorney has reviewed the draft contract.

Upon questioning, Finance Director Amy Chandler shared that we are allotted \$39,000 and ranges in \$192/\$195 per ADM (Average Daily Membership). Mrs. Chandler also shared it can be included that students can do virtual bookwork and participate in face-to-face driving work. Students currently pay \$65 and this is the current price to continue with this contract and review and re-evaluate next year. This will allow funds to cover the costs and we may have excess expenditures for this fiscal year.

Upon no further discussion, Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Donna Hudson, to approve NC Driving School for the Driver's Education Program as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

NC Driving School	\$30.00	Per pupil classroom instruction
	\$170.00	Per pupil behind the wheel training
	\$200.00	Total per pupil cost
	\$34,000	Cost estimate per 170 students

7. Resolutions

Resolutions for Ada Lipscomb and Ann Everitt were read aloud. Vennie Beggarly moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve the resolutions as presented. The motion carried unanimously.

*Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Ada Florence Oliver Lipscomb*



WHEREAS, Ada Florence Oliver Lipscomb, was born on August 13, 1941, and resided at 335 Oak Tree Street, Yanceyville, NC, 27379, at the time of her death on September 9, 2020, and

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

WHEREAS, Ada Lipscomb was a faithful member of Blackwell Missionary Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Ada Lipscomb was employed with Caswell County Schools as a bus aide prior to her retirement. She will be remembered for her commitment to education; and being known for her 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 Ada Lipscomb 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 2020.

Gladys Garland, Chairman

Wayne Owen, Vice Chairman

Mel O. Battle

Vennie Beggarly

Ross Gwynn, Jr.

Donna R. Hudson

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

***Resolution in Memorial and Appreciation
Of the Life of
Ann Gunn Everitt***

WHEREAS, Ann Gunn Everitt, was born on February 27, 1936, and resided at 263 Main Street, Yanceyville, NC, 27379, at the time of her death on September 10, 2020, and

WHEREAS, Ann Everitt, was a faithful and devoted wife, loving mother to her two sons, and friend to many. Her family's welfare was her major and constant concern; and

WHEREAS, Ann Everitt was a very active member in her community where she was involved in her church, and served in various local organizations. Her favorite pastimes included painting, photography, quilting, needlepoint, and cross stitching; and

WHEREAS, Ann Everitt graduated from Bartlett Yancey Senior High School in 1954. Afterwards she received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology from Duke University in 1958. Mrs. Everitt moved to New York where she attended Pratt Institute, receiving her Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree in Graphic Arts and Illustrations in 1963. While in New York she met and married the love of her life on June 23, 1962 and relocated back to her hometown of Yanceyville, NC and has resided since 1966; and

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WHEREAS, Ann Everitt valued her community and the children of Caswell County Schools. She served faithfully for 27 years as Chairman of the Caswell County Board of Education from 1975 to 2002. She was instrumental in leading the Board of Education and being known for her wealth of history of Caswell County. She will be remembered for her commitment to education; and being known for her 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 Ann Everitt 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 2020.

Gladys Garland, Chairman

Wayne Owen, Vice Chairman

Mel O. Battle

Vennie Beggarly

Ross Gwynn, Jr.

Donna R. Hudson

Tracy P. Stanley

Dr. Sandra Carter, Superintendent

8. School Plans

Dr. Carter shared information had been presented to the board during the work session held prior to the board meeting and survey results along with data was reviewed. Based on all the information at this time, Dr. Carter recommended to continue with Plan C for the remainder of the first semester and to allow high school athletics to start up with strict safety protocols based on the North Carolina High School Athletic Associations (NCHSAA) guidelines and not allow spectators at this time.

Ross Gwynn moved, seconded by Wayne Owen.

Questions were addressed regarding if this was only for high school athletics and Dr. Carter confirmed it was only for high school following NCHSAA.

Principal of Bartlett Yancey Senior High School, Lance Stokes, addressed the board and shared if approved they will follow strict guidelines and phase in the students as sports become available. Safety of all students and staff would be priority. A board member shared that the students will have to make a choice of what sport they want to participate in due to these guidelines and timeframes and shared

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concerns with not allowing students to come back to school but can come back to condition for sports.

Mr. Stokes shared it will be difficult and gave examples of a drive thru process for students who desire to participate in sports. Once cleared, a meeting with parents will take place and all practices will be supervised at all times. Practices will be cut to 30-minutes to factor in temperature checks, etc., and changes may need to be made based on the NCHSAA. Mr. Stokes shared that he wasn't aware of any guidelines regarding spectators at this time. He is preparing for no more than 25 inside and no clear definition has been given on other outside events. Dr. Carter shared she will recommend no spectators at this time.

A board member questioned what happens if after a week of practice a Covid incident occurs. Mr. Stokes shared he would follow the guidelines of the NCHSAA and CDC (Center for Disease Control) and games and/or practices may have to be cancelled.

Mr. Stokes shared things he would like the board to consider which included students not in school and having inequitable transportation. He also shared the question "is this fair to our students" to approve sports but not returning to school. Some students cannot arrive to school without the yellow bus transportation and be available to participate in sports and felt this creates barriers for our students.

Upon discussion and concerns Dr. Carter amended her recommendation to include continuing with Plan C for the remainder of the first semester and the board will review again in November. Ross Gwynn amended his motion to include the recommendation, Wayne Owen seconded. The motion to approve Plan C for the remainder of the first semester was approved 6-1 with Beggarly voting "No."

Dr. Carter recommended approval of high school sports moving forward following guidelines from the NCHSAA as outlined and to include no spectators at this time.

Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen.

Question was asked of what other systems are doing in regards to spectators. Mr. Tyrrell shared he has not seen anything in regards to spectators. Dr. Carter shared she would like to move forward with athletic conditioning and continue to monitor any Covid case numbers.

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Upon no further discussion, the motion by Mel Battle, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve moving forward with high school sports following NCHSAA guidelines was approved 4-3 with Garland, Stanley, Beggarly voting “No.”

IV. SUPERINTENDENT UPDATES

None at this time.

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 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 after a short break. Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

VII. OPEN SESSION

Ross Gwynn made the motion to go into Open Session, seconded by Wayne Owen. The motion carried unanimously.

VIII. PERSONNEL

Vennie Beggarly made a motion to approve the Personnel listing as presented, seconded by Wayne Owen. The motion carried unanimously.

Resignation	
South Elementary	Shondra Coleman, Custodian = Eff. 9/10/2020
NL Dillard	Amy Willis, EC Teacher Asst. = Eff. 9/1/2020
Transfer	
Stoney Creek	Kelly Dunlap, Bus Driver (NLD to SC)
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Desera Placer, Bus Driver (SC to BYSHS)
Oakwood	Shenica Williams, Bus Driver (South to Oakwood)
Employment	
Bartlett Yancey Sr. High School	Ruby Gray, Bus Driver

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Dr. Carter recommended approval for Superintendent and Board Chair to have authorization to sign off on purchases needed for USDA funding and previous approved grant funding in regards to the high school construction. Ross Gwynn moved, seconded by Tracy Stanley to approve Superintendent and Board Chair to have authorization to sign off on purchases needed for USDA funding and previous approved grant funding in regards to the high school construction. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carter recommended approval for Principal, Carla Murray, at North Elementary to be held harmless as in previous years. Tracy Stanley moved, seconded by Mel Battle, to approve Carla Murray to be held harmless with pay. The motion carried unanimously.

Dr. Carter recommended approval of termination of employee Deborah Johnson. Mel Battle moved, seconded by Wayne Owen, to approve termination of Deborah Johnson. The motion carried unanimously.

X. COMMUNICATIONS

Gladys Garland shared dates on upcoming Fall Law Conference.

XI. BOARD MEMBER OBSERVATIONS

A discussion was held regarding the procedure for rescheduling board meetings. This topic will be added to a future meeting.

XI. ADJOURN

Ross Gwynn made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 p.m., Vennie Beggarly seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The next regular meeting of the Board of Education is on October 12, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. in the Caswell County Schools Administration Building.

Gladys Garland
Chairman

Dr. Sandra Carter
Superintendent