

**Jackson County Board of Education  
Minutes of Regular Meeting  
Sylva, North Carolina**

398 Hospital Road

February 25, 2016

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 25, 2016, at the School Board Administrative Offices, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Ken Henke, Chairman  
Ali Laird-Large, Vice Chair  
Matt Wike  
Elizabeth Cooper  
Margaret McRae – via telephone

Also present were Dr. Michael Murray, Superintendent; Dr. Kim Elliott, Assistant Superintendent; Mr. Chris Campbell, School Board Attorney; and Cora Fields, Board Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Ken Henke called the business meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

*Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.*

**OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Reg Moody, Jr. asked to speak about employment with Jackson County Public Schools. His comments have been moved to Closed Session to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information.

**CONSENT ACTION AGENDA**

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Matt Wike, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Open Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of January 26, 2016.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

- A. **Agenda Item:** Superintendent's Report  
**Presenter:** Dr. Michael Murray

Dr. Murray updated the board on the items as follows:

1. Dr. Murray informed the board about the results of the first Lego League NC State Championships. Two Fairview Elementary School Lego Robotics Teams advance to the championship this year, The Eco Geeks and The Giant Purple Penguins. During the competition, they presented a research project on this year's topic – Trash, presented their robot designs and programs, competed in team building activities and competed in the robot games. The 7<sup>th</sup> grade team, the Eco Geeks, placed first in project research out of 59 teams. They also placed 7<sup>th</sup> out of 59 teams in the Robot Game. The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> grade team, The Giant Purple Penguins, placed 17<sup>th</sup> out of 59 teams in the Robot Game.
2. Dr. Murray informed the board that Mountain Youth Charities made a generous donation of \$5,000.00 to Blue Ridge School, to be used for a tutor program.
3. Dr. Murray attended a reception this morning, hosted by Champion Credit Union, as part of their Schooled on Savings campaign. The campaign set a goal of saving their members at least \$100,000.00 in loan interest by refinancing with them. They pledged to donate this money to the nine local school districts they serve if they reached this goal. Dr. Murray accepted a generous check for \$5,560.00 at the reception, and indicated that this money will go directly to support the students of Jackson County.
4. Dr. Murray presented Mr. Ken Henke, Board Chair, with a Certificate from the North Carolina School Boards Association, for Outstanding Boardsmanship for 2014-2015.

**B. Agenda Item:** Maintenance Update  
 Presenter: Darin Allison, Maintenance Director

Mr. Allison updated the board on the following maintenance projects:

- We have pre-bid meetings scheduled for roof replacement at Smoky Mountain High School "A" building and Smokey Mountain Elementary Commons Area
- Smokey Mountain Elementary Roof Replacement must now occur FY 15-16; this is an emergency status and moves HVAC to next school year
- Bonitz Roofing will be performing work at Fairview
- Pre-bid meeting is scheduled for roof replacement for the Smokey Mountain Elementary Commons Area
- Scott Farmer Grading will be doing grade work at the Cullowhee Valley playground area
- R&M Excavating will be removing dirt at the bus garage to accommodate additional usable space

**C. Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary  
 Presenter: Dr. Kim Elliott, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Elliott presented the Unaudited Financial Summary for February 26, 2016.

### **ACTION AGENDA**

- A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments and Transfers  
**Presenter:** Dr. Kim Elliott, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Elliott asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers for the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Specific Revenue Fund.

*Action: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed Budget Amendments and Transfers.*

- B. **Agenda Item:** Audited Financial Statements – Dixon Hughes Goodman, CPA  
**Presenter:** Ms. Kendra Ferguson, Engagement Manager

Ms. Ferguson presented the draft audited financial statements and asked for board approval.

*Action: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Matt Wike, the board voted unanimously to approve the Draft Audited Financial Statements.*

- C. **Agenda Item:** Calendar Approval for 2016-2017  
**Presenter:** Dr. Kim Elliott, Assistant Superintendent

Dr. Elliott presented the Smoky Mountain District and Blue Ridge District school calendars to the board and asked for approval.

*Action: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to approve the school calendar for 2016-2017.*

- D. **Agenda Item:** Field Trip Request  
**Presenter:** Dr. Michael L. Murray

1. New Echota Way – Jackson County Early College, Grade 10, Woodstock, GA, Mar. 31, 2016 to Apr. 1, 2016, TT #2290
2. Peace Center – Jackson County Early College, Grades 9-12, Greenville, SC, Apr. 22, 2016, TT #2203
3. NC All State Choral Festival – Smoky Mountain High School, Grades 9-12, Raleigh, NC, Apr. 28 to 30, 2016, TT #2208
4. HOSA State Competition – Smoky Mountain High School, Grades 9-12, Greensboro, NC, Mar. 30, 2016 to Apr. 2, 2016, TT #2232 – This field trip was replaced by TT #2349 – Change in mode of transportation and chaperones was noted.
5. Pigeon Forge – Smokey Mountain Elementary School, Grades 6-8, Pigeon Forge, TN, Mar. 12, 2016, TT #2300

Dr. Murray reviewed the above listed field trip requests and asked the board for approval.

*Action: Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Matt Wike, the board voted unanimously to approve the above listed field trips.*

**CLOSED SESSION**

*The board unanimously approved a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143.318.11 for the following purposes: under subsection; (a) (1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-32 and (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by attorney-client privilege.*

*Upon a motion by Mr. Matt Wike and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to return to open session.*

### **OPEN SESSION**

**Action:** *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird Large and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Meeting on January 26, 2016.

### **PERSONNEL ACTION AGENDA**

**Action:** *A motion was made by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large to approve the personnel agenda as recommended by Dr. Murray and was seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

#### **Employee Recommendations:**

1. Bell, Tasha – School Nutrition Assistant, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
2. Carr, Gloria Jean – Interim Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
3. Clawson, Jennifer – Administrative Assistant for Maintenance Department, Central Office
4. Cope, Greg – Custodian and Substitute Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
5. Edmonds, Doris – Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
6. Francis, Ernie – Tutor, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
7. Graning, Evelyn – Assistant Principal, Scotts Creek Elementary School
8. Holt, Adam – Director of Testing and Accountability, Central Office
9. Johnson, James “Jake” – Substitute Custodian, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
10. Jones, Steven J. – Bus Driver and Fuel Truck Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School and Bus Garage
11. King, Beverly – Teacher, Smoky Mountain High School
12. Nicholson, Travis – Custodian and Bus Driver, Scotts Creek Elementary School
13. Prokop, Beth – Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, CVES, SMES, SCES, FVES
14. Setzer, Ronald – Custodian and Substitute Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
15. Shephard, Vaudie – School Nutrition Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School
16. Stepp, Peggy – Substitute Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
17. Stokes, Anna – School Nutrition Assistant from 5 to 5.5 hours, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
18. Walker, Sherry – School Nutrition Assistant, Smoky Mountain High School
19. Young, Tiffany – Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

**Employee Resignations:**

1. Awtrey, John – Custodian, Smoky Mountain High School
2. Dyer, Rita – Custodian, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
3. Fisher, Tammy – EC Teacher, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
4. Graves, Darrin – Teacher, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
5. Houser, Allison – Tutor, Blue Ridge School
6. Lanning, Shannon – Custodian, Scotts Creek Elementary School
7. Lehman, Danielle – Teacher, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
8. Rhinehart, Marty – Custodian and Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
9. Stokes, Paige – After School Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School

**Employee Retirements:**

1. Potter, Joseph – School Nutrition Assistant, Scotts Creek Elementary School

**Non-Staff Coach Recommendations:**

1. Blanton, Morgan – Head Coach Junior Varsity Softball, Smoky Mountain High School
2. Broome, Mallory – Assistant Coach Junior Varsity Softball, Smoky Mountain High School
3. Dean, Kaylie – Head Coach Middle School Track, District-wide
4. Feldman, Eric – Head Coach Baseball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
5. Hayes, Taylor – Head Coach Softball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
6. Leaming, Zachary – Assistant Coach Middle School Track, District-wide
7. Scott, Cassandra – Assistant Coach Softball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

**Staff Coach Recommendations:**

1. Extine, Jamie – Head Coach Junior Varsity Baseball, Smoky Mountain High School
2. Tuttle, Aaron – Assistant Coach Junior Varsity Baseball, Smoky Mountain High School
3. Taylor, Mark – Assistant Athletic Director - Spring, Smoky Mountain High School

**FYI – BOARD ACTION NOT REQUIRED**

**Staff and Non-Staff Returning Coaches:**

**Blue Ridge Early College**

1. Mull, Jim – Head Coach Middle School Basketball

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is March 15, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, Sylva, North Carolina.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no objection, Chairman Ken Henke adjourned the meeting at 6:48 p.m.

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Ken Henke, Chairman

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Dr. Michael L. Murray, Secretary