

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

Central Office Board Room

March 15, 2016

6:00 p.m.

The Jackson County Board of Education met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, at the Central Office Board Room, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina. The following members were present:

Ken Henke, Chairman
Ali Laird-Large, Vice-Chairman
Elizabeth Cooper
Matt Wike
Margaret McRae

Also present were Dr. Michael Murray, Superintendent; Dr. Kimberly Elliott, Assistant Superintendent, Chad Donnahoo, 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. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the Agenda.

OPEN SESSION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Denny Wood spoke in opposition to the synthetic turf field proposal at Smoky Mountain High School. He cited concerns over the use of crumb rubber in the artificial turf, and asked the board to reconsider moving forward with installing the new synthetic turf field.

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 and Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 25, 2016.

INFORMATION AGENDA

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

Dr. Murray updated the board on the following activities during the previous month:

1. Dr. Murray attended the Smoky Mountain STEM collaborative NASA grant kickoff meeting on Friday, March 4th. Our school system in collaboration with Southwestern Community College, Appalachian State University, Macon County Schools, Swain County Schools, Marshall Space Center, and Pisgah Astronomical Research Institute was awarded a competitive grant through NASA worth in the next five years 1.5 million dollars to the collaborative group. This exciting adventure will bring STEM knowledge in physics, calculus, planetary science, earth science, astronomy, and optical systems to middle, high, and postsecondary students. The grant money will provide field-based experiences for middle, secondary, and college students, astronomical equipment, STEM clubs, STEM Summer camps, undergraduate research in physics, astronomy and math, graduate level training for SCC instructors in astronomy, physics, and math at Appalachian, teacher professional development, and mini-grants.
2. Dr. Murray announced the results of the 2016 Regional Science Olympiad that was recently held at UNCA. Fairview Elementary School and Smoky Mountain High School placed well. Fairview took first place in Middle School Varsity, third place in Middle School Junior Varsity and Smoky Mountain High School placed third in High School Varsity. The Fairview Varsity Team earned 10 gold medals out of 23 events.
3. Dr. Murray informed the board that Jackson County Commissioners have given a \$9 million dollar commitment for funding the critical facility needs for Jackson County Public Schools.

B. Agenda Item: Maintenance Update

Presenter: Mr. Darin Allison, Maintenance Director

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

Smoky Mountain High School

- Initial contact with engineer regarding water leak in the heating tunnels
- Roof Replacement bid opening scheduled for March 24, 2016

Scotts Creek Elementary School

- Replacement of main breaker planned for Spring Break

Smokey Mountain Elementary School

- Roof Replacement bid opening scheduled for March 24, 2016
- Reece, Noland & McElrath Engineers planned walk through for HVAC upgrade

Maintenance Department

- Completed and closed 577 work orders since mid-November.

Jackson County Public Schools Facilities

- Working on a Memorandum of Agreement with Jackson County to provide snow removal at all JCPS facilities.

C. Agenda Item: AIG Update

Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills, Elementary Education Director

Mrs. Dills updated the board on the AIG program. We are currently in the third year of the 3 year plan and will be revising the AIG Plan for the coming year based on State Board of Instruction requirements and stakeholder input.

- D. **Agenda Item:** NFL Artificial Turf Grant Discussion
Presenter: Mr. Patrick Bradshaw

Mr. Bradshaw provided the board with the bid tabulations for the NFL Artificial Turf Grant. He discussed the synthetic turf options which include crumb rubber, walnut, coconut, sand and zeolite. He explained that there is a significant cost difference in using the eco-friendly zeolite option.

- E. **Agenda Item:** Unaudited Financial Summary
Presenter: Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer

Gwen Edwards presented the Unaudited Financial Summary for March 7, 2016.

ACTION AGENDA

- A. **Agenda Item:** Budget Amendments
Presenter: Gwen Edwards, Finance Officer

Mrs. Edwards asked for approval of budget amendments and transfers for the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Other Specific Revenue Fund, and other local transfers.

***Action:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to approve the state public school fund, federal grant fund, local current expense fund, and other local transfers and budget amendments.*

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

Dr. Elliott informed the board that JCPS is eligible to apply for a LEA based Calendar Waiver due to missing eight or more days of school due to inclement weather and asked the board for approval to submit the waiver request.

***Action:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the submission of the LEA based Calendar Waiver.*

- C. **Agenda Item:** Approval of Draft Waiver Calendar for 2016-2017
Presenter: Dr. Elliott

Dr. Elliott asked the board for approval of the 2016-2017 Weather Waiver Calendar.

***Action:** Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the 2016-2017 Weather Waiver Calendar.*

- D. **Agenda Item:** Selection of Turf Material
Presenter: Dr. Murray

Dr. Murray discussed the synthetic turf options with the board which include crumb rubber, walnut, coconut, sand and zeolite. He said the cost difference in using the eco-friendly zeolite

option is approximately \$200,000.00. Dr. Murray asked the board for approval of the eco-friendly zeolite option.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Matt Wike, the board voted four to one to approve the Option 3 eco-friendly turf material.*

The board authorized the Superintendent to approach the County Commissioners about additional funding to pursue the organic turf option and to authorize the Superintendent to enter into a contract for the eco-friendly turf option on behalf of the board.

Mr. Henke asked Mr. Denny Wood if he would like make additional comments due to his concerns about the crumb rubber option. Mr. Wood stated that he felt that any use of funds for a synthetic turf field was fiscally irresponsible and urged the board to use these funds for other athletic improvements, like a track or softball field for the girl's teams.

E. Agenda Item: Resolution – JCPS/SCC Sales Tax Referendum
Presenter: Dr. Murray

Dr. Murray informed the board about a proposed quarter-cent Tax Referendum being considered by Jackson County that would be on the June ballot. He stated that this tax would add approximately 1.4 million dollars annually that will go to Jackson County Public Schools and Southwestern Community College. Dr. Murray asked the board to approve the JCPS and SCC Resolution Supporting the Jackson County Sales Tax Referendum.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mr. Matt Wike, the board voted unanimously to approve the JCPS/SCC Sales Tax Referendum Resolution.*

F. Agenda Item: Approval for JCPS Summer Academic Camp 2016
Presenter: Mrs. Laura Dills and Mr. Jason Watson

Mrs. Dills and Mr. Watson updated the board with the plans for the Summer Academic Camp which will provide remediation and enrichment for students. Ms. Dills stated that the Academic Camp is voluntary and will be offered to all students in JCPS, and asked the board for approval.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Cooper, the board voted unanimously to approve the JCPS Summer Academic Camp for 2016.*

G. Agenda Item: Cherokee Culture Day at Smokey Mountain Elementary School
Presenter: Dr. Elliott

Dr. Elliott presented a letter from Ms. Amber Fox, Assistant Principal, Smokey Mountain Elementary School, asking for approval for the Primitive Skills, Blowgun and Archery stations at Cherokee Culture Day on April 1, 2016.

Action: *Upon a motion by Mrs. Ali Laird-Large and seconded by Mrs. Margaret McRae, the board voted unanimously to approve the Cherokee Culture Day at Smokey Mountain Elementary School on April 1, 2016.*

H. Agenda Item: Policy Updates
Presenter: Dr. Murray

1. Board Authority and Duties (1010)
2. Governing Principals (1100)
3. Governing Principals – Student Success (1200)
4. Code of Ethics for School Board Members (2120)
5. Board Member Conflict of Interest (2121)
6. Board Member Opportunities for Development (2123)
7. Parliamentary Procedures (2340)
8. Quorum (2341)
9. Board Policies (2400)
10. Board Attorney (2610)
11. Focus on Students (4000)
12. Public Records – Retention, Release, and Disposition (5070/7350)
13. Electronically Stored Information Retention (5071/7351)
14. Support Services (6000)
15. Student Health Services (6120)
16. Fiscal Goals (8000)
17. Budget Planning and Adoption (8100)
18. Planning to Address Facility Needs (9000)

Dr. Murray reviewed the above listed policy updates and asked the board for approval.

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

I. Agenda Item: Field Trip Requests
Presenter: Dr. Michael L. Murray, Superintendent

1. Balsam Lake Lodge – Cullowhee Valley Elementary School, Lifeskills Class Grades K-7, Balsam Lake, NC, May 19-20, 2016, TT 2347
2. Outer Banks – Fairview Elementary School, Grade 8, Kinnakeet, NC, April 26-29, 2016, TT 2357
3. Dollywood - Blue Ridge Early College, Grades 9-12, Pigeon Forge, TN, April 15, 2016, TT 2317
4. Science Olympiad – Fairview Elementary School, Grades 6-8, NCSU PNC Center, Raleigh, NC, April 22, 2016 to April 24, 2016, TT 2381
5. Six Flags Over Georgia – Smoky Mountain High School, Grades 9-11, Austell, GA, Apr. 16, 2016, TT 2379
6. Science Olympiad – Smoky Mountain High School, Grades 9-12, NCSU Raleigh, NC, Apr. 22-24, 2016, TT 2401

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. Margaret McRae 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 Mrs. Ali Laird- Large 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. Elizabeth Cooper, the board unanimously approved the consent action agenda:*

- A. Closed Session Minutes of Regular Meeting of February 25, 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. Margaret McRae. The board unanimously approved the following recommendations:*

Employee Recommendations:

1. Burns, Jennifer – Activity Bus Driver, Middle School Athletics
2. Dunford, Olin – Activity Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
3. Guelcher, Jeffrey – Activity Bus Driver, Smoky Mountain High School
4. Johnson, James Jake – Custodian and Bus Driver, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
5. Pantoja, Connie – Activity Bus Driver, Smokey Mountain Elementary School
6. Reis, Kristopher – Substitute Bus Driver, School of Alternatives
7. Simmons, Si – Substitute Activity Bus Driver – Smoky Mountain High School
8. Sprinkle, Auburn AC – Lead Mechanic III, Bus Garage
9. Young, Tiffani Kaileigh – Substitute School Nutrition Assistant, CVES, SCES, BRS

Employee Resignations:

1. Guffey, James – Custodian, Smokey Mountain Elementary School

Employee Retirements:

1. Cochran, Janice – Administrative Assistant for Maintenance, Central Office
2. Mathis, Linda – School Nutrition Assistant, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School
3. Wittekind, Linda – School Social Worker, Smoky Mountain High School

Non-Staff Coach Recommendations:

1. Dew, Berkleigh – Head Coach Softball, Scotts Creek Elementary School
2. Doolin, Ashley Ann – Head Coach Softball, Scotts Creek Elementary School
3. Gammons, Samuel – Assistant Coach Baseball, Cullowhee Valley Elementary School

4. Karup, Hunter – Head Coach Baseball, Fairview Elementary School
5. O’Berry, Robin – Assistant Coach Middle School Girls Basketball, Blue Ridge Early College
6. Watson, Jason – Assistant Coach Middle School Baseball, Blue Ridge Early College

Dismissals:

1. Owen, Cynthia – School Nutrition Assistant, Fairview Elementary School

The next regularly scheduled business meeting of the Board of Education is April 26, 2016 at 6:00 p.m., at the Board of Education Administrative Office, 398 Hospital Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no objection, Chairman Ken Henke adjourned the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Ken Henke, Chairman

Dr. Michael L. Murray, Secretary