

**Board of Education
Meeting Minutes
January 8, 2024**

The Bladen County Board of Education met in a regular scheduled meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024.

Members present were:

Mr. Tim Benton, Chairman
Mr. Harfel Davis
Mr. Dennis Edwards
Mr. Steve Kwiatkowski
Mr. Keith Locklear
Mr. Mackie Singletary

Members attending virtually:

Mr. Glenn McKoy, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Chris Clark

Members absent:

Mr. Gary Rhoda

Administrative staff members present were:

Dr. Jason Atkinson, Superintendent
Ms. Ann Brown, Deputy Superintendent
Ms. Susan Harrison, Executive Officer of Finance and Business Services
Ms. Cheryl White-Smith, Executive Officer of Instruction and Specialized Services
Mrs. Deborah Guyton, Executive Director of Human Resources
Dr. Robert Heavenridge, Transportation Director
Ms. Dana Mills, CTE Director
Ms. Crystal O'Briant, School Nutrition Coordinator
Mr. Bennie Lennon, Maintenance Director
Mrs. Amy Reeves, Instructional Technology Coordinator
Mr. Jerry Faulkner, Information Technology Coordinator
Mr. Brendan McCarthy, Accountability and Title I Director

Chairman Benton called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, and thanked everyone for attending.

Dr. Atkinson gave the Invocation and students from Bladen Lakes Primary School led the Pledge of Attendance.

Chairman Benton recognized Dr. Atkinson regarding the agenda for tonight's meeting. Dr. Atkinson requested the Board to approve an amended agenda as follows:

Move 5.02 UNC Health Agreement for School-Based Services from the Consent Agenda to Information Items as 9.02.

Remove *5.04 Wide Area Network Renewal (Federal E-rate Program)* from the Consent Agenda, which will be brought back at the February 2024 meeting.

Remove *10.02 NCSBA Legislative Committee Service* from Action Items, which will be brought back at the February 2024 meeting,

Chairman Benton called for the approval of the amendment to the agenda. Mr. Keith Locklear made a motion to approve the amendment to the agenda, with a second by Mr. Mackie Singletary. The motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Benton called for the adoption of the amended agenda. Mr. Keith Locklear made a motion to adopt the amended agenda, with a second by Mr. Mackie Singletary. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Consent Agenda, the following items were presented:

- Meeting Minutes for December 11, 2023
- Distribution Request-Needs Based Capital Funding-Tar Heel Construction Project

Chairman Benton called for the approval of the Consent Agenda. Mr. Edwards made the motion for approval, followed by a second from Mr. Kwiatkowski. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Spotlights and Recognitions, the following groups and individuals were recognized:

Bladenboro Middle School Girls Soccer Team
Bladenboro Middle School Girls Volleyball Team
Elizabethtown Middle School Boys Soccer Team
East Bladen High School Tennis and Football Athletes
Coach Patty Evers

There was no citizen participation.

Dr. Atkinson shared a resolution declaring January as School Board Appreciation Month. Each Board member was recognized and gifts of appreciation were provided by the schools. Dr. Atkinson shared his appreciation for the support of the Board of Education not only this month, but always.

Under Information Item 9.01, Dr. Atkinson, filling in for Mr. Burriss, updated the Board on the Tar Heel Construction Project. The first day for students was today and everyone was excited. The asbestos abatement is completed and demolition of the old building will begin in the next few days. This will kick off the 2nd phase of the construction process.

Under Information Item 9.02, Dr. Atkinson provided a overview of the MOU with UNC Heath and discussed the program. After a period of discussion and questions, Dr. Atkinson informed the Board that he would address these questions with UNC Health and request a representative to be present either in-person or virtually, if possible, at the next Board meeting.

Under Action Item 10.01, Dr. Atkinson, filling in for Mr. Burriss, shared a draft drawing of a proposed storage building and current building as a possible option for Tar Heel School. After a period of discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Keith Locklear, and a second by Mr. Singletary to table this item until the next meeting, or if time was pressing, hold a special called meeting, to review and approve the project. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Action Item 10.03, Dr Atkinson shared information concerning the COSSBA conference and estimated costs. Under Board Policy 2130, approval of out-of-state conference attendance requires Board approval. Those who expressed interest in attending the conference were Mr. Davis and Mr. Locklear. Mr. Locklear made a motion to approve the proposed conference attendees and Mr. Davis seconded the motion. Voting in favor of the motion was Mr. Davis, Mr. Locklear, Mr. McKoy, Mr. Clark, Mr. Edwards, and Mr. Kwiatkowski. Voting against the motion was Mr. Benton and Mr. Singletary. The motion passed by a 6-2 vote.

Chairman Benton called for a motion to go into closed session for the purpose of discussing personnel, as per NCGS 143.318.11, (a) (1), to consult with an attorney, if needed, as per NCGS 143.318.11 (a) (3), and to discuss student reassignment/discipline, per the 1974 Family Rights and Privacy Act. Mr. Locklear made a motion to go into closed session, with a second by Mr. Singletary. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Locklear made a motion to come out of closed session, followed by a second from Mr. Singletary. The motion passed unanimously.

PERSONNEL LIST

Action Items - Amended

New Hires

Certified Personnel

NAME	SCHOOL	REPLACES	POSITION/ SUBJECT	EXP	COLLEGE	CERT	EFFECTIVE DATE
Sean Nunnery	WB	R. Orr	CTE Teacher	Yes		A	

Non-Certified Personnel Hires

NAME	REPLACES	SITE	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Savella Pridgen	New Position	EB	Bus Driver/Custodian	

Contracted Services

NAME	POSITION	SCHOOL	DATES
Linda Johnson	Tutor	ETP	01-22-24 through 05-17-24
Georgia Stoker	Tutor	ETP	01-22-24 through 05-17-24
Grace Anna Glenn	Tutor	BL	01-08-24 through 05-17-24
Pam Garrell	Tutor	EA	10-23-23 through 05-31-24

Coaching

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION
Alan West	EBHS	Softball Coach
James Daly	EBHS	JV Baseball Coach

Resignation(s)

Certified Personnel

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Juli Feight	ETP	Teacher	01-31-24
Christopher Clack	WB	CTE Teacher	12-07-23

Non-Certified Personnel

NAME	SCHOOL	POSITION	EFFECTIVE DATE
Laura Johnson	BBM	Bus Driver	12-15-23
Susana Valadez	DO	District Interpreter & Translator	01-05-24

Dr. Atkinson asked the Board for approval of Personnel Action List as amended. Mr. Edwards made a motion to approve, with a second by Mr. Singletary. The motion passed unanimously.

Under Matters of Interests to Board members, Mr. Edwards shared reflections from his visit to Tar Heel School today and said all of the work put into the project, even through disagreements was well worth it. He also stated that in the past, Board members had worked together to establish a rotation so everyone had an opportunity to attend conferences. Dr. Atkinson and Mr. Grady will review policy and bring a recommendation back to the Board for a possible rotation to be used.

Chairman Benton did not have a report tonight, and yielded the floor to Dr. Atkinson

Under the Superintendent's Update, Dr. Atkinson shared information about the following:

Parent's Bill of Rights – all requirements due at this time have been met.

Three Year Graduation Plan – approved in legislation, will be implemented in the 24-25 school year.

Planning Board Public Hearing Notice – property near West Bladen – Dr. Atkinson will forward the notice

Next Board Meeting – February 12, 2024

Update on traffic situation at East Bladen

Mr. Davis asked if he would mention one more item. He shared information about Sayaun Dent and the family wanting to see if the Board would allow them to use the Elizabethtown Middle School Gym for a basketball program. This is being organized by Annie Walker. Dr. Atkinson asked if the non-profit status letter and insurance information could be provided. He also shared information that the Board would have

to set aside policy to consider the request and/or to waive any fees. Dr. Atkinson also shared that once the information is turned in and paperwork is completed, this could be presented to the Board for consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Crystal Johnson
Executive Assistant to the Superintendent and Board

Tim Benton, Chairman

Dr. Jason Atkinson, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Board