



**Alleghany County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Alleghany County Board of Education, Central Office Conference Room
85 Peachtree St, Sparta, NC 28675
March 9, 2021**

Present: Amy Bottomley, Steve Carpenter, Donna Rea, and Jason Williams. Board member Jason Carpenter could not attend due to a work emergency.

Staff members present and participating: Chad Beasley; Superintendent, Scott Carter; Associate Superintendent, Fred Johnson; Board Attorney.

I. Moment of Silence.

II. Call to Order. Donna Rea, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

III. Pledge of Allegiance – Donna Rea, Board Chair asked Board Member Jason Williams, to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

IV. Public Comments – Mrs. Rea called for public comments. Mrs. Rea read a letter submitted by Iboya Pasley in regards to students participating in sports. The board agreed to amend the agenda to add the discussion as an item under New Business for discussion.

V. Approval of Agenda. Chair, Donna Rea asked for a motion to amend the agenda to include the discussion of the ban on sports for remote students as item C under New Business. Jason Williams made a motion to approve the agenda. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved 4-0.

VI. Approval of Minutes. Steve Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for February 16, 2021. Amy Bottomley seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by vote of 4-0.

VII. Announcements-Reports

A. Superintendent's Report—Mr. Beasley

1. Recognition - Blue Ribbon Award, Image and Graphic Design and Blue Ribbon Award, Digital Media Engagement. Alleghany County Schools received 1 Silver Level Award for outstanding Image and Graphic Design and 1 Silver Level Award for outstanding Digital Media Engagement. The judges praised the work of the Alleghany County Schools District Public Information Officer Mr. Steve Hall. NCSPPRA recognizes outstanding communications through its Blue Ribbon Awards program each year. Alleghany County Schools was one of 41 school districts statewide to receive a Blue Ribbon Award. This year's submission categories included: Marketing, Digital Media Engagement, Electronic Media, Excellence in Writing, Publications, Image/Graphic Design, Photography, and Special Projects and Events. Mr. Hall thanked Mr. Beasley and the board. He added that the award was a result of everyone working together.
2. Calendar 2021-2022. Mr. Beasley presented the proposed calendar for 2021-2022. He added that the earlier students can return to school with the waiver is August 16, 2021. Some of the feedback asked for extra days before school starts so optional days were added at the beginning of August. Spring Break will be before Easter since it falls so late in the month. This will give extra time before testing. The last day of school for students will be May 17th. The last day of school for teachers is May 31st. The board asked about snow days. Mr. Beasley stated that there will be five remote days and there will likely be snow days, especially if the winters are worse than this past year.
3. New End of Year School Plan. CDC wording and guidelines have changed. There is a bill in the general assembly about transportation that might allow some leniency like putting 6-8 students on buses with K-5 students which we can't currently do. The bill should pass in the next few weeks. Some problems with sending all students back the way things are now include: siblings on different buses, Sparta School would have to run double runs on all buses plus an additional bus. The 6-8 students would have to dismiss 45 minutes early. We already have a shortage of bus drivers. The double routes would run into overtime and benefits and there aren't

enough funds in the Transportation Budget. Some students would have to go to other classrooms because of the numbers.

4. **Dates for Graduation and Eighth Grade Promotion.** High School Graduation will be on Friday, May 21st at Woodruff Stadium. The chairs can be spaced to keep distance between students. With the current numbers, that would give each student 5 to 6 tickets. The eighth grade promotions will also be held at Woodruff Stadium so that more people can attend. The times will be spread apart to give time for picture taking.
5. **Summer School Plan.** Mr. Beasley noted that HB 82 has passed the house. We would be required to offer Summer School for six weeks, five hours a day, five days a week. They are now negotiating wording to go 150 hours. We have started working on a plan. The one issue is finding teachers to work. It is not mandatory that students attend. We will look at data and make recommendations to parents for students who would benefit. We have to offer transportation and two meals per day. Whenever the final bill passes, the plan will be finalized.
6. **COVID Updates.** Mr. Carter informed the board that we currently have no positive staff or students. There is one staff member in quarantine and two students who are quarantined.

VIII. New Business

A. Approval - School Calendar 2021-2022. Steve Carpenter made a motion to approve the proposed 2021-2022 School Calendar. Amy Bottomley seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 4-0.

B. Approval - FY2020-2021 Audit Contract. Steve Carpenter made a motion to approve the proposed FY 2020-2021 Audit Contract. Amy Bottomley seconded the motion. The board approved the motion 4-0.

C. Discussion of Lifting Ban for Remote Students to Attend Extra Curricular Activities. The board discussed letting the remote students attend extra-curricular activities. The discussion was brought up about the students who weren't allowed to attend or participate in sports last semester. The point was brought up that the numbers have decreased and the gathering rules have changed but they don't want to punish the students now. Jason Williams made a motion to approve lifting the ban on remote students to allow them to play sports and to participate in all extra-curricular activities. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved 4-0.

IX. Closed Session. Jason Williams made a motion to go into closed session. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to enter closed session at 6:23pm for the following purposes: to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential under state or federal law, including but not limited to N.C.G.S. 115C-3129, N.C.G.S. 115C-402, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (1); to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3); to consider the qualification, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of employment of an individual public officer or employee, or prospective public officer or employee, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6).

X. Open Session. Jason Williams made a motion to enter Open Session at 7:40pm. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved the motion to enter open session 4-0.

A. Personnel Report. On a motion by Jason Williams, seconded by Amy Bottomley, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the personnel report as presented:

New Hires Recommendations:

Karin Nichols - School food service bookkeeper/ front office assistant

Transfers:

Leighton Stalling ---Sub to 20 hours per week cafeteria staff at Glade Creek School

Volunteers:

Phillip Roosenburg
Lucas Wagg

XI. Adjourn. Jason Williams made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Amy Bottomley. The board approved the motion 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:41pm.

Chairman

Secretary