

**MINUTES OF A JOINT MEETING OF
THE JACKSON BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS AND
THE JACKSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
HELD ON MARCH 15, 2018**

The Jackson County Board of Commissioners met in a Joint Meeting with the Jackson County Public Schools on March 15, 2018, 6:00 p.m., at the Department on Aging Center, Heritage Room, 100 County Services Road, Sylva, North Carolina.

Present:

Jackson County Board of Commissioners:

Brian McMahan, Chairman	Don Adams, County Manager
Charles Elders, Vice Chair	Heather C. Baker, County Attorney
Boyce Deitz, Commissioner	Darlene Fox, Finance Director
Mickey Luker, Commissioner	Angela M. Winchester, Clerk to Board
Ron Mau, Commissioner	

Jackson Board of Education:

Ken Henke, Chairman	Dr. Kim Elliott, Superintendent
Ali Laird-Large, Board Member	Jacob Buchanan, Assistant Superintendent
Elizabeth K. Cooper, Board Member	Dr. Rebecca Ensley, Principal JCEC
Margaret McRae, Board Member	Darin Allison, Director of Capital Projects and Facilities
Wes Jamison, Board Member	Jason Watson, Director of Operations and Logistics
	Cora Fields, Assistant to the Board of Education

Chairman McMahan called the meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order.

Chairman Henke called the meeting of the Board of Education to order.

(1) **OPENING REMARKS:** Dr. Elliott stated that her remarks would be centered around an incident that happened that afternoon and if ever there was a need for a discussion about school safety it was then. She commended students, staff and everyone that worked the incident, including the Sheriff's Department, Law Enforcement, Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue. She appreciated them all.

They had been commended on their Safe Schools Plan for many years across the State of North Carolina and that day the plan worked beautifully. They kept students safe, relocated and reunified them. The students remained calm, which was critical in an emergency situation. She could not commend their emergency and law enforcement partners enough for helping to keep the students safe. They evacuation of the building was done in three minutes. She commended the administrators of the school building and the SRO that helped evacuate students. She also gave credit to their plan that did not sit on a shelf – it was reviewed, practiced and drilled and it worked. She thanked each of them for caring about the students, because they were the most important people in their lives in Jackson County Schools. She thanked the Commissioners and School Board Members for what they had done and for what they would continue to do.

(2) **JCPS RISK AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS FOR SCHOOLS:** JCPS staff presented:

(a) Five Components of Preparedness:

- Prevention
- Mitigation
- Protection
- Response
- Recovery

(b) Key Principles of Development of a Comprehensive School Emergency Operations Plan:

- Supported by all leadership
- Uses assessments to customize
- Takes an all-hazards approach
- Provides for whole school community
- Considers all settings and all times
- Collaborative process

(c) Comprehensive Risk and Emergency Management Systems Improvement Plan:

- Primary Aim: JCPS will provide safe and supportive learning and work environments for students and staff.
- Primary Driver
 - Prevention/preparedness
 - Protection
 - Mitigation
 - Response
 - Recovery
- Secondary Driver:
 - Capital structural
 - Emergency services support
 - Mental health services
 - Student support services
 - C.O.O.P.

Informational item.

(3) **CLOSED SESSION:** Dr. Elliott stated that the Board of Education would go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(8) School Safety.

Motion: Ms. Laird-Large moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(8) School Safety. Ms. Cooper seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman McMahan called for a motion to go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(9) Public Safety.

Motion: Commissioner Deitz moved that the Board go into closed session pursuant to G.S.143-318.11(a)(9) Public Safety. Commissioner Elders seconded the Motion. Motion carried.

Chairman McMahan called the regular meeting back to order and stated that no action was taken in closed session. He stated that the Boards did reviewed documents and polices and that this had been a process that had evolved for some time. Over the years, a lot had been done in the way of improving security and school safety and they were now reevaluating the priority list and time table. They reviewed items that needed to be corrected and items that could be enhanced. The school administration would be working on a list to keep everyone accountable for where they were in the process. The schools had certain requirements and duties to do certain elements and the Board of Commissioners also had a duty to do certain elements, mainly funding and making sure they had the resources to do what they saw fit to keep the students and faculty safe.

There would be no action taken that night as this was an informational session to learn what the needs were. The Board of Commissioners could potentially take action as early as Monday, March 19th on the first steps to follow up on recommendations. The Board of Commissioners would recess the meeting and continue on March 19th at 3:00 p.m. A lot of work had already taken place to get them where they were tonight and he appreciated that.

Chairman Henke stated that he appreciated the Commissioners and Board of Education Members working together. The number one priority was the safety of students, staff and faculty.

There being no further business, Chairman Henke adjourned the Board of Education meeting.

There being no further business, Chairman McMahan recessed the Board of Commissioners meeting at 8:49 p.m. to be reconvened on Monday, March 19, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Attest:

Approved:

Angela M. Winchester, Clerk
Jackson County Board of Commissioners

Brian Thomas McMahan, Chairman
Jackson County Board of Commissioners