



Board of Education

June 1, 2026 Meeting Notes

Power of Connection, Communication, and Community



Dr. Jackson invited individuals to view the "[Power of Connection, Communication, and Community](#)" video online, which showcases many of the activities that happened in the district in May 2026.

Consent Agenda



MEETING MINUTES: MAY 11, 2026

The BOE unanimously approved the meeting minutes from the May 11, 2026 board meeting, as presented.



NCSBA SPRING PLS UPDATES - SECOND READING CONTENT

The Board reviewed the NCSBA Spring 2026 policy updates, which include 15 policies with recommended revisions ranging from minor wording changes to updates based on legal developments. Four policies will be held for further review and returned to the Board at a later date, while Policy 1710/4020/7230 includes contact-information updates only.



SPARK NC MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2026-2027

CCS reviewed its partnership with Spark NC, which provides students with non-traditional learning opportunities in high-tech fields such as cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, machine learning, software development, and computer systems engineering. Students may earn one high school elective credit after completing at least eight modules, and the district now funds 10 months of the Spark Lab Facilitator position through its state CTE allotment.



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF CENTRAL CAROLINA MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the continued partnership with the Boys and Girls Club, which has operated at the George Moses Horton Professional Learning Center since 2021. The proposed continuation would allow the club to serve approximately 75 students daily and use other school facilities as needed.



COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement with Communities in Schools of Chatham County, a partnership that has supported students since the 2014–2015 school year through Student Support Specialists and targeted programs. The 2026–2027 agreement totals \$158,000 and would be funded through at-risk student funds, subject to district funding availability and budget considerations.



HISPANIC LIAISON MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the 2026–2027 Memorandum of Agreement with Hispanic Liaison to support youth development programs that help Latinx students build leadership skills, succeed academically, graduate, pursue higher education, and engage in their community. The annual cost is \$50,000 and would be funded through at-risk student funds, subject to district funding availability and budget considerations.



YELLOW SCHOOL BUS USE REQUESTS 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the approved use of yellow school buses for school-sponsored, CCS campus-to-campus field trips, along with a compiled list of typical destinations for school access and future updates as needed. The estimated cost to operate a yellow school bus for field trips is approximately \$3.49 per mile, compared with \$1.50 per mile for an activity bus plus the driver's hourly rate.



CHATHAM COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT AGREEMENT 2026-2027

The Board reviewed the proposed 2026–2027 MOU with the Chatham County Public Health Department to continue supporting student health and wellness services, including partial funding for two school nurse positions and full funding for the School Health, Physical Education, and Wellness Instructional Program Facilitator position. These roles support district-wide health and physical education programming, student wellness policy implementation, staff development, and coordination with school health partners.



CHATHAM COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

The Board reviewed an MOU between Chatham County Schools and the Chatham County Department of Social Services outlining procedures to support students in foster care, including determining whether remaining in their school of origin is in the student's best interest. The agreement also addresses collaboration on transportation arrangements and funding, with associated costs to be covered through district transportation funds as needed.



HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS STATE CHAMPION RECOGNITION

The Board recognized CCS high school student athletes who earned state honors after the May BOE meeting agenda was finalized, including state champions from Jordan-Matthews, Northwood, and Seaforth high schools. Honorees included individual champions in long jump, pole vault, and the 400m dash, Northwood's 3A Boys Team State Champions, and Northwood's 4x400m relay state championship team



2026 CONGRESSIONAL ART COMPETITION RECOGNITION

The Board recognized Taylor Thompson of Northwood High School for earning second place in the 2026 Congressional Art Competition for North Carolina's 9th District. This year's theme, "America 250," invited students to honor the nation's founding principles and the spirit of liberty. Taylor's artwork, Faith, Family and Liberty, was selected by a committee of local artists and will be displayed in U.S. Representative Richard Hudson's Washington, D.C. office for the year.



"BEST COMMUNITIES IN MUSIC EDUCATION" AWARD

The Board recognized Chatham County Schools for receiving the Best Communities for Music Education designation from The NAMM Foundation for the eighth consecutive year. CCS was one of only three districts in North Carolina to receive this national recognition, which honors districts that demonstrate outstanding commitment to music access and education for all students. The designation reflects CCS's support for music education through funding, instruction, participation, facilities, and community music-making opportunities.



EDUCATOR ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the 2025–2026 Educator Advisory Council, which includes classified and certified staff representatives recommended by each school’s principal. The group meets quarterly to provide feedback to the Superintendent and senior staff on key district topics such as professional development, budget planning, and education-related policy. CCS expressed appreciation for the council’s collaboration and service in helping ensure staff voices are represented across the district.



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL RECOGNITION

The Board recognized the 2025–2026 Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council, which included parent representatives from schools across the district. Members attended bi-monthly meetings with senior staff to learn about district initiatives, discuss current and future challenges, and provide feedback on topics such as student civility, vaping, student support services, school safety, district growth, budgeting, and communication. CCS expressed appreciation for the parents’ thoughtful suggestions, collaboration, and service in helping strengthen district and school-community engagement.



EXCELLENCE AND OPPORTUNITY CHAMPION

The Board recognized Mrs. Suzannah Pessagno as this month's Excellence and Opportunity Champion for her outstanding service as the district's McKinney-Vento Liaison and Basic Needs Coordinator. Nominated by Mrs. Carrie Little, Executive Director of Federal Programs and Title I, Mrs. Pessagno was commended for her compassion, persistence, and advocacy in connecting families with school access, basic needs, and critical community resources. Her efforts helped one family move from crisis to stable housing, reflecting the district's commitment to supporting students and families in need.



CHAMPIONS OF CHARACTER

The Board recognized Kayle Maxfield of Chatham Early College as the May Champion of Character for Citizenship and Service to the Community. Kayle has completed more than 1,000 volunteer hours and led over 20 service projects focused on youth advocacy, mental health, environmental awareness, and community engagement, demonstrating exceptional leadership and compassion across Chatham County.



POWER OF ONE AWARD - MAY

The Board recognized Norma Boone as the May Power of One Award recipient for her more than 40 years of service in education. Through her roles as a teacher, counselor, principal, and district leader in Chatham County Schools, Norma has made a lasting impact on students, staff, and families.



POWER OF ONE AWARD - JUNE

The Board recognized Dr. Anthony D. Jackson for his service as Superintendent of Chatham County Schools as he prepares to retire on June 30. The June meeting marked Dr. Jackson's final Board of Education meeting as superintendent, providing an opportunity to honor his leadership, dedication, and lasting contributions to CCS students, staff, families, and the broader community.

Information Items



OPPORTUNITY CULTURE UPDATE

The Board received an update on Chatham County Schools' implementation of the Opportunity Culture model through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Advanced Teaching Roles grant. During the 2025–2026 school year, several schools implemented Multi-Classroom Leader roles, while remaining CCS schools completed professional development and are finalizing plans for implementation. The district's goal is for all Chatham County Schools to implement Opportunity Culture during the 2026–2027 school year, with additional funding beginning in 2027–2028 to support continued professional development and implementation efforts.



UNC TAR HEEL BUSINESS ACADEMY UPDATE

Chatham County Schools presented two draft academic calendars for the 2027–2028 school year for traditional schools, with the primary differences involving the timing of Spring Break and the number of teacher workdays. The draft calendars were developed in collaboration with a districtwide committee representing teachers, staff, administrators, and parents, and a community survey will be launched in May to gather additional feedback before a final recommendation is brought to the Board of Education. Both drafts comply with North Carolina calendar law requirements and continue the district's practice of maintaining two years of approved academic calendars to support long-term planning and transparency for families and staff.



MENTAL HEALTH UPDATE

The Board received an update on Chatham County Schools' ongoing efforts to support student safety, well-being, and appropriate use of school-issued technology. The update highlighted tools and resources including Daybreak Health teletherapy services, Yondr Pouches, Gaggie, GoGuardian, Say Something Anonymous Reporting, and ZScaler, all of which are intended to promote student safety, reduce distractions, and strengthen support systems. Data shared in the presentation reflected positive outcomes, including student participation in Daybreak Health services, reported clinical improvements, and a continued decrease in suspensions and students suspended when compared with May 2024 and May 2025.

Action Items



SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATION

Superintendent Jackson presented his recommendation to name the new gymnasium planned as part of the Bennett School project the Gary Leonard Gymnasium. The naming honors Mr. Leonard's more than five decades of service to Chatham County Schools as an educator, coach, athletic director, Board of Education member, and Board Chair. The recommendation recognizes his lasting impact on students, schools, athletics, and the broader Chatham County community. **The BOE unanimously approved the Superintendent's Recommendation, as presented.**



TEACH CHATHAM SCHOLARSHIP AGREEMENT

CCS requested approval of the first Teach Chatham Scholarships, which support the district's partnership with Central Carolina Community College and UNC Chapel Hill to grow the local teacher pipeline. The scholarships total \$20,000 and will be funded through donations and other local funds, with no additional financial implications for the district. CCS will be awarding scholarships to Peyton Douglas and Landon Johnson, both 12th-grade students at Chatham Central High School. **The BOE unanimously approved the Teach Chatham Scholarship Agreement, as presented.**



LOCAL PLAN APPLICATION FOR CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) 2026-2028

CCS presented the 2026-2028 Career and Technical Education local plan, developed through the required comprehensive local needs assessment and supported by local, state, and federal CTE funds. The Board approved the plan as presented, with CTE focusing on increasing student exposure to local jobs through work-based learning, increasing industry credentials earned by students, and improving student and parent awareness of CTE course offerings and pathways. No new funds were requested, as existing CTE funding sources will support the programs included in the plan. **The BOE unanimously approved the Local Plan Application for Career & Technical Education (CTE) 2026-2028, as presented.**



2025-2026 BUDGET AMENDMENT #3

CCS presented Budget Amendment 3 for the 2025–2026 fiscal year, reconciling budgets across all major funds and establishing a total amended budget of \$150,843,374.95. The Board approved the amendment as presented, including adjustments to the State Public School Fund, Federal Grants Fund, Capital Outlay Fund, and Other Local Current Expense Fund, while maintaining balanced budgets as required by North Carolina law. Major changes included additional funding for capital improvement projects, federal program allotments, school safety, Teach Chatham, and related district priorities. **The BOE unanimously approved the 2025-2026 Budget Amendment #3, as presented.**



REQUEST TO SURPLUS PROPERTY

Chatham County Schools presented an action item requesting that Chatham County GIS parcel 0070488, a 0.72-acre parcel near JS Waters School that is no longer needed for school purposes, be declared surplus. The Board approved the item as presented, authorizing the Superintendent to offer the property to the Chatham County Board of Commissioners for the fair market value of \$4,374. If the County is not interested in purchasing the land, the Superintendent is authorized to proceed with the upset bid process.. **The BOE unanimously approved the Request to Surplus Property, as presented.**

Next Board Meeting

**Personnel Session of the
Chatham County Board of Education**

**Monday, June 29, 2026
12:00PM**

**Regular Session of the
Chatham County Board of Education**

**Monday, July 13, 2026
5:30PM**

**Central Services Building
468 Renaissance Drive
Pittsboro, NC 27312**

