The Stokes County Board of Education held a regular session on Monday, September 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office in Danbury, NC 27016.

Link for Board Regular Session Meeting:

https://tinyurl.com/2kk9zt84

The Board Members who participated were Mr. Justin Duncan, Chairman; Mr. Von Robertson, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Mike Rogers, member; Mrs. Cheryl Knight, member; and Mrs. Jessica Bennett, member.

The administration that participated: Dr. Brad Rice, Superintendent; Dr. Jared Jones, Assistant Superintendent; Neil Atkins, Director of Curriculum 6-12; Dr. Bryan Taylor, Director of Human Resources; Dr. Kimberley Thompson-Hairston, Director of Media & Technology, & PIO; Mrs. Rachel Cain, Director of Testing, Accountability and Title I; Mr. Richie Roberts, Director of Maintenance and Facilities;

Mr. Fred Johnson, Legal Counsel for the Board of Education; and Ms. Lisa Ranzo, Administrative Assistant to the Board of Education, were present.

CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Chairman Duncan, seconded by Vice-Chairman Robertson, the Board entered a closed session at 5:30 p.m. pursuant to NC General Statute 143-318.11 (a) (1), (a) (3), and (a) (6), the terms of which are incorporated herein by reference.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board of Education reconvened the open session at 6:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA
(Video 5:22 – 5:59)

Dr. Rice requested an amendment to the agenda to add an item to the Discussion Agenda (G. JROTC Training Area at SSHS).
Upon motion by Member Cheryl Knight, seconded by Member Jessica Bennett, the amended agenda was approved by a 5-0 vote.

GOOD NEWS
(Video 6:02 – 11:53)

Neil Atkins shared the following:

West Stokes High School received the 2025–2026 North Carolina Agricultural Education Program Improvement Grant, sponsored by the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission. West Stokes received $14,200 for a greenhouse restoration project.

South Stokes High School is proud to announce that its Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) program has been designated a 2025–2026 Naval Honor School, one of the highest recognitions a Marine Corps JROTC unit can receive.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
(Video 12:35 – 15:50)

Mr. Garret Earhart spoke to the Board about a letter he sent regarding a review of how the Student Dress Code is worded and enforced.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Video 16:07 – 19:25)

The consent agenda included the following:

A. Approval of Personnel and Coaching
B. Approval of Regular Session Minutes, August 17, 2026
C. Approval of NBPSCF Grant
D. Approval of Lottery Funds Request for NRES
E. Approval of Rolle with Care Coaching & Counseling Services Contract (approved in Board Poll on 8-31-26)

Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Vice-Chairman Robertson, the Board of Education approved the Consent Agenda by a 5-0 vote.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT
(Video 19:35 – 24:26)

Superintendent's Advisory Council Update: There will be 4 meetings this year (September, November, February, April). In the past, members were selected. This year, members were selected by volunteers. Dr. Rice and the Board are pleased with the large number of students who volunteered. Council meetings will be virtual. Parent and student meetings will be at night to ensure attendance.

- Students - 68
- Parents - 28
- Classified Staff - 16
- Certified Staff - 34

DISCUSSION AGENDA
(Video 24:27 – 1:40:01)

A. Discussion of ADM/Transfers (Video 24:27 – 28:13)
Dr. Jones updated the Board on ADM, including information on student transfers.

Average Daily Membership (ADM)

	5th Day ADM	10th Day ADM	1st Month ADM	3rd Month ADM
2016-2017	6059	6067	6053	6013
2017-2018	5918	5920	5920	5897
2018-2019	5814	5833	5821	5792
2019-2020	5789	5818	5792	5779
2020-2021	5466	5512	5489	5465
2021-2022	5414	5437	5422	5427
2022-2023	5498	5532	5513	5509
2023-2024	5491	5511	5495	5483
2024-2025	5446	5455	5455	5415
2025-2026	5319	5348	5337	5310
2026-2027	5272	5285		

Out-of-District Students coming INTO Stokes County Schools
As of September 11, 2026

	West District							South District						North District					SECHS	District Totals:
	PES	KES	MOES	PSES	CGMS	WSHS	Zone Total:	GES	LOND	WCES	SEMS	SSHS	Zone Total:	SRES	NRES	PGMS	NSHS	Zone Total:		
2016-2017	2	10	10	4	18	15	59	6	3	3	6	12	30	2	0	2	5	9	1	101
2017-2018	3	10	8	6	25	25	77	12	4	3	9	16	45	5	0	0	8	13	3	140
2018-2019	4	10	8	5	21	35	83	7	1	2	14	16	46	6	2	2	0	10	5	144
2019-2020	7	18	12	8	42	31	118	8	4	3	18	16	59	5	3	5	0	13	7	197
2020-2021	7	20	17	11	34	35	124	8	11	2	14	19	63	3	4	6	4	17	10	215
2021-2022	9	23	17	20	46	45	160	12	13	3	24	26	85	6	2	3	5	16	9	270
2022-2023	5	27	20	25	41	57	175	13	11	5	24	39	96	5	0	4	5	14	11	296
2023-2024	4	37	21	25	48	63	198	17	9	2	19	36	89	7	0	2	4	13	11	311
2024-2025	4	32	21	29	59	67	212	17	18	12	22	37	106	6	0	1	3	10	16	344
2025-2026	5	32	35	30	77	73	251	21	12	7	20	30	90	5	0	2	4	11	11	364
2026-2027	5	39	52	40	61	83	280	29	20	16	25	27	117	6	0	1	2	9	10	416

What Districts are Students Transferring To/From?

			Transferring From:									
Year	Total		WSFCS		Surry		Rockingham		Patrick		Other	
	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT	IN	OUT
2016-2017	101	76	76	17	13	41	8	11	4	**	0	7
2017-2018	140	78	100	19	18	40	16	8	2	**	4	10
2018-2019	144	73	104	17	19	38	16	7	2	**	3	11
2019-2020	197	78	135	16	29	48	27	6	2	**	4	8
2020-2021	215	74	159	16	24	47	21	6	6	**	5	5
2021-2022	270	106	200	23	29	67	31	8	4	**	6	9
2022-2023	296	105	226	21	25	72	36	4	3	**	6	8
2023-2024	311	141	253	23	20	103	32	11	1	**	5	4
2024-2025	344	145	285	30	17	98	35	10	1	**	6	7
2025-2026	364	157	311	34	19	105	25	10	**	**	9	8
2026-2027	416	154	364	23	18	112	24	8	**	**	10	11

2026-2027 Student Transfer Information

	In-County Transfers			Out-of-County Releases			School Totals		
	In	Out	Difference	In	Out	Difference	In	Out	Difference
Chestnut Grove Middle	19	10	9	61	16	45	80	26	54
Germanton Elementary	35	29	6	29	3	26	64	32	32
King Elementary	46	65	-19	39	1	38	85	66	19
London Elementary	40	41	-1	20	3	17	60	44	16
Mount Olive Elementary	95	46	49	52	4	48	147	50	97
Nancy Reynolds Elementary	8	48	-40	0	33	-33	8	81	-73
North Stokes High	7	20	-13	2	23	-21	9	43	-34
Piney Grove Middle	5	22	-17	1	16	-15	6	38	-32
Pinnacle Elementary	16	26	-10	5	19	-14	21	45	-24
Poplar Springs Elementary	70	38	32	40	7	33	110	45	65
Sandy Ridge Elementary	14	25	-11	6	3	3	20	28	-8
South Stokes High	30	17	13	27	5	22	57	22	35
Southeastern Stokes Middle	15	7	8	25	4	21	40	11	29
Stokes County Academy	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	1
Stokes Early College	0	0	0	10	0	10	10	0	10
Walnut Cove Elementary	54	60	-6	16	4	12	70	64	6
West Stokes High	23	23	0	82	13	69	105	36	69
Grand Total	477	477	0	416	154	262	893	631	262

B. Discussion of Fall Athletics Update (Video 28:40 – 29:36)
Dr. Jones stated that Fall sports participation numbers are healthy.

Fall 2026 Sports Participation

	Football		Volleyball		M. Soccer				Cross Country			
	JV	Varsity	JV	Varsity	JV	Varsity	W. Golf	W. Tennis	Boys	Girls	Cheer	Dance
North Stokes		22	11	15		16	2	13	4	2	9	
South Stokes	24	30	11	11		19	8	7	3	5	20	11
West Stokes	40	39	12	12	14	19	4	8	16	10	28	14

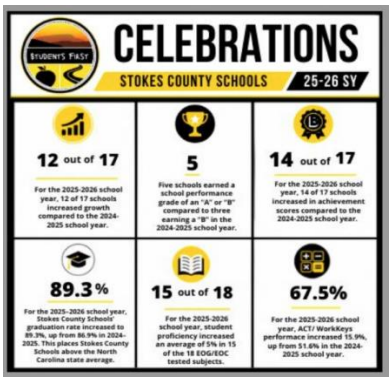
	Volleyball		Soccer				Cross Country		
	Football	"A" Team	"B" Team	Boys	Girls	W. Tennis	Boys	Girls	Cheer
Chestnut Grove	33	12	11	22	23	7	11	17	28
Piney Grove		8	9	17	11	9		4	8
Southeastern	27	9	9	17	18	4	8		11

C. Discussion of Policy 6420, Contracts with the Board (Video 29:44 – 41:26)
Dr. Rice discussed that, under current Policy 6420, the Superintendent can only approve up to $25,000 without Board approval. That amount has remained the same since 2018. Dr. Rice is requesting that the amount be amended from $25,000 to $50,000. Attorney Johnson agreed that most contracts do range from $25,000 to $50,000. Mr. Johnson and the Director of Finance would have final approval after Dr. Rice approves of contracts up to $50,000. Vice Chair Robertson asked for a list of all contracts approved by Dr. Rice by including that list in the Superintendent's Report each month. Dr. Rice agreed to supply that list to the Board. This item will be moved to the October 5, 2026 Action Agenda.

D. Discussion of Gaggle & GoGuardian Updates (Video 41:27 – 48:23)
Dr. Thompson-Hairston presented that Gaggle and GoGuardian are fully funded and used effectively. The Board complimented Dr. T-H on implementing and using these platforms.

E. Discussion of 2025-2026 Accountability Results (Video 48:24 – 1:14:21)

Rachel Cain presented the Testing and Accountability Report. The Board was pleased with the growth and thanked all the schools for their hard work and dedication. Dr. Rice reminded the Board that each school will present its School Improvement Plan over the next 3 Board meetings.



F. Discussion of Playground Equipment Assessments (Video 1:14:23 – 1:33:21)
Richie Roberts presented photos of playground equipment in need of replacement or repair at 4 elementary schools (London, Pinnacle, King, Sandy Ridge). He stated that we can apply for a grant through Game Time. We can apply for 4 grants. He also stated that if the grants are awarded, the remaining replacement and repair cost will be $425,000. He is requesting the Board's approval to apply for the grants and the $425,000 for playground improvements, if grants are awarded.
Mike Rogers made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Knight, and approved by a 5-0 vote, to move this item to Action Item E.

G. South Stokes High School JROTC Training Area (Video 1:33:25 - 1:40:01)
Richie Roberts shared information about a possible JROTC training area being constructed at the current site of the old tennis courts that are not actively being used. $110,000 is the estimated cost. Mr. Roberts is requesting permission to get bids for a JROTC training area. Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Vice-Chair Robertson and approved by a 5-0 vote, this item was moved to Action Item F.

ACTION AGENDA
(Video 1:40:13 – 1:52:47)

A. Approval of RFQ for Architectural Services for the CTE Building at WSHS (Video 1:40:13 – 1:45:30)
Richie Roberts will bring requested information to the next Board meeting. Board is asking for other options.
Mike Rogers made a motion, seconded by Cheryl Knight and approved by a 5-0 vote; this item was tabled for the Action Agenda at the October 5, 2026 meeting.

B. Approval of Bid Tabulation/South Stokes Animal Sciences Lab (Video 1:45:32 – 1:46:30)
Richie Roberts presented the bid for SSHS Animal Sciences Lab. His recommendation is Boss Buildings for $34,483.13. Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Vice-Chair Robertson, the Bid Tabulation for South Stokes Animal Sciences Lab was approved by a 5-0 vote.

C. Approval of Bid Tabulation/West Stokes Agriculture Building Addition (Video 1:46:32 – 1:49:30)
Richie Roberts presented the bid for the WSHS Agriculture Building Addition. He recommended Envisicon for $49,361.00. Upon motion by Vice-Chair Robertson, seconded by Mike Rogers, the Bid Tabulation for the West Stokes Agriculture Building was approved by a 5-0 vote.

D. Approval of revisions to BTSP (Beginning Teacher Support Program) (Video 1:49:37 – 1:51:28)
Dr. Taylor presented revisions to the Beginning Teacher Support Program. Upon motion by Cheryl Knight, seconded by Vice-Chair Robertson, the revisions to the BTSP were approved by a 5-0 vote.

E. Approval of Playground Equipment (Video 1:51:32 – 1:52:29)
Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Cheryl Knight, the application for grants and Board funding of $425,000 to replace or repair playground equipment at LES, PES, KES, SRES. If grants are not awarded, the amount of $425,000 would be used to repair existing playgrounds. The Board approved this by a 5-0 vote.

F. Approval of JROTC training area at South Stokes High School (Video 1:52:31 – 1:52:47)
Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Vice-Chair Robertson, the acquisition of bids for a JROTC training area was approved by a 5-0 vote.

INFORMATION AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
(Video 1:52:49 – 1:53:27)

Dr. Jones reviewed the Information and Announcement items on the Agenda.

PERSONNEL
September 21, 2026

Category	Last Name	First Name	Position	School	Effective Date	External Applicants	Internal Applicants	Comments
Leave of Absence	Ashford	Bob	Technology Tech	200- Central Office	8/5/26 - 11/5/26			
Leave of Absence	Carson	Rebecca	Bus Driver	304- Chestnut Gove	9/2/26 - 11/3/26			
Leave of Absence	Fowler	Heather	English Teacher	358- West Stokes	10/9/26 - 12/4/26			
Leave of Absence	Goad	Kaitlyn	3rd Grade Teacher	316- King	10/11/26 - 12/6/26			
Leave of Absence	Hall	Hannah	3rd Grade Teacher	348- Sandy Ridge	8/10/26 - 10/6/26			
Leave of Absence	Hurd	Anna	Academic Support Teacher	358- West Stokes	9/14/26 - 9/29/26			
New Hire - Permanent	Ball	Ethan	ISS TA	332- North Stokes	9/22/2026	32	4	
New Hire - Permanent	Childress	Caitlyn	Teacher Assistant	324- Stokes County Academy	9/22/2026	9	0	
New Hire - Permanent	Frisa	Carol	Receptionist/Data Manager/Financial Secretary	314- Mount Olive	9/8/2026	28	0	Board Polled 8/31/26
New Hire - Permanent	Hill	Lauren	School Counselor	352- South Stokes	9/2/2026	4	0	Board Polled 8/31/26
~~New Hire - Permanent~~	~~Lawrence~~	~~Natasha~~	~~Bus Driver~~	~~356- Walnut Gove~~	~~9/22/2026~~	3	0	Declined position
New Hire - Permanent	Mabry	Raymone	EC Bus Monitor	324- Stokes County Academy	9/8/2026	2	0	Board Polled 8/31/26
New Hire - Permanent	Marshall	Stephen	Bus Driver	304- Chestnut Grove	9/1/2026	2	0	Board Polled 8/31/26
New Hire - Permanent	Moser	Rebekah	Teacher Assistant	340- Pinnacle	9/14/2026	19	0	Board Polled 8/31/26
New Hire - Permanent	Niten	April	School Nurse	350- Southeastern	10/22/2026	11	0	
New Hire - Permanent	Poteat	Isabelle	Receptionist/Data Manager/Financial Secretary	314- Mount Olive	9/22/2026	37	0	

Resignation	Smith	Todd	Custodian	316- King/ 312-Germanton	9/1/2026			Personal reasons
Resignation	Speas	Amanda	Child Nutrition Asst	316- King	9/12/2026			Personal reasons
Retirement	Himmelspach	Renee	Media Coortinator	352- South Stokes	1/1/2027			
Declined the Position	Frisa	Carol	Receptionist/Data Manager/Financial Secretary	314- Mount Olive	9/8/2026			
For Information Only - No Action Needed								
Add Role	Barber	Gabrielle	Sub School Nutrition	001- Systemwide	8/31/2026			Currently a Bus Monitor for King ES, adding this sub role to perform when needed
Add Role	Barr	Jan	Substitute Teacher	001- Systemwide	9/22/2026			Current Approved Tutor adding Sub Teacher Assignment
Add Role	Boak	Michelle	Substitute Teacher	001- Systemwide	8/31/2026			Current Approved Tutor adding Sub Teacher Assignment
Add Role	Lawson	Travis	Sub Bus Driver	332- North Stokes	8/26/2026			Current Media Assistant, adding Sub Bus Driver role.
Add Role	Lynch	Erin	Sub Office Support	314- Mount Olive	9/1/2026			Current Tutor adding Sub role
Add Role	Roberts	Johanna	Substitute Teacher	001- Systemwide	9/22/2026			Current Sub EC Bus Monitor, adding Sub Teacher assignment
Transfer	Sullivan	Amanda	Teacher Assistant	314- Mount Olive	9/8/2026			Pinnacle to Mount Olive
Change	Baughn	Heather	Custodian	332- North Stokes	9/22/2026			Changing from part-time to full-time

Change	Buckley	Alycia	School Nutrition Assistant	316- King	9/22/2026			Increase daily hours to 5.5
Change	Mabe	Holden	School Nutrition Assistant	304- Chestnut Grove	9/22/2026			Increase daily hours to 5
Change	Martin	Melissa	Finance Secretary/Data Manager	340- Pinnacle	9/3/2026			Change start date from 9/8/2026 to 9/3/2026 Board Polled 8/31/26
Change	Wilson	Alaina	Title 1 TA	356- Walnut Cove	10/1/2026			Changing from a part time TA to a full time TA

RETURN TO CLOSED SESSION

Upon motion by Cheryl Knight, seconded by Jessica Bennett, the Board returned to closed session at 7:55 p.m. by a 5-0 vote.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Chairman Duncan, the Board returned to open session by a 5-0 vote at 8:48 p.m.

No further business was presented, and upon motion by Mike Rogers, seconded by Vice-Chair Robertson, the Board adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m. by a 5-0 vote.

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Chairperson Secretary