

**STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
COUNTY OF MCDOWELL COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
SPECIAL SESSION –APRIL 8, 2022  
LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST**

**Assembly**

The McDowell County Board of Commissioners met in Joint Session with the Board of Education and Legislature on Friday, April 8, 2022, at 8:00 a.m., in the Commissioners Board Room in the McDowell County Administrative Offices located at 69 N Main St., Marion

**Members Present**

Tony Brown, Chair; David N. Walker, Vice-Chair; Brenda Vaughn; Chris Allison; Patrick Ellis

**Members Absent**

None

**Others Present**

Ashley Wooten, County Manager; Cheryl Mitchell, Clerk to the Board; Alison Bell, Finance Director; Lake Silver, Mgmt. Asst.; Maeva Hussani, LEAD Fellow

**Board of Education**

Terry Frank, Chairman; Terry English, Vice-Chairman; Greg Barksdale; Bob Brackett; Michelle Pupoh; Beth Silver; Brian Piercy; Amy Moomaw; Supt. Mark Garrett; Brian Oliver; Suzanne Rampey, Finance Director

**Legislature**

Sen. Warren Daniel; Asst. Lydia Daniel; Rep. Dudley Greene; Rep. Jake Johnson

**Call to Order**

Chairman Brown called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Supt. Garrett gave an overview of local education priorities:

- Universal Pre-K—blending funding to accomplish a better Pre-K system; and not every child needs Pre-K
- USDA Universal Feeding—23 families will have to pay for school meals
- Needs Based School Construction Grant—thankful to the Legislature for their approval of the grants; appreciative of the availability of the lottery money; looking at capital needs for the lottery money
- Staff Retention—4<sup>th</sup> best retention rate in the state; 3% supplement achieved for teachers and an extra \$1500 bonus
- One to One Initiative—first district in the state to partner with Google for laptops; 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades have repurposed old devices for younger ages and have supplied devices for all ages, which really helped during the pandemic
- Broadband—multiple areas are without coverage; partnered with churches to supply internet during the pandemic

- School Calendar—requested to be aligned with the community colleges, which would work best for the students

Following the presentation, there was a legislative discussion among the attendees.

Chairman Brown recognized two retiring Board of Education members, Bob Brackett and Brian Piercy. Neither would be seeking re-election.

Vice Chairman Walker made a motion to adjourn at 9:50am, second by Commissioner Ellis. By a vote of 5-0 the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

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Cheryl L. Mitchell  
Clerk to the Board

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Tony G. Brown  
Chairman