

SURRY COUNTY SCHOOLS

NEWS RELEASE

Hollie Lyons, Communications Coordinator
P.O. Box 364
Dobson, North Carolina 27017
336/386-8211 Fax: 336/386-4756
E-Mail: lyonsh@surry.k12.nc.us

For Immediate Release

Coe Announces Resignation from Surry County School System Board of Education

At Monday night's board meeting, Sexton Earlie Coe announced his resignation from the Surry County Schools' Board of Education effective November 1, 2021. Superintendent Dr. Travis L. Reeves and the other board members would like to express their sincere gratitude for his service. Over his nineteen years of service, Mr. Coe was instrumental in developing many new initiatives that sought to improve the overall education and the lives of students in the Surry County School system. His inspiring leadership and friendship will not only leave a lasting impression on those he worked with directly, but a permanent legacy in the community. "While his vision and passion for the children he served will be sorely missed, we wish him the best of luck in his new endeavors," said Board Chair, Dr. Terri Mosley. "I want to personally thank him for his outstanding work and the great things he accomplished."

Mr. Coe is a native of Surry County. He graduated from Surry Central High School and attended Appalachian State University. Shortly after graduating, Mr. Coe began working for Surry County Schools in September of 1970 as a teacher. He retired with nearly thirty years of experience in December of 1999. After this, Mr. Coe was elected to the Board of Education in September of 2002 and began serving as chairman in 2003 and held the seat for thirteen years. Under his guidance as chairman, the school system built two additional schools: Pilot Mountain Middle School and Rockford Elementary School. Mr. Coe always pushed for initiatives that would improve school facilities and meet the educational needs of students. In 2014, he headed efforts to conduct a facility study with the goal of assessing all schools in the district and estimating the overall cost of improvements. Once the assessment was finished, renovation efforts began on three elementary schools in need: Dobson Elementary, Franklin Elementary, and Mountain Park Elementary. All three renovations are now completed and students have facilities they can truly be proud of. Mr. Coe also assisted the district in securing properties that connected to East Surry High School and Surry Central High School for future high school expansion projects.

Mr. Coe always advocated for innovative programs, like computer science or virtual education platforms, and strived to guide Surry County Schools with a progressive mindset. He was a champion for 1-to-1 computer usage for students and making sure that every student in the district had access to a computer. While Mr. Coe served on the board, the district hit the highest graduation rate in Surry County Schools' history at 93.8 percent in 2020.

“Please know that I have thoroughly appreciated and enjoyed the opportunity to serve the students of Surry County. I am proud of our collective achievements as a Board and look forward to seeing the great things the system will do in order to best serve the needs of our school communities. I feel lucky to have volunteered alongside some of the best educators in the state,” expressed Mr. Earlie Coe.

Superintendent Travis L. Reeves commented, “The other Board members and I cannot thank Mr. Coe enough for the dedication, passion, enthusiasm, and motivation that he has given our school system for the past nineteen years. He was instrumental in implementing many of the programs that help define the school district. We will miss him, but he will also be greatly missed by the students, staff, volunteers, and community members alike. Not only is Mr. Coe respected in Surry County, but also highly regarded across the state. We are excited for him as he moves forward with the next chapter of his life.”