

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 3, 2009

The meeting was held at the Ashe County Board of Education Annex as scheduled with Chairman King absent. Vice Chairman Jones called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Vice Chairman Jones gave a special welcome to Dr. Travis Reeves, new Superintendent of Ashe County Schools, and stated that Dr. Reeves will have full support from the Board.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the agenda following the addition of a transfer request (item 9a), and an amendment to classified personnel (item 17), changing the transfer of Elizabeth Holloway to a resignation.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on June 30, 2009.

During open comments, Dr. Beckworth commended Amy Walker and the technology staff for a superior Technology Conference that was held in July. Dr. Beckworth also thanked County Manager Dan McMillan and the County Commissioners for their support of level funding for the 2009/10 school year.

Also during open comments, Dr. Beckworth gave thanks to Principal Howell and the excellent way he and the staff at Ashe High handled the honest mathematical error that occurred in the Salutatorian graduation award. Gabriela M. and her family were extremely happy with the celebration in her honor.

Dr. Reeves recognized Dr. Larry S. Taylor, Assistant Professor with the Department of Communication at Appalachian State University, for the exemplary leadership he has shown to the staffs of the *Bulldog Breakdown* (Ashe Middle) and the *Timberwolf Tattler* (Westwood) school newspapers.

Dr. Larry S. Taylor recognized editor Penny Barker of the *Bulldog Breakdown* and editor Tammy Hutchinson of the *Timberwolf Tattler* for their placement of membership in the North Carolina Scholastic Media Association 2009. The *Bulldog Breakdown* received

an overall award ranking of “Distinction”, along with “First Place” in *News* and “First Place” in *Sports* awards. The *Timberwolf Tattler* also received an overall award of “Distinction”, “Second Place” in *News* and “Second Place” in *Sports*.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder recognized Ashe High school students Daniel F. and Dustin R. for placing 10th at the National Technology Student Association 2009. Mrs. Lowder also recognized their teacher/advisor, Mrs. Thelma Kastl for her leadership.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Terry and Melissa Munday, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter, to remain in school in Watauga County effective the 2009/10 school year.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashley Price, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter, to attend school in Alleghany County effective the 2009/10 school year.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the Appalachian State University *STEM-ICT 3D* project with Ashe Middle. This project is intended to inspire middle school students to pursue studies and careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. *STEM-ICT 3D* Project Manager Kathy Furr with Appalachian State University presented the outline for the grant. Penny Barker will be the facilitator of this project at the school level.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the *Safe Schools Plan* update for Ashe County Schools as presented by Jerry Absher.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the 2010/11 Calendar Waiver Request.

A Title I update was presented by Dr. Reeves, Phyllis Yates, and Teresa Stansberry.

Employee Conflict of Interest Policy 7730 was discussed. Dr. Reeves will present a draft with changes to the policy at the September Board meeting.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the coaching assignments at Ashe High for the 2009/10 school year.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the fall 2009 coaching assignments at Ashe Middle with the following exceptions: removal of 2 TBA assistant football coaches; change head soccer coach to TBA;

removal of request for 11 month employment for the athletic director as this is a budget item.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Transfer of Chelsea Clanton, 2nd grade teacher at Mountain View, to 2nd grade teacher at Blue Ridge, effective August 3, 2009
- Employment of Daniel Calhoun as agriculture education teacher at Ashe High, effective July 20, 2009
- Employment of Rebecca Lane as social studies and science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective August 3, 2009
- Re-employment of Meghann Roberts as math and science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective August 3, 2009
- Employment of Lorin Stubblefield as exceptional children's teacher at Ashe Middle, effective August 3, 2009
- Employment of Jennifer Wilkinson as math teacher at Ashe High, effective August 3, 2009
- Reassignment of Laura McCabe, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to interim art teacher at Mountain View, effective on or about August 27, 2009 through November 25, 2009
- Request from Kelly Gunderson, social studies and science teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence effective August 3, 2009 through August 21, 2009

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Evelyn Baker and Heather Stidhams to the list of approved substitute teachers

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- School Social Worker
- Substitute teachers
- Other certified staff as necessary to begin 2009/10 school year

CLASSIFIED

Office Support

- Resignation/retirement of Betty Mahaffey, receptionist at Blue Ridge, effective August 1, 2009

Teacher Assistant

- Re-employment of Amanda Caron as part-time teacher assistant (5 hours/day) at Blue Ridge, effective August 3, 2009

4-H Afterschool Staff

- Resignation of Danielle LaRue, 4-H onsite coordinator at Mountain View, effective end of 2008/09 school year
- Transfer of Rebecca Sullivan, 4-H onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge, to 4-H onsite coordinator at Mountain View, effective August 3, 2009
- Transfer of Ryan Little, 4-H TRAC coordinator at Blue Ridge, to 4-H TRAC coordinator at Mountain View, effective August 3, 2009
- Transfer of Julia May, 4-H TRAC coordinator at Mountain View, to 4-H TRAC coordinator at Blue Ridge, effective August 3, 2009
- Transfer of Elizabeth Holloway, 4-H SOS coordinator at Ashe Middle, to 4-H onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge, effective August 3, 2009
- Resignation of Elizabeth Holloway, 4-H onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge, effective August 3, 2009

Substitute Bus Driver

- Addition of Robert Greer to the list of approved substitute bus drivers

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- 4-H afterschool SOS staff at Ashe Middle
- Receptionist/office assistant at Blue Ridge
- Part-time cafeteria assistants at Mountain View and Westwood
- Bus driver substitutes
- Cafeteria substitutes
- Other classified staff as necessary to begin 2009/10 school year

Information items included the following upcoming events: August 3-5, are required teacher workdays; August 3, new teacher evaluation training at each school; Convocation for Ashe County Schools, *Celebrate Excellence in Ashe County Schools*, Tuesday, August 04, 2009 at 12:30 in the Ashe High School auditorium, with keynote speaker Ruby Payne, PH.D; August 6, first day of school for students.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a short recess at 9:25 pm before going into closed session to discuss personnel action

that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6)]

Upon return to regular session at 10:12 pm, the Vice Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.