

## MINUTES

### ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

September 14, 2009

The September meeting was held at the Board of Education Annex as scheduled with all members present. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda was amended and approved by general consensus of the Board following a request by Mr. Jones to postpone the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Learning Team presentation (item 9) by Ashe Middle until the next scheduled Board meeting, and a request by Mrs. Witherspoon to move the adoption of the 2009/10 Budget Resolution (item 14) to closed session.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the special meeting of the Board on July 29, 2009, the regular meeting of the Board on August 3, 2009, and the special joint meeting of the Board and the Ashe County Commissioners on August 25, 2009.

During open comments, Sara Benfield, on behalf of the Ashe Arts Council, provided information regarding the upcoming Literary Festival *A Celebration of Reading*, September 16-19, 2009. She thanked the Board for their continued support and introduced Assistant Principal Lesia Nave to provide information on the literacy program at Blue Ridge. Mrs. Nave stated that as of September 1 Blue Ridge students have read more than 1000 books in conjunction with the Literary Festival. Mrs. Benfield stated that hopefully next year more schools will become involved in this literacy program.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the request from Michael and Kellie Gore, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their children to remain in school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following requests for early graduation for school year 2009/10: Amelia B., Wil H., Tiffany L., Taylor P., Victoria W., and Marissa W.

Dr. Reeves recognized six Ashe High varsity coaches who were awarded the 2008/09 NCHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team Winners for attaining a team 3.1 aggregate GPA on a straight 4.0 scale for that designated semester.

- Men's Tennis – Daniel Newell
- Varsity Baseball – Ronnie Pruitt
- Varsity Football – Bill Strong
- Women's Tennis – Vickie Herman
- Women's Track – Alex Rollins
- Women's Varsity Basketball – Laura Foster

Dr. Reeves congratulated the coaches and the great job they do holding student-athletes accountable in both sports and academics. Athletic Director Marc Payne recognized nine other Ashe High teams that also earned NCHSAA Scholar-Athlete Team recognition for 2008/09: Cheerleading, Men's Basketball, Men's Golf, Men's Track, Softball, Volleyball, Women's Cross Country, Women's Golf, and Women's Soccer.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe Middle 21st Century Learning Team for an overnight trip to Camp Broadstone in Valle Crucis, North Carolina, October 5-6, 2009.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to attend Gardner-Webb Choral Clinic in Shelby, North Carolina, October 7-8, 2009.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to Nashville, Tennessee to participate and perform in *America Sings!*, April 29-May 2, 2010.

Dr. Reeves presented a proposed *Employee Conflict of Interest Policy* as recommended by the NCSBA. Dr. Reeves stated that School Board Attorney Fred Johnson would let the Board decide on adopting a new policy or rewording the current policy. The Board will discuss and vote on the *Employee Conflict of Interest Policy* at the next meeting in October.

A request was made by Mrs. Witherspoon to discuss in closed session the plan for Stimulus funding (item 15). There being no objection, the agenda was amended by Chairman King.

Dr. Reeves presented information on nomination procedures for the new *ACS Employee of the Month*. Dr. Reeves stated that all employees are important and this is a way to recognize those employees who go above and beyond the call of duty. Nominations for *Employee of the Month* are due by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each month. A small committee will review the nominations and present the award to the employee along with a \$25 gift card sponsored by Walmart. The *ACS Employee of the Month* will be recognized at the following regular Board meeting.

Sarah Blevins presented information on the new bimonthly publication *ACS Net News*. The first two issues are available to everyone on the ACS homepage. *ACS Net News* will provide information on school activities, awards, and interesting ACS news. The newsletter will soon be available to those who wish to subscribe.

Amy Walker provided information regarding AlertNow, the new communication tool used to better notify parents, students, and faculty of school closings, activities, and important school information.

In case of an emergency, all contact numbers will be called for parents, students, and faculty. Amy reported there has been positive feedback on the use of this new communication tool.

Kim Barnes and Sarah Blevins presented a synopsis on ABC/AYP results for 2008/09. Dr. Beckworth stated that principals, teachers, and schools are doing a great job.

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

## **CERTIFIED**

### **Teachers**

- Employment of Teresa Jill Smithers as family & consumer science teacher at Ashe High effective August 3, 2009.
- Request from Sarah Pyles, English teacher at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence effective on or about October 16, 2009 through December 31, 2009
- Request from Michelle Weller, Spanish teacher at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence effective on or about December 9, 2009 through January 29, 2010

### **Instructional Support Personnel**

- Request from Kelly Vannoy, registrar at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective August 4, 2009 through October 5, 2009

### **Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Kelly Day, Pat Hopkins, Cindy Howell, Brandy Lonon, and Debbie Pennington to the list of approved substitute teachers

### **Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions**

- Substitute teachers as necessary

## **CLASSIFIED**

### **Teacher Assistants**

- Re-employment of Rianna Barker as part-time teacher assistant (5 hours/day) at Ashe Early Learning Center effective August 10, 2009
- Re-employment of Carrie Blevins as part-time teacher assistant (5 hours/day) at Blue Ridge effective August 6, 2009

### **Coaches**

- Addition of Kendra Craven and Kassandra Roberts to the list of approved coaches at Ashe County High

### **Custodians**

- Release of Nathan Mahaffey from employment as custodian at Blue Ridge effective August 28, 2009

- Additional assignment of Rianna Barker, part-time teacher assistant at Ashe Early Learning Center, as part-time temporary custodian at Ashe Early Learning Center effective August 26 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of John Ring, substitute bus driver, as part-time temporary custodian at Mountain View effective August 26 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of Matthew Peterson, substitute teacher, as part-time temporary custodian at Ashe Middle effective August 27 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of Robert Greer, substitute bus driver, as part-time temporary custodian at Ashe High effective August 27 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of David Higgins, substitute bus driver, as part-time temporary custodian at Blue Ridge effective August 27 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of Kyle Ball, substitute bus driver, as part-time temporary custodian at Mountain View and Blue Ridge effective August 26 through August 27, 2009
- Additional temporary hours of employment for Rosemary Dorinzi, part-time custodian at Westwood effective August 26 through September 3, 2009
- Additional assignment of Kathy Hartzog, substitute teacher, as part-time temporary custodian at Ashe High effective August 27 through September 3, 2009
- Reassignment of Kathy Hartzog, substitute teacher, as temporary/interim custodian at Blue Ridge effective September 8, 2009

#### **4-H Afterschool Staff**

- Employment of Ashley Trivette as 4-H TRAC tutor coordinator at Ashe Middle effective August 13, 2009
- Resignation of Ashley Trivette, 4-H TRAC tutor coordinator at Ashe Middle effective August 28, 2009
- Employment of Elizabeth King as part-time 4-H on-site coordinator (25 hours/week) at Ashe Middle effective August 13, 2009
- Additional hours of employment for Elizabeth King, 4-H on-site coordinator at Ashe Middle, from 25 hours per week (part-time) to 30 hours per week (full time) effective September 1, 2009
- Employment of Susan Poe as 4-H afterschool on-site coordinator (full time, 30 hours per week) at Blue Ridge effective August 20, 2009
- Resignation of Susan Poe as 4-H afterschool on-site coordinator at Blue Ridge effective September 3, 2009

#### **Cafeteria Assistants**

- Reassignment of Sandra Michelle Walton from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time cafeteria assistant (25 hours/week) at Mountain View effective August 5, 2009
- Reassignment of Christina Mahaffey from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time cafeteria assistant (25 hours/week) at Westwood effective August 5, 2009

#### **Substitute Cafeteria Assistants**

- Addition of Glenda Dillard, Mary Amanda Miller, and Nieta Widner to the list of approved substitute cafeteria assistants

#### **Substitute Bus Driver**

- Addition of Thomas Farmer to the list of approved substitute bus drivers

**Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions**

- 4-H afterschool on-site coordinator at Blue Ridge
- Custodian at Blue Ridge
- Bus driver substitutes
- Cafeteria substitutes

Information items included *Upcoming Events*, a reminder of the NCSBA 2009 District Board Meeting Wednesday, September 23, 2009 at Mooresville Intermediate School, leaving at 2:00 pm., and discussion of possible dates for an October Board Retreat to be announced.

Mrs. Witherspoon gave an update on the latest State Board of Education meeting, and shared information on unannounced school visits being made by Judge Manning. Mrs. Witherspoon stressed the importance of K-2 Assessments and compliance in the elementary schools.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth at 8:25 pm gave unanimous approval to a recess before going into closed session.

The Board went into closed session at 8:33 pm and returned to regular session at 9:08 pm.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave 4-1 approval to the 2009/10 Budget Resolution as written.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to amending Section 12 of the Budget Resolution to read \$25,000 rather than \$100,000.

Mrs. Witherspoon asked that the minutes reflect that she did not approve the Budget Resolution because it did not include the teacher supplement and to note that there was enough in the State Treasurer Investment Fund (STIF) account to fund the supplements.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to the plan to use the funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to recover seven teaching positions and one teacher assistant position.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.