

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 1, 2010

The meeting was held at the Ashe County 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.

Following the postponement of two items until the regular meeting of the Board in December, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on October 4, 2010, and the special meeting of the Board on October 13, 2010.

During open comments Superintendent Reeves recognized Mr. A.B. Weaver and thanked him on behalf of students, parents and staff for serving on the Board of Education for the past eight years. Each Board member respectfully thanked Mr. Weaver for his service and dedication.

Superintendent Reeves presented the *ACS Employee of the Month* for November to Mrs. Jackie Marsh, guidance secretary at Ashe High.

November *Tech Talk* was presented by Ms. Colleen Dixon, fifth grade teacher at Mountain View. Ms. Dixon discussed how her students are enjoying math thanks to the iPod Touch. Students Brad C., Lucas P., Lyndsi H., Noah J. and Andrew H. demonstrated the many iPod applications that make fractions, multiplication, division, and Google maps fun and interesting. The students impressed the Board with one-on-one iPod demonstrations.

Relay for Life representative Adam Binder presented the 2010 awards to Superintendent Reeves on behalf of Ashe County Schools "Life Learners" team. Mr. Binder presented the *100% School Participation* award, the *Rookie Relay Team of the Year* award, a *Top 10 Team* certificate, and a contribution certificate. Mr. Binder stated this was ACS "Life Learners" first year of participation and became one of the top performers and the only team to walk all night. Superintendent Reeves thanked Team Captain Joallen Lowder and all the schools for their dedication to *Relay for Life*. Mrs. Lowder in turn gave a big thank you to each school and the following co-captains:

Ashe High – Jennifer Paisley-Smith and Jennifer Phipps

Ashe Middle – Elaine Cox

Blue Ridge – Martha Ann Wright

Mountain View – Jessica Baker

Westwood – Sonya Vannoy

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following requests for early graduation for school year 2010/11.

- Caitlin C.
- Dylan F.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Westwood 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 30, 31—April 1, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Vanguard Marching Band for an overnight trip to march in the Carrousel Parade in Charlotte, North Carolina, November 24-25, 2010.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High FFA for an overnight trip to compete in dairy judging at the Rowan County Fairgrounds in Salisbury, North Carolina, November 17-18, 2010.

Ashe County 4-H Extension Agent Jennifer Miller presented the book Secrets of Success, written by General H. Hugh Shelton, to Ashe High library. Secrets of Success is a donation from the North Carolina Agricultural Foundation Inc., the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and the General Hugh Shelton Leadership Center. This book takes a very special look into leadership and values by featuring leadership experiences from 35 men and women with unique and special North Carolina connection.

Ashe County 4-H Program Associate Linda Blackburn, along with Ashe County Extension Director Carolyn Shepherd and staff, presented information on the afterschool program *IMAGINE (Involving, Mentoring, Achieving Goals, In A Nurturing Environment)* offered at the three elementary schools and *LINK (Learning, Nurturing, Inspiring, Konnections)* offered at the middle school and the three elementary schools. Mrs. Blackburn stated that 4-H is very proud that it can offer five-star rated programs to the students in the school system.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder introduced Director of Economic Development Dr. Pat Mitchell to present information on the *Golden LEAF Foundation (GLF)* application process to fund *Project Lead the Way (PLW)* at Ashe Middle. Dr. Mitchell stated that the school system received an invitation in September 2010 to submit a Letter of Inquiry (LOI) to the GLF to apply for STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) education funding. The Foundation received 90 letters of inquiry, and Ashe County was one of the 22 selected to submit a formal application. The entire application will be presented to the Board at its December meeting. The application is due to GLF by December 17, 2010.

Communities In Schools (CIS) Program Coordinator Kendra Perkins presented an update on the CIS program. Mrs. Perkins stated the mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. The CIS mentoring program is for Ashe County students in grades 6-8 that have been identified as a student in crisis due to court involvement, attendance issues, early teen pregnancy, etc. The first CIS training was held October 12, 2010, at which time eleven community mentors were trained. Background checks are in the process of being completed on these mentors. Each student referred by a teacher or counselor must receive permission from their family to participate in the mentoring program. The next mentor training is scheduled for December 7, 2010.

Superintendent Reeves presented information on the *Race to the Top (RttT)* application. Superintendent Reeves stated that the RttT Team has met three times regarding the application process and the local plan is required and due by 5:00 pm November 8, 2010. The main focus of Ashe County Schools' local plan will be on grades K-3 reading. A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the RttT application.

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

CERTIFIED

Substitutes

- Addition of Susan Dirr, April Dawn Powers, Ronald Criss, Kathryn Overcash and Erica Roten to the list of approved substitute teachers

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Graduation coach at Ashe High funded by DSSF grant which expires at end of school year
- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED**Bus Driver**

- Reassignment of Ricky Osborne, substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools, to regular route driver (part-time <30 hours/week) at Westwood effective October 29, 2010 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Raymond Chadwick Miller, substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools to regular route driver (part-time <30 hours/week) at Blue Ridge effective October 29, 2010 (prior approval)

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Raymond Chadwick Miller to the approved substitute bus driver list effective October 8, 2010
- Addition of Daniel Wayt, Jr. and Denver Caudill to the approved substitute bus driver list effective October 12, 2010

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Lynette Eller and Linda Gilvear to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list effective October 12, 2010
- Addition of Micah Kolseth to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list effective October 21, 2010

Media Assistant/Teacher Assistant

- Verbal resignation of Sandy Beach who opted reduction in force status effective end-of-day October 8, 2010

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher assistant with PreK at Ashe Early Learning Center
- Part-time (5 hours/day) PreK teacher assistant with clerical duties at Ashe Early Learning Center (funding will expire at end of school year)
- Part-time tutors at all elementary schools
- Interim teacher assistant for exceptional children to fill leave of absence
- Part-time tutor (migrant education funding)

Information items

- Calendar of Events
- Board Dates
- Joint meeting between Ashe County Law Enforcement/District Attorney and School Administrators/SRO Officers to discuss the 17 reportable offenses as defined by law, presented by School Board Attorney Fred Johnson, November 10, 2010, beginning at 10:00 am in the Sheriff's Training Room
- Floating reception for Board Member A.B. Weaver Monday, November 22, 2010, 3:00-5:00 pm at Ashe High Cafeteria
- Education Law Training
- Smart Goal #3 from Transportation Director Shea Coldiron

Mr. Weaver thanked everyone for their kind words of support. He also expressed sincere gratitude to his wife for her support these past eight years.

A motion by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to a short recess at 8:36 pm before going into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6)].

The Board returned to regular session at 10:20 pm.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations as presented on an amended agenda.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Reassignment of Megan Lawrence from substitute teacher to interim teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View effective September 22, 2010 (to fill leave of absence)
- Reassignment of Ashley McDaniel from substitute teacher to interim art teacher at Westwood effective November 3, 2010 (to fill leave of absence)

CLASSIFIED

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Carrier Blevins from teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge to PK teacher assistant at Ashe Early Learning Center—effective date TBD

Coaches

- Addition of Harold Osborne as assistant basketball coach to the approved coaching assignment list at Ashe Middle for winter 2010/11 sports (fills one TBA position)
- Addition of Dalton Lewis as wrestling coach to the approved coaching assignment list at Ashe Middle for winter 2010/11 contingent upon results of pre-employment screening (fills one TBA position)

The Board finalized its evaluation of the Superintendent. As a result, a motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to extending the Superintendent's contract through 2014.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.