

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 7, 2010

Prior to the meeting a reception was held for new Board members from 6:15-7:00 pm in the annex.

The December meeting (rescheduled from December 6 to December 7 due to weather conditions) was held at the Board of Education annex as scheduled with all members present. Superintendent Reeves called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and recognized new Board members Polly Jones and Terry Williams.

Policy 2200, *Election of Officers/Organization of Board*, requires that the Board of Education hold an organizational meeting at the first meeting in December of each year at which time a chairman and vice chairman are elected. Following opening remarks by Superintendent Reeves, the floor was opened for nominations for chairman. A nomination by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the selection of Mr. Charles King to continue as chairman. Superintendent Reeves relinquished the meeting to Chairman King who opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Dr. Beckworth nominated Mr. C.B. Jones to continue as vice chairman with a second by Terry Williams. Chairman King declared that Mr. C.B. Jones be elected as vice chairman by acclamation. Mr. King declared that the Board would continue to meet on the first Monday night of each month (unless altered by a holiday) at 7:00 pm in the annex if there was no opposition. There was none.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. King.

The Board gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

During open comments, a singing telegram in support of arts programming was delivered by Judy Dancy and Connie Hardison from the Ashe County Arts Council.

Superintendent Reeves presented the *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* for December to Geneva Spencer, purchasing officer at the central office.

Superintendent Reeves recognized recipients of the 2010 Bright Ideas Grant Awards sponsored by BREMCO.

Dustin Farmer and Mary Howell—Ashe Middle—\$1,500 for “Adventure Ashe”
Teresa Hughes and Ron Watson—Ashe Middle—\$751 for “Project Pakistan”
Melanie Jordan and Mitchell Mash—Ashe Middle—\$1,500 for “First in Flight”
Pat Morrison, Walter Pugh, Rusty Rogers, Mark Shepherd and Susan VanWyk—Ashe High—\$1,200 for “Garden Art”
Jill Starling, Pat Morrison and Jennifer Treva—Ashe High—\$501 for “Occupational Course of Study, School Based Enterprise”
Cheryl Gamble—Westwood Elementary—\$714 for “Quilt Stories”

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on November 1, 2010, following a correction to page 6, paragraph 2, to read 2014 instead of 2013.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request for early graduation from Cory Hollefield for school year 2010/11 contingent upon completion of remaining courses.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder requested approval to submitting Project Lead the Way (PLW) to the Golden Leaf Foundation for funding. If funded, Project Lead the Way will implement the nationally recognized curriculum in the middle school, subjecting students to opportunities for preparation and success in an increasingly high-skill global economy. Students will participate in a program that allows them to explore career paths, prepare for engineering opportunities, develop attitudes and excitement for learning, and have the opportunity to enroll in a sequence of technology courses. Dr. Beckworth suggested that the sentence, "Females, minorities and low income will be involved," found on the page after the proposal description be removed as he finds it offensive. Mrs. Lowder confirmed that no new positions would be created and current CTE funds will be utilized to sustain the program. A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to submitting the PLW Grant proposal to the Golden Leaf Foundation for funding.

Director Kim Barnes and English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher Cindy Fowler presented an overview of proposed changes to the Ashe County ESL Plan in order to be in compliance with the current policies of the NC State Board of Education. A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Ashe County ESL Plan as presented.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Reassignment of Larry Dix from substitute teacher to graduation coach at Ashe High effective November 17, 2010 (temporary until the end of 2010/11 school year)
- Request from Courtney Eller, 3rd grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave effective January 7, 2011 through March 4, 2011 (FMLA = 8 weeks)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Timothy Riley to the list of approved substitute teachers

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Request from Timmy Billings, bus driver at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective November 2, 2010 through November 17, 2010 (FMLA = 11 days)
- Request from Raymond Chad Miller, bus driver at Blue Ridge, for medical leave of absence effective November 17, 2010 through January 12, 2011 (not eligible for FMLA)

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Jeff Ruegsegger and Carol Lewis to the approved substitute bus driver list

Teacher Assistants

- Request from Ginger Hopson, teacher assistant at Mountain View, for an educational leave of absence effective January 3, 2011 through end of spring semester 2010/11

- Reassignment of Angela Blevins, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective November 8, 2010 through the end of the current school year
- Reassignment of Natasha Goodman, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to part-time (5 hours/day) PreK teacher assistant with clerical duties at Ashe Early Learning Center effective December 7, 2010 through the end of the current school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim teacher assistants (2) to fill educational leaves of absence
- Substitute bus drivers as necessary
- Substitute cafeteria assistants as necessary

Dr. Beckworth and Polly Jones were selected to serve on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee.

Terry Williams was selected to serve on the 2011/12 Calendar Committee.

Chairman King was selected to serve on the Endowment Committee.

Vice Chairman Jones was selected to serve on the School Based Health Center Committee.

Director for Exceptional Children and PK Programs Teresa Stansberry presented her SMART Goals.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder presented the Board with the CTE Program Review Report. Dr. Beckworth stated that it would be helpful to have data on the number of students who have taken CTE classes that now have jobs in those areas. In reference to page 23 under *Lack of Knowledge of Opportunities*, Mr. Williams stated that a strong guidance program is needed to ensure that students are made aware of the opportunities that CTE courses provide. Mrs. Lowder announced that February is CTE month and an open house is being planned.

Director Kim Barnes presented the Board with the proposed Homeless Policy as required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Child Nutrition Director Angie Thompson presented the Board with revisions to the Procurement Plan for the Child Nutrition Program. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates presented the 2011/12 Budget Planning Process and provided an update on the preliminary budget. She gave an overview of the campaign, *Invest in North Carolina's Future: Fund Schools First*, to encourage legislators fund public schools.

Announcements included a seminar on Educational Law for Board Members on December 15, 2010 and a finance staff development seminar for Board members, directors, principals, assistant principals and school bookkeepers on January 3, 2011.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave approval to a short recess at 8:45 pm prior to going into closed session.

The Board went into closed session at 9:00 pm 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)], and

for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real estate [N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5)].

The Board returned to regular session at 10:37 pm.

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

- Request from Carl Farmer, bus driver at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence from November 8, 2010 through January 6, 2011 (FMLA=28 days)
- Request from Kathy Witherspoon, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning December 13, 2010 and ending on or about January 24, 2011 (FMLA=18 days)

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to denying the request from Pam Ellis, school nurse, to work on a part-time basis.

The Board gave prior approval to the following positions:

- Employment of a full-time custodian (10 months) at Blue Ridge
- Employment of a school nurse contingent upon Pam Ellis not wanting to work on a full-time basis

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:43 pm.