

Special Meeting
March 25, 2010

The Board held a special meeting beginning at noon for the purpose of working on the 2010/11 budget and other routine business. All members were present.

In response to the Resolution to the North Carolina General Assembly requesting relief from the number of required instructional days and/or instructional hours due to inclement weather, the Superintendent reported that he received notification that the General Assembly would waive five of the 180 days required for instruction. The Superintendent recommended that Ashe County Schools only use three of the five, thereby leaving two days to use in the event of more inclement weather. He further recommended that the last day for students would be June 4, 2010. Graduation would be held on the night of June 4 and that Project Graduation would immediately follow at Mountain View Elementary. The 215 day contract for teachers would officially end June 10—June 7-9 would be required teacher workdays and June 10 would be an optional teacher workday. All members were in agreement to the Superintendent's recommendation.

The Superintendent presented the 2010/11 School Calendar for consideration. As a trial initiative, the calendar included three non-contract days (December 20-22) that are to be used for remediation and/or enrichment opportunities for students. Following discussion, criteria to determine the concept's success or failure and the associated cost data is to be presented to the Board at its regular session on April 12, 2010.

Director of Maintenance Kenneth Richardson presented his 2010/11 budget requests that included (1) new roofs at Mountain View and the area over the Career Center at the high school; (2) an energy savings plan to convert the metal halide fixtures in all the gymnasiums to fluorescent lighting; and (3) a replacement portable man lift.

The Superintendent informed the Board that the school system has been allocated \$1,814,686 in additional Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB). The QSCBs are new bonds established as part of the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. Guidelines will be shared with the Board once they are received.

CPA Priscilla Norris reviewed the June 30, 2009 Audit Report with the Board. The school system received an unqualified audit in all funds. In future audits, the wording in Schedule 1 will be changed to read "management" rather than "the Board".

Finance Officer Phyllis Yates presented and reviewed the 2009/10 budget amendments to date. A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following budget amendments.

STATE FUND

The Ashe County Board of Education at a meeting on the 25th day of March 2010 passed the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

CODE NUMBER	CODE DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
5000	Instructional programs		526,340
6000	Supporting services	525,000	
7000	Ancillary	1,340	

EXPLANATION

- REALIGNMENT OF BUDGET TO EXPENDITURES

Total Appropriation in Current Budget	19,727,704
Amount of Increase/(Decrease) for Amendment	0
Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget	19,727,704

LOCAL CAPITAL OUTLAY FUND

The Ashe County Board of Education at a meeting on the 25th day of March 2010, passed the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the following amendments be made to the Budget Resolution for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010.

CODE NUMBER	CODE DESCRIPTION	DEBIT	CREDIT
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5000	Instructional services		
6000	Support services	546,126	
9000	Land, buildings, renovations, etc		1,256,189
3400.929	PSCF / ACHS 4 add'l classrooms	125,431	
3700.334	QSCB @ ACHS	1,088,948	
4850.120	Yellow bus installment purchase		546,126
4910	LEA match for QSCB / FB	41,810	

EXPLANATION

- REALIGNMENT OF COMPUTER LEASES, ADDITION OF 7 YELLOW BUSES PURCHASE, DELETION OF HIGH SCHOOL QSCB PROJECT (EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES)

Total Appropriation in Current Budget
Amount of Increase/(Decrease) for Amendment

4,077,131
(710,063)

Total Appropriation in Current Amended Budget

3,367,068

The Superintendent gave an overview of the 2010/11 budget process.

Budget presentations for FY 2010/11 were heard from the following groups—NCAE, represented by Sara Benfield; PENC, represented by Mary Howell; and Principals, represented by John Gregory.

Following a review of the 2009/10 budget and the current state of the economy, the 2010/11 current expense and capital outlay budget requests as recommended by the Superintendent and Finance Officer were reviewed. There was also discussion on the impact the final State budget could possibly have on the current expense.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the establishment of Fund 8 as recommended. The Board instructed the Senior Staff to contact the School Attorney to review the procedural process.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a 50 percent match up to \$7,000 towards the payment for advanced placement exams at the high school. The final amount is dependent upon the number of participants, but the cap is not to exceed \$7,000.

Technology needs will be addressed at the April or May meeting of the Board.

Employee supplements will not be reinstated in 2009/10.

Due to the known increase in the discretionary reversion for 2010/11 and the uncertainty of the final State budget, the Board reviewed and discussed potential cuts in the budget for next fiscal year.

The 2010/11 request to the County Commissioners for current expense will ask for the continuance of level funding. Funding for the School Based Health Center will be discussed at the regular meeting of the Board in April.

Due to the inflationary costs to replace furniture and equipment in the schools, the request to the Commissioners for capital outlay funding will include an increase of \$22,300 in operating needs. New capital projects amounting to \$113,278 will be taken from the school system's fund balance. These projects include 45 security cameras for yellow buses; a portable man lift; and upgrading the bleachers, basketball backstops and divider curtain in the gymnasium at the middle school.

The Board will explore the use QSCB bonds for the roofing projects at the high school and Mountain View.

As previously directed by the Board, the Superintendent directed Architect Larry Greene to reject all bids. The Board instructed the Superintendent to see legal counsel on the re-bid/negotiation process for the pool at the middle school.

Informational items included the following.

- new EPA requirements for the removal of lead paint
- Community in Schools and funding alternatives
- i3 Grant partnership with Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools
- update on bus incident
- update on textbook allotment—100% elimination in 2010/11
- update on Driver Education—unfunded in 2010/11 unless General Assembly reinstates funding

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from the ACHS Husky Showchoir to attend MUSIC IN THE PARKS at Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, TN, May 7-9, 2010.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:31 pm.