

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

JUNE 7, 2010

The June 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 for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on May 3, 2010, following an addition request made by Dr. Beckworth to include the telephone poll made from Superintendent Reeves to Board members. The following will be included in the May minutes: On May 11, 2010, the Board voted 4-1 to apply for an i3 grant with Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools and Palm Beach Schools via telephone poll by Superintendent Reeves. Yes votes—Mr. King, Mr. Jones, Mr. Weaver, and Mrs. Witherspoon, no vote—Dr. Beckworth.

Superintendent Reeves recognized the May *ACS Employee of the Month* Mrs. April Blevins, receptionist at Ashe High, and the June *ACS Employee of the Month* Mrs. Patsy Taylor, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View. He presented each with a certificate.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High FFA for an overnight trip to attend the State FFA Convention in Raleigh, North Carolina, June 22-24, 2010. FFA Advisor Daniel Calhoun presented Superintendent Reeves with a plaque, certificate, and lapel pin for being awarded with an *Honorary Chapter FFA Degree 2010* by the National FFA Organization.

Ashe County Schools Family Support Facilitator Tara Miller and Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC) Representative Fawn Roark presented information on Communities In Schools (CIS). Also present and in support of CIS were Grier Hurley, Department of Social Services Attorney and Glendora Chapman, Director of CIS for Wilkes County. The mission of CIS is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. CIS has become the nation's leading dropout prevention organization. CIS ensures students have a positive relationship with a caring adult and a safe place to learn and grow. CIS of North Carolina serves 39 counties throughout the state and would like to serve the children of Ashe County. A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval for Mrs. Miller to begin the implementation of CIS as presented.

Director of Career and Technical Education Joallen Lowder and Ashe Middle Principal Earl Pennington presented information on Project Lead The Way (PLTW) and the opportunity this program could provide to students of Ashe County in middle and high school and secondary education. PLTW is a not-for-profit organization established to help schools give students the knowledge they need to excel in high-tech fields. The hands-on, project/problem-based PLTW approach adds rigor to traditional technical programs and relevance to traditional academics. Mrs. Lowder and Mr. Pennington shared that there is community interest from Gates Corporation, GE Aviation, United Chemi-Con, and AEV to participate with Ashe County Schools if awarded this funding. Ashe County

was one of 46 rural, low-income LEAs in North Carolina asked to participate in the *Investing in Innovation Fund Validation Grant (i3)* through the US Department of Education. A memorandum of

Agreement was signed, reserving Ashe County Schools the right to participate. The i3 grant will be awarded in September 2010.

Assistant Superintendent of Business and Finance Phyllis Yates presented a draft of Grant Application Procedures to the Board. Mrs. Yates stated that there is a process and proper documentation that needs to be followed when applying for mini-grants (under \$1,000) and grants greater than \$1,000. Mrs. Yates will share this information with principals and directors and present a final draft to the Board at the regular August meeting.

Director of Technology Amy Walker and Lead Technology Facilitator Kevin Jones presented future plans to upgrade and provide wireless network infrastructure to each classroom. Mr. Jones stated that a wireless infrastructure will boost coverage and offer flexibility for all teachers and students. A wireless network will also provide great freedom for all users, offering anytime, anywhere learning for students. Coverage, security, speed, and the capability of upgrading are also important factors in a wireless infrastructure.

Superintendent Reeves presented suggested revisions to Policy 3420, *Student Accountability Standards*, and Policy 3460, *Graduation Requirements*, to comply with current state and local policies. These policy revisions will be voted on at the next Board meeting.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request to submit the 2010/11 Title III Application.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the Title I Plan.

Director of Exceptional Children and AIG Coordinator Teresa Stansberry presented the 2010-2013 Academically/Intellectually Gifted Education Plan (AIG) for Ashe County Schools. The Board will vote on the AIG Plan at the next Board meeting.

The Board agreed to hold the regular meeting for July on June 30, 2010, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Board of Education Annex.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to awarding the following career contracts.

- Ashe High—Travis Bennett, Kathy Evans (and Ashe Middle), Mary Beth Knight, Jennifer Phipps, Walter Pugh, Wes Rousseau, Bill Strong, Mike Tasso, and Harry Van Wyk
- Ashe Middle—Sarah Hash, Teresa Hughes, Mitchell Mash, and Lorin Stubblefield
- Blue Ridge—Jenna Cash, Chelsea Clanton, Jada Mast, and Misty Prichard
- Mountain View—Barbara Heufel, Pat Lanno, Jessica Roland (Ashe Dev. Day), Kera Rumfelt, and Michelle Weller
- Westwood—Angela Carson, Cara Elliott, Vickie Flanagan, Mandy Keziah, and Holly McClure

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the following probationary contracts. Dr. Beckworth abstained from the vote due to conflict of interest.

- Ashe High—Mark Baldwin, Josh Beckworth, Daniel Calhoun, Margaret Fernandez, Leigh Howle, Christyn Rivers, Mark Shepherd, Edgar Simmons, Stephen Simms, Jill Smithers, Sarah Tugman, Jennifer Wilkinson, and Lindsey Williams
- Ashe Middle—Patricia Barker, Janice Brice-Nash, Gina Calhoun, Harry Calloway, Joshua Church, Summer Davis, Kelly Gunderson, Johnna Jackson, Rebecca Lane, Gordon Prince, Meghann Roberts, Stephanie Stolt, and Horace Thompson
- Blue Ridge—Tonya Denny, Summer Severt, Kimberly Turnmire, and Matthew Hoskins
- Mountain View—Kelly Lambert, Eva Osborne, and Jana Wyatt
- Westwood—Jessica Beckworth, Shannon Coldiron, John Franca, Mary Greene, Audrea Little, Kari Truax, Shannon Williamson, and Kristen Winn

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

- Westwood—Karen Toomey

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

CERTIFIED

School Nurse

- Reassignment of Tarren Pruitt, interim school nurse at Mountain View, to interim school nurse at Westwood, effective May 13, 2010 and ending on June 7, 2010

Teachers

- Resignation/retirement of Carolyn P. Reynolds, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, effective July 1, 2010
- Transfer of Chelsea Clanton, 2nd grade teacher at Blue Ridge, to 2nd grade teacher at Mountain View, effective August 2, 2010
- Transfer of Lorin Stubblefield, teacher of exception children at Ashe Middle, to teacher of exception children (OCS) at Ashe High, effective August 2, 2010
- Transfer of Holly S. McClure, teacher of exception children at Ashe High, to teacher of exceptional children at Ashe Middle, effective August 2, 2010
- Request from Tania Rollins, 2nd grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave of absence effective May 24, 2010 through June 10, 2010 (FMLA = 14 days)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Sheri Lawrence, Kayla Rash, and Kayla Sink to the list of approved substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Robert Clark, bus driver at Mountain View, effective end of day May 28, 2010

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of Mechille Reavis to the list of approved substitute bus drivers

Cafeteria Assistants

- Resignation/retirement of Rosemary Brown, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective August 1, 2010
- Resignation/retirement of Billy Lambert, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2010
- Request from Ann Eldreth, cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence effective May 17 through end of 2009/10 school year (FMLA= 3 weeks + 1 day)

Custodians

- Request from Lydia Calloway, custodian at Ashe Early Learning Center, for a medical leave of absence effective May 25 and ending on or about June 30, 2010 (FMLA=5 weeks + 2 days)
- Employment of Jerry Dale Goodman as interim custodian (3rd shift) at Ashe High effective May 4, 2010
- Additional assignment of David Higgins, substitute bus driver, as part-time temporary custodian at Ashe Early Learning Center effective May 27, 2010

Tutor

- Resignation of Jennifer Muniz, ESL tutor at Blue Ridge, effective end of school year 2009/10

Information items included the following.

- Ashe County Schools 3rd Annual Summer Technology Conference “Under the BIG Top” at Ashe County High School, June 22-24, 2010
- Ashe County Board of Education 9th Annual Endowment Fund Golf Tournament at Jefferson Landing, Wednesday, July 21, 2010, beginning at 9:00 am
- New ACS Logo
- Relay for Life at Ashe County High School, Friday, July 16, 2010, beginning at 6:00 pm

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to taking a short recess at 10:04 pm prior to going into closed session to consider a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board. [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(6)] and to discuss [the terms of an employment contract]. [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(5)].

Upon return to regular session at 12:02 am, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave 4-1 approval to the employment of Joyce Gardner as director of k-12 curriculum effective July 1, 2010. Yes votes—Mr. King, Mr. Jones, Dr. Beckworth, and Mr. Weaver, no vote—Mrs. Witherspoon.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave 4-1 approval to the employment of Jennifer Robinson as principal at Westwood effective July 1, 2010. Yes votes—Mr. King, Mr. Jones, Dr. Beckworth, and Mrs. Witherspoon, no vote—Mr. Weaver.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to entering into a three-year contract with the auditing firm of Anderson Smith and Wike PLLC to audit the Board of Education accounts effective with the 2009/10 fiscal year. The Board instructed the finance officer to pen a letter to Priscilla Norris CPA on behalf of the Board of Education, expressing appreciation for her service for the past 11 years.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to accepting the recommendation of Superintendent Reeves to terminate the employment of Greg Adams, custodian at Ashe High.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 12:06 am.

On June 15, 2010, the Board adopted the following resolution to apply for Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) for a new metal roof at Mountain View and a new metal roof at Ashe High/Career Center. This resolution passed with a 5-0 vote via telephone poll by Superintendent Reeves.

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING AUTHORITY TO ISSUE
QUALIFIED SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION BONDS**

WHEREAS, through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), the United States Congress authorized the issuance of Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB), where qualifying school districts could issue interest free bonds to be used for the construction, rehabilitation, or repair of a public school facility, or for the acquisition of land on which such a facility is to be constructed; and

WHEREAS, the State of North Carolina has been allocated, through ARRA, a total of \$292,364,539 for calendar year 2010 for Qualified School Construction Bonds for use by the Local Education Agencies within North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the State Board of Education has allocated a portion of the QSCB funds to the Ashe County Board of Education, said portion being a minimum of \$1,814,686;

WHEREAS, the Ashe County School System has immediate capital needs which qualify for the use of QSCB funds as outlined in the attached Exhibit B (Ashe County High School/Career Center roof) and Exhibit C (roof at Mountain View Elementary School); and

WHEREAS, the application deadline for the school system to become eligible for QSCB funds is June 15, 2010.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Education of the Ashe County School System:

SECTION 1. That this Board hereby authorizes the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, and Legal Counsel of this Board to make application to the NC Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Planning, for authorization to issue Qualified School Construction Bonds in the amount of \$1,814,686.

SECTION 2. That this Board further authorizes and directs the Superintendent, Chief Financial Officer, and Legal Counsel to take any and all actions necessary to qualify the school system for QSCB funding and to make certain funds are provided in a timely manner to assist in the construction projects.

SECTION 3. That the Chief Financial Officer of the Board is hereby directed to forward a certified copy of this resolution along with the Application for Authorization and Proposed Spending Plan and Project Schedule for each of the eligible projects.

Approved by the Ashe County Board of Education this the 15th day of June, 2010.