

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 13, 2010

The meeting was held at the Ashe County Board of Education Annex as scheduled with all members present except Chairman King who recently had surgery. Vice-Chairman Jones called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following a revision in the order of the agenda items, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on August 2, 2010. This motion included a change in the wording to the last sentence in the paragraph following personnel recommendations to read, *After much discussion and by general consensus, the Board agreed to take a look at a list of possible training opportunities in which Superintendent Reeves will obtain from Mr. Johnson.*

In open comments, Art and Education Coordinator Rebecca Herman with Ashe County Arts Council shared information on the upcoming 2010/11 school programming. The Arts Council, along with Ashe County Schools, will sponsor 45 programs that focus on dance, music, storytelling, and theatre. Ms. Herman also stated that September 14-18 2010, is the 3rd Annual Ashe County's Literary Festival *On the Same Page*. The focus of the festival is on reading and writing about North Carolina people, places, and traditions. Ashe Arts Council is dedicated in bringing quality, entertaining, and timely art education to the students of Ashe County. Vice-Chairman Jones thanked the Arts Council for all they do and their partnership with Ashe County Schools.

A Public Hearing regarding Qualified School Construction Bonds (QSCB) began as Superintendent Reeves opened the floor for any questions. There were no public comments or questions. A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the transfer of the Mountain View Elementary School property to the Ashe County Commissioners for the purpose of utilizing this property as collateral for obtaining QSCB for the purpose of constructing a new metal roof at Mountain View Elementary, a new metal roof at Ashe County Career Center, and a new four classroom addition at Ashe County High School. Architect Larry Greene answered questions from the Board on the three construction projects. Vice-Chairman Jones thanked County Manager Dan McMillan and the Ashe County Commissioners for the good working relationship.

Superintendent Reeves presented the bid tabulations for Ashe Middle swimming pool renovations. Five bids came in with the lowest at \$242,921 and the highest at \$317,000. Upon striking the word operation, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to awarding the low bid of \$242,921 to Vannoy Construction of Jefferson, North Carolina and to the following resolution between Ashe County Board of Education, Ashe County Board of Commissioners, and Ashe County Middle School Pool Committee. The pool project is a collaboration between the three groups in which each is contributing one-third (approximately \$83,000) of the projected \$250,000 for renovations. The community group has raised approximately \$55,000 including pledges. The pool project is expected to take 75 days to complete. The Board was very appreciative and thanked County Manager Dan McMillan and the County Commissioners for working together on this project. Mrs. Witherspoon stated that this endeavor has been a true community project.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS the Ashe County Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners of Ashe County and the Ashe County pool project committee have entered into a Joint Use Agreement for the construction of a swimming facility at Ashe County Middle School; and

WHEREAS the cost of construction of this swimming pool facility is to be paid equally by the Ashe County Board of Education, the Ashe County Board of Commissioners, and the Ashe County Middle School pool project committee; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education has submitted for public bids the plans and specifications for this swimming facility; and

WHEREAS Vannoy Construction Company has submitted the lowest bid for this project in the sum of \$242,921; and

WHEREAS the Board of Education wishes to accept this bid and to proceed with the construction of this swimming facility as provided in the aforesaid Joint Use Agreement;

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Ashe County Board of Education as follows:

1. The bid of Vannoy Construction Company of \$242,921 for the construction of the swimming facility at Ashe Middle school is hereby accepted;
2. The cost of construction of the swimming facility shall be paid jointly by the Ashe County Board of Education, the Ashe County Board of Commissioners, and the Ashe County Middle School Group, each to be responsible for payment of one-third (\$83,333) of the cost of construction of the swimming facility;
3. The Ashe County School Board of Education has already contributed \$7,151 for engineering and bidding cost and will contribute \$76,182 to the remaining project.
4. A copy of this Resolution shall be delivered to the Board of Commissioners of Ashe County and to the Ashe County Community Group for approval.

Superintendent Reeves recognized Technology Technician Travis Bennett as the September *ACS Employee of the Month* and presented him with a certificate.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a request from Tina Lewis who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to remain in school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth (a Board member left the meeting to take a phone call) gave 3-0 approval to a request from Greg and Shelly Russell who reside in Ashe County, to allow their son to remain in school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave 3-0 approval to a request from Thomas and Crystal Douglas who reside in Ashe County, to allow their children to remain in school in Alleghany County effective immediately.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave 3-0 approval to the following requests for early graduation for school year 2010/11.

- Charles B.
- Kendall C.
- Anna R.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth (Board member returned) gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High JROTC for an overnight caving trip to the Lost Sea in Sweetwater, Tennessee, October 16-17, 2010.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to Atlanta, Georgia to participate and perform in *America Sings!*, April 28-May 1, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to compete in *Music in the Parks*, May 13-15, 2011.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request to apply for the GEAR UP Grant through Appalachian State University.

Transportation Director Shea Coldiron presented the new Bus Driver Handbook. Board members felt this handbook was needed and well done.

Technology Director Amy Walker presented *Tech Talk*, a new segment that will be added to the monthly meetings to showcase teachers and technology in the schools. Mrs. Walker introduced Jodi Grubb, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe Middle. Mrs. Grubb presented a power point that highlighted several of her students and demonstrated how SMART Board technology has amazingly increased students' interaction in her classroom.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the 2011/12 LEA Calendar Waiver Request for Weather Related Causes as required by the State Board of Education.

Superintendent Reeves presented information regarding Board staff development and options for obtaining the mandated requirement of 12 hours of training annually. After much discussion, the Board asked Superintendent Reeves to contact School Board Attorney Fred Johnson regarding the possibility of a four-hour training that could include School Law and other topics. Training offered by Mr. Johnson will also be offered to other local school systems to help defer the cost if they are interested. Superintendent Reeves is to also clarify the actual cost of scheduled webinars offered by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) to obtain credit hours. Several Board members, Superintendent Reeves and Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates will travel to Mount Airy, North Carolina this month for the NCSBA District 7 meeting. Board members attending will receive four renewal credit hours. It was also mentioned that Board member could receive credit hours by attending the local summer technology/curriculum conference.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave a 3-1 vote to discuss personnel recommendations after closed session.

Information items

- Calendar of Events
- Selection of voting delegates for NCSBA 41st Annual Conference
- Golden LEAF STEM Initiative
- Special Initiative Funding HRSA-10-214
- ACS Employee Health Fair October 11, 2010

On a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver unanimous approval was given at 9:20 pm to taking a short recess before going into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of the Board [N.C. General Statue §143-318.11(a)(6)].

Closed session began at 9:34 pm. Upon return to regular session at 11:41 pm, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to the personnel recommendations as presented with the following changes:

- Employment of Shaw, Lingelbach and Vannoy should read temporary rather than prior approval
- Obtain clarification of funding for the additional football coaches at the middle school
- Prior approval to search for an interim school nurse due to the extension of Pam Ellis' medical leave through October 26, 2010
- Acceptance of the resignation from Lydia Calloway as custodian at Ashe Early Learning effective end-of-day August 23, 2010 as previously received by the Board

There being no further business the Vice-Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 11:45 pm.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Sandy Shaw as temporary 6th grade teacher at Blue Ridge effective September 7, 2010 (prior approval)
- Employment of Amber Jones Lingelbach as temporary 1st grade teacher at Blue Ridge effective September 7, 2010 (prior approval)
- Re-assignment of Brandi Vannoy from substitute teacher to temporary 6th grade teacher at Westwood effective September 7, 2010 (prior approval)
- Resignation of Lorin Stubblefield, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High, effective September 16, 2010
- Request from Teresa Williams, teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective August 24, 2010, ending on or about January 3, 2011 (FMLA = 9 weeks + 1 day)
- Request from Rachel Sexton, math teacher at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence effective October 30, 2010, through February 11, 2011 (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Olivia Snyder, art teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave of absence effective September 7, 2010, through November 29, 2010 (FMLA = 11 weeks)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Kristi Gill Booker, Stacy Merrell, Josh Snyder, Patrick Smith, April Perry, Ashley McDaniel, Marcia Mincer, David Smith, Megan Lawrence, Eliza Hagaman, James Gee, Karen Toomey, Marilyn Cope, and Kayla Furches Blevins to the list of approved substitute teachers

School Nurse

- Request from Pam Ellis, school nurse at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective August 23, 2010, ending on or about September 14, 2010 (FMLA = 3 weeks + 1 day)

Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions

- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle
- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED

Afterschool

- Re-employment of Amanda Caron Gouge, part-time teacher assistant during the 2009/10 school year, as full-time 4-H on-site coordinator at Blue Ridge effective August 9, 2010 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Jennifer Ball from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to full-time 4-H afterschool onsite coordinator (LINK program) at Ashe Middle effective August 9, 2010 (prior approval)

Bus Drivers

- Resignation of Rodney Cheek as bus driver at Westwood effective end of day September 3, 2010
- Resignation of Herbert R. "Sonny" Vannoy as bus driver at Mountain View effective end of day September 10, 2010
- Release of Lisa Cheek, bus driver at Ashe Middle, from employment with Ashe Middle effective end of day August 13, 2010
- Reassignment of Robert Carlton McNeill from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Mountain View effective August 4, 2010
- Request from Terry Woods, bus driver at Ashe Middle, for intermittent leave of absence during the 2010/11 school year

Bus Garage

- Employment of Michael Craig Little as part-time interim fuel truck driver effective August 6, 2010
- Employment of Michael Brinegar as mechanic at the Bus Garage effective September 7, 2010

Cafeteria Assistants

- Employment of Tammy Mallette as part-time temporary (5 hours/day) cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective August 2, 2010 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Teresa Ham from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time temporary (3 hours/day) cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective August 5, 2010
- Reassignment of Angela Calhoun from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time temporary (4 hours/day) cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective August 5, 2010
- Increase employment hours of Christina Mahaffey from part-time cafeteria assistant to full-time cafeteria assistant at Westwood effective August 9, 2010

Substitute Cafeteria Assistants

- Addition of Debra Woods and Briana Roten to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Coaches

- Addition of Mark Sheets and Gregory Richardson to the Ashe Middle approved coaches list for fall 2010. (fills TBD on approved list)

Communities in Schools Coordinator

- Re-employment of Kendra Perkins, part-time tutor during 2009/10 school year, as part-time Communities in Schools coordinator with Ashe County Schools (Ashe Middle) effective August 11, 2010

Custodian

- Employment of Clarence Dillard as full-time (10 month) 2nd shift custodian at Ashe High effective August 23, 2010

Teacher Assistants

- Re-employment of Carrie Blevins, part-time teacher assistant during 2009/10 school year, as part-time teacher assistant with prekindergarten at Blue Ridge effective August 10, 2010
- Transfer of Andrea Baker, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge, to teacher assistant of exceptional children at Ashe Developmental Day (Mountain View) effective August 2, 2010
- Increase in employment hours of Carrie Blevins from part-time teacher assistant with prekindergarten at Blue Ridge to full time teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective September 14, 2010
- Transfer of Sherry Blevins, teacher assistant for exception children at Ashe High, to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective September 14, 2010
- Transfer of Lori Robinson, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Westwood, to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective September 14, 2010

Tutors

- Re-employment of Rianna Barker, part-time tutor during the 2009/10 school year, as part-time (5 hours/day) tutor at Ashe Early Learning Center effective August 10, 2010
- Re-employment of Jennifer Muniz, part-time (15 hours/week) ESL tutor during the 2009/10 school year, as part-time (29.5 hours/week) ESL tutor at Blue Ridge effective August 23, 2010

Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions

- Regular route bus drivers
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants