

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 3, 2011

The January 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 Board gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting after movement of one personnel item to closed session.

During open comments, Sara Benfield spoke on behalf of the Ashe Chapter of NCAE. She welcomed new members Terry Williams and Polly Jones and expressed appreciation to the Board for all it does for the children and educators in Ashe County. She asked that during this budget year the Board be mindful of education positions, work in a transparent way and be open to feedback.

Superintendent Reeves presented the *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* for January to Cindy F. Lewis, secretary at Ashe County High School.

Superintendent Reeves recognized Mountain View Principal Kim Simmons as Ashe County's Principal of the Year for the second year in a row.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 7, 2010,

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Blue Ridge for an overnight trip to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition at North Guilford High School March 4-5, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to participate in the State Beta Club Convention in Greensboro February 4-6, 2011.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations:

CERTIFIED

Teacher

- Employment of Patricia Burkhart as teacher for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective January 3, 2011

Substitute Teacher

- Addition of Carl Witherspoon to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary
- Temporary math teacher at Ashe Middle

CLASSIFIED**Coaches**

- Addition of Brandi Marlow as JV cheerleading coach to the Ashe High approved coaches list for winter 2010/11

Cafeteria Assistants

- Reassignment of Tammy Mallette from temporary cafeteria assistant at Mountain View to part-time (5 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective January 3, 2011
- Reassignment of Angela Calhoun from temporary cafeteria assistant at Mountain View to part-time (4 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective January 3, 2011
- Reassignment of Mary Jane Cox from temporary cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge to part-time (5 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2011
- Reassignment of Teresa Ham from temporary cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge to part-time (3 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2011

Teacher Assistant

- Reassignment of Pachia Brinegar from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to interim teacher assistant at Mountain View effective January 3, 2011 through end of 2010/11 school year (to fill leave of absence)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Part-time (3 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge
- Custodian, full time 10-month, at Blue Ridge
- Substitute bus drivers as necessary
- Substitute cafeteria assistants as necessary

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jennifer Simcox, cafeteria assistant at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective January 3, 2011 and ending on or about February 8, 2011 (FMLA = 6 weeks)

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to *Policy 4125 Homeless Students* as required by the McKinney-Vento Homeless Act.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to *Policy 6221 Procurement Plan for Child Nutrition*.

Tech Talk was presented by Laura Bowers and Ashley Brown from Westwood Elementary. Both are trained SMART Exemplary Educators and introduced the newest teaching tools for technology—document camera, Notebook and the Slate and Response assessment tool.

The Responsiveness to Instruction (RTI) video from Blue Ridge experienced technical difficulty and will be presented at the next regular meeting.

Human Resources Director Lesia Nave presented a revision to *Policy 7540 Voluntary Shared Leave* as derived from the NC Benefits Manual. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Due to recent action at the State level, Human Resources Director Lesia Nave presented *Policy 7950 Probationary Teachers Non-Renewal*. Mrs. Nave will obtain answers to specific questions from the Board and email the answers. This policy may be tabled another month if needed.

Presentations were heard on the installation of a wireless system at the high school from three vendors—Cisco, Skyline/SkyBest, and Xirrus. The Board will consider the proposal from each vendor and take action in the near future.

Superintendent Reeves gave an overview of the plan for Alternative Safety Routes (ASR), an emergency plan designed to get students back in school as quickly as possible after large snowfalls. ASR is a very limited plan that will run main roads only on a two-hour delay schedule with designated bus stops at designated times.

The Superintendent discussed continuing the current contract for snow removal or investigating the purchase of a blade and salt spreader. The Ashe campus of Wilkes Community College (WCC) is willing to split the cost of a salt spreader. After a lengthy

discussion on details, man hours, and cost estimates, a motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave a 3-1 approval to partner with WCC to purchase a salt spreader. Dr. Beckworth opposed the motion.

Superintendent Reeves provided an update on the middle school pool project. Additional repairs are needed in order to meet code. The maintenance department can provide some of the work. Dr. Reeves will discuss the additional repairs with the County Manager and the Community Committee and report back to the Board. Dr. Beckworth suggested that Maintenance Director Kenneth Richardson obtain three bids for cost comparison. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to pursuing avenues for the repair work needed at the middle school pool.

Announcements were as follows:

- A finance staff development seminar for Board members, directors, principals, assistant principals and school bookkeepers is scheduled for January 10.
- The *Fund School First* campaign will be held at 6:00 pm on Monday, January 10, at Ashe County High.
- School Board 101 training for new members is scheduled for January 20-21 at the NCSBA complex in Raleigh.
- The Superintendent has been nominated to run on the 2011/12 ballot for NCASCD Board Member-at-Large.
- Mary Howell has been appointed to serve on the NC Professional Teaching Standards Commission as a middle school teacher as recommended by Representative Cullie Tarleton.
- The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for February 7 at 7:00 pm.

A motion by Vice chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a short recess at 10:36 pm prior to going into closed session.

The Board went into closed session at 10:49 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)].

The Board returned to regular session at 11:05 pm.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the resignation of Sherrie Hines, 8th grade math teacher at Ashe County Middle, effective January 15, 2011.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the resignation of Teresa Williams as teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View effective January 3, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous prior approval to employ an interim teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:20 pm.