

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 5, 2011

The December meeting was held at the Board of Education annex as scheduled with all members present. Superintendent Reeves called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

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 Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to Charles King continuing as chairman. Superintendent Reeves relinquished the meeting to Chairman King who opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Dr. Beckworth nominated C.B. Jones to continue as vice chairman. Chairman King declared that Mr. Jones be elected vice chairman by acclamation. There was no opposition to Mr. King's suggestion that the Board continue meeting on the first Monday night of each month (unless altered by a holiday) at 7:00 pm in the annex.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Mr. King.

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

Superintendent Reeves presented the *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* for December to Clarence Dillard, custodian at Ashe High.

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 November 7, 2011, and special meeting on November 17, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Greg and Martha Rutledge to allow their children, Taylor and Garrett, to continue in school in Watauga County effective immediately.

Dr. Beckworth inquired as to why the positions for art teachers had not been posted. The Director for Human Resources stated the posting was delayed in order to give the December college graduates the opportunity to apply. A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Administration

- Resignation of Rick Powers, principal at Blue Ridge, effective December 1, 2011 (prior approval)
- Re-employment of John Gregory as interim principal at Blue Ridge effective December 1, 2011 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)

Teacher

- Resignation/retirement of Harry VanWyk, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High, effective December 31, 2011

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Troy Moore, Sheryl Markovitch and Kelly Lynn to the list of approved substitute teachers

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jamie Little, 2nd grade teacher at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence beginning on December 13, 2011 and ending on March 6, 2012 (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Kelly Gunderson, media coordinator at Ashe Middle, to extend parental leave through January 1, 2012

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers/Bus Monitors

- Reassignment of Carrie Argetsinger from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver (≥ 5 hr per day) at Ashe High effective December 2, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)
- Reassignment of Teresa Mann from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver (≥ 5 hr per day) at Ashe High effective December 2, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)
- Transfer of Danny Day from bus driver for exceptional children at Ashe Middle to regular route bus driver at Mountain View effective November 21, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)
- Transfer of Debra Billings from regular route bus driver at Mountain View Elementary to bus driver for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective November 21, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)
- Reassignment of Mechille Reavis from substitute bus driver/bus monitor to full-time bus monitor (TSA) at Ashe High effective December 2, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)
- Reassignment of Art Eaton from substitute bus driver/bus monitor to full-time bus monitor (TSA) at Mountain View effective December 2, 2011 (prior approval November 7, 2011)

Bus Driver/Bus Monitor Substitute

- Addition of Nancy Rupard to the approved substitute bus driver list

Coaches

- Addition of Keith Phillips as assistant wrestling coach to the approved coaches list for Ashe High effective November 23, 2011

Employee Leaves

- Request from Mary Young, bus driver/cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge and Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence effective December 8, 2011 and ending on or about February 20, 2012 (FMLA = 10 weeks)
- Request from Patty Richardson, cafeteria manager at Westwood, for medical leave of absence effective December 15, 2011 and ending on or about January 26, 2012 (FMLA = 6 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Part-time cafeteria assistant
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

HR Director Lesia Nave presented information pertaining to a revision in Policy 7811 which states that a list of “qualified observers” must be approved to do observations of employees on mandatory improvement plans. The selection criterion is based on career status, masters in administration, national board certification, confidentiality and professionalism. A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the following list of qualified observers:

Jody Holleman	ACMS	Advanced Degree, Language Arts/Social Studies
Melanie Jordan	ACMS	Masters Administration, Technology, CTE/Business
Kelly Lopp	ACHS	Masters Administration, Science, Math
Melissa Ashley	WWES	National Board Certification, Masters, Elementary Ed
Danny Elderth	ACMS	National Board Certification, Math, Science, Elementary Ed, AIG
Holly McClure	ACMS	National Board Certification, EC/Middle Grades Content
Debbie Newton	MVES	National Board Certification, Masters Adm, Curriculum Instruction, AIG
Alex Rollins	ACHS	National Board Certification, Masters/Technology, Biology
Julie Taylor	ACMS	National Board Certification, Masters/EC, AIG, English
Carmen Wilson	ACHS	National Board Certification, Masters/Math, AIG
Shelia Reed	BRES	National Board Certification, Masters in Curriculum and Instruction, English 9-12, Reading Specialist

Mike Wike of Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC presented the 2010/11 comprehensive annual financial report. He reported that Ashe County received an unqualified audit report which means it was clean with no findings and of the highest level. Mr. Wike commended the school system for its foresight in building the fund balance to help offset the state and federal budget crisis, particularly for the upcoming 2012/13 fiscal year.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder, along with Chris Robinson from the Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community College, provided a presentation on Governor Perdue’s Career & College Promise which offers qualified North Carolina high school age students the opportunity to begin their two- or four-year college work while they are in high school allowing them to get a head start on their workplace and college preparation. The program is tuition free to all students who maintain a B average and meet other eligibility requirements. Career and College Promise provides three pathways to help advance eligible students’ post-high school success—College Transfer, Technical Career and Cooperative Innovative High Schools (limited availability).

Mrs. Lowder and Mr. Robinson also gave a presentation on the future of Collision Repair Technology I and II classes since it will no longer be part of the CTE curriculum in the Essential Standards. The Ashe Campus of Wilkes Community College (WCC) has tentatively agreed to provide Collision Repair to Ashe High students in the fall of 2012. The classroom component will likely be offered at the Ashe Campus of WCC and the lab component (shop) will be offered at Ashe County High School. A memorandum of agreement (MOA) will be written between Ashe County Schools and WCC to address issues such as equipment replacement, background checks of adult students, and eligibility requirements.

Superintendent Reeves, Principal Jason Krider and Counselor Mike Tasso provided information on the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) program through Appalachian State University (ASU). This program delivers mental health services through the involvement of ASU interns (third year graduate students) and licensed mental health professionals employed by ASU. Dr. Beckworth asked who would oversee the program since the counselors already have a full workload and he can see that this program may take a lot of time to administer. Counselor Tasso expressed the essential need for this program because the stress load of students has become higher since families are struggling economically which, in turn, has increased depression

and suicides. He feels this is a great opportunity to help give students the time and therapy they need. Mr. Krider assured the Board that this program would be instituted with existing personnel and that Counselor Tara Miller is willing to take the lead. Discussion was held between Board members and Dr. Kurt Michael, Certified Therapist with ASU. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval contingent upon review by the School Board's attorney of the liabilities and the memorandum of understanding with ASU.

The Program Director for Exceptional Children Teresa Stansberry asked for consideration to employ additional NC-PK personnel based on the number of high risk students enrolled. She requested an additional teacher at the Early Learning Center to class size and a teacher assistant at Blue Ridge to work between two classrooms.

Mrs. Stansberry also asked for consideration to employ a 50 percent special education teacher both at Mountain View and Blue Ridge based on the influx of severe needs children at both sites. The principals provided rationale in support of this request.

Human Resources Director Lesia Nave presented a revision to Policy 7811, *Plans for Growth and Improvement of Licensed Employees*. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Mrs. Nave next presented an update on the continuing education requirements for certified staff. During the 2011 Legislative session, the number of required CEUs was reduced from 15 to 7.5. The Board, as well as the principals that were present, did not come to a decision. Dr. Beckworth felt that the principals should make this decision.

Mr. Williams was selected to serve on the 2012/13 Calendar Committee.

Information items included the following:

- Ashe County Schools Job Description for Literacy Specialist
- North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program
- *Cheese on the 'Moo've*--November 2011 Welding Journal
- Letter to State Board Chairman Dr. Bill Harrison requesting a waiver of the five additional instructional days in the 185 day calendar for school year 2012/13
- Invitation to *A Communities in Schools Orientation*, December 13, 12:00-1:30 pm, BOE Annex
- The last day for students in the first semester is Wednesday, December 21, weather permitting.
- Common Core/Essential Standards Professional Development Day—Monday, January 2, 2012
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 2, 2012, 7:00 pm, at the central office annex.

The Board directed Dr. Reeves to submit the following Resolution in Support of the Restoration of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.

WHEREAS, the NC Teaching Fellows Program was established in 1986 by the North Carolina General Assembly to address the shortage of high quality teacher candidates as well as the recruitment of more minority and male candidates; and

WHEREAS, for the past twenty-five years, the NC Teaching Fellows Commission has received almost 50,000 applications for the Teaching Fellows scholarship, thereby showing an increased interest in teaching as a career by high quality high school seniors; and

WHEREAS, research by Dr. Gary Henry at the UNC-Chapel Hill Carolina Institute for Public Policy has found that:

- **Overall, the Teaching Fellows Program provides an effective source of teachers to the state of NC.**
- **Teaching Fellows appear to a much more able group of students and have higher SAT scores than any other group of teachers.**
- **On average, Teaching Fellows score higher on Praxis II licensure exams than all other sources of teacher preparation.**
- **Teaching Fellows are much less likely to exit NC public schools in their first three years of teaching.**
- **Teaching Fellows tend to stay longer after a five-year period.**

WHEREAS, Teaching Fellow graduates are not only master teachers, but also serve their schools and communities and the State as public school and community leaders; and

WHEREAS, the NC Teaching Fellows Program is a one-of-a-kind teacher preparation program that has a systemic, sequential, four full years of training and expanded opportunities beyond the regular college program; and

WHEREAS in 2010-11, 4,000 Teaching Fellow graduates were teaching in 99 of North Carolina's 100 counties, in rural, urban, low performing, high performing, rich, and poor school systems bringing the potential for every child in North Carolina to be taught by a NC Teaching Fellows graduate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashe County Board of hereby acknowledges the significant contributions made by the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Scholarship Program to school systems and the State of North Carolina, and respectfully requests that the North Carolina General Assembly restore the Teaching Fellows Program and provide a 2012-13 Freshman Class so that the seventeen college\university campus programs will have a full four-year contingency of Teaching Fellows who will enter the public schools as classroom teachers upon graduation from college.

Mr. Williams asked that a plaque be placed at Ashe County Cheese plant recognizing the Welding Class for their construction of the Cows if there isn't one already.

Mrs. Jones expressed concern that January 2 is designated as a Professional Development Day, stating that high school teachers need that day as a workday because they are starting out with all new classes. Principal Krider informed the Board that he has discussed this with department chairs and that an alternate plan was developed to enable teachers to use January 2 as a workday.

A motion at 9:02 pm by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a short recess prior to going into closed session 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 real estate [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)].

Closed session began at 9:40 pm and ended at 10:46 pm.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous prior approval to the interim employment of additional NC-PK personnel providing the program funds cannot carry over into the next fiscal year.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous prior approval to the interim employment of additional personnel for exceptional children at Mountain View and Blue Ridge.

On a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to accepting the resignation/retirement of Bill Strong as physical education teacher at Ashe High effective December 31, 2011. This same motion gave prior approval to the employment of an interim PE position for second semester classes.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 pm.