

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 7, 2011

The February meeting was held as scheduled with all Board members present. Prior to the regular meeting, a reception was held honoring Teacher of the Year and nominees, Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children and National Board recipients. 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.

Superintendent Reeves presented the February *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* to Carmen Wilson, math teacher at Ashe High.

Superintendent Reeves recognized the following individual school *Teacher of the Year* nominees and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Mary Beth Knight Greene, Ashe High; Dustin Farmer, Ashe Middle; Travis Richardson, Blue Ridge; Robin Nethery, Mountain View; and Sara Lambert, Westwood. Dr. Reeves recognized Blue Ridge teacher Travis Richardson as the *2010/11 Ashe County Schools Teacher of the Year* and presented Mr. Richardson with a plaque acknowledging his achievement.

Teresa Stansberry, Director for Exceptional Children, recognized Westwood teacher Sharon Eldreth as the *2010/11 Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children*. Superintendent Reeves presented Mrs. Eldreth with a certificate recognizing her achievement.

Superintendent Reeves recognized the following recipients of the *2010 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)* certification and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Mary Beth Knight Greene, Ashe High; Penny Barker, Ashe Middle; and Courtney Eller, Julie Little, Misty Pritchard, Casey Smith and Katy Waddell, Blue Ridge.

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 January 3, 2011 and the special meeting on January 31, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from a student to graduate early.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from a student to attend school in Alleghany County effective immediately.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe County High for an overnight trip to participate in the Odyssey of the Mind regional competition at Northern Guilford High School, March 4-5, 2011.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Blue Ridge 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 16-18, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Mountain View 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 10-13, 2011.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations. Dr. Beckworth encouraged principals to use Kim Simmons as a resource for Race to the Top especially for staff development for grades K-3.

CERTIFIED

Administrators

- Resignation of Joyce Gardner as K-12 curriculum director effective January 31, 2011
- Resignation of Kim Simmons as principal at Mountain View effective January 31, 2011
- Re-employment of John Gregory as interim principal at Mountain View effective January 31, 2011 through June 30, 2011 (prior approval January 17, 2011)

Teachers

- Reassignment of Megan Lawrence from interim EC teacher at Mountain View to temporary EC teacher at Mountain View effective January 15, 2011 (prior approval January 3, 2011)
- Re-employment of Larry Lewis as temporary math teacher at Ashe Middle effective January 31, 2011 (prior approval January 3, 2011)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Kayla Gauldin, Vickie Herman, Ron Rognstad and Natalie Sheets to the list of approved substitute teachers

Employee Leaves

- Request from Katy Waddell, 5th grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave effective February 25, 2011 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year (FMLA=12 weeks)
- Request from Sara Lambert, 2nd grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave effective March 25, 2011 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year (FMLA=10 weeks)

- Request from Kelly Lambert, 4th grade teacher at Mountain View, for a parental leave effective on or about March 16, 2011 through the end of the 2010-2011 school year (FMLA=11 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistant

- Addition of Chasity Woodie to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Coaches

- Addition of Brandon Stewart as assistant varsity baseball coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list for spring 2010/2011 (prior approval for position August 2, 2010))
- Addition of Larry Dix as head men's tennis coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list for spring 2010/2011 (prior approval for position August 2, 2010)

Custodians

- Release of James Dorinzi, part-time custodian at Blue Ridge, from employment with Ashe County Schools effective January 31, 2011
- Employment of James Tyler Richardson as full-time custodian (10 month) at Blue Ridge effective February 2, 2011 (prior approval December 7, 2010)

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Heather Stidhams, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to interim teacher assistant with exceptional children's program at Ashe Middle effective January 24, 2011 through end of school year (prior approval – December 7, 2010, fills leave of absence)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers as necessary
- Substitute cafeteria assistants as necessary

Employee Leaves

- Request from Timothy Walton, custodian at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective January 18, 2011 and ending on or about March 22, 2011 (FMLA ≈ 8 weeks)
- Request from Margaret Marze, bus driver at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective January 13, 2011 and ending on or about February 24, 2011 (FMLA ≈ 6 weeks)

- Request from Ramona Hudler, teacher assistant at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective December 13, 2010 and ending on or about February 14, 2011 (FMLA ≈ 8 weeks)
- Request from R. Chadwick Miller, bus driver at Blue Ridge, for an extension of approved medical leave from January 12, 2011 to on or about March 7, 2011 (FMLA ≠ eligible)

Employee Information

- Employee status change for Jerry Goodman, interim custodian at Ashe High, eligible for full benefits beginning January 1, 2011 (worker's comp)
- Employee status change for Michael Craig Little, interim fuel truck driver at the Bus Garage, eligible for partial benefits beginning February 1, 2011 (worker's comp)
- Employee status change for James Pennington, interim bus driver at Ashe High, eligible for partial benefits beginning January 1, 2011 (worker's comp)
- Employee status change for Danny Shinn, interim bus driver at Ashe High, eligible for partial benefits beginning August 1, 2009 (worker's comp)
- Correction of hours for Tammy Mellette, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, from 5 hours per day to 5.75 hours per day effective January 3, 2011
- Increase employment from 60 percent to 100 percent for Michelle Pelayo, migrant education coordinator with Ashe County Schools, effective February 1, 2011 through the end of the 2010/11 school year (PRC 051 Migrant Education, Federal Grant)

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to amendments to *Policy 7540 Voluntary Shared Leave*.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to amendments to *Policy 7950 Probationary Teachers Non-Renewal*.

Auditor Mike Wike of Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC presented the 2009/10 comprehensive annual financial report. He reported that Ashe County received an unqualified audit report which means it was clean with no issues and of the highest level.

Ashe Learning Center Pre-K Teacher Stephanie Baker, along with two pre-k students, gave a presentation on Tech Talk.

Blue Ridge teachers Cindy Wells, Tanya Rollins, and Casey Smith presented the Responsiveness to Instruction (RTI) video designed to help parents understand how students go through the four tiers.

Human Resources Director Lesia Nave and Director Kim Barnes presented revisions to *Policy 3540 Comprehensive Health Education Program*. Dr. Beckworth suggested the wording be changed by inserting "reproductive health" in K-6 as to not upset parents. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken on this item at the regular meeting for March.

Maintenance Director Kenneth Richardson gave an overview of the Facility Needs Survey for Ashe County Schools as required by the Department of Public Instruction every five years.

Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates presented an update on the 2011/12 budget and gave the Board a schedule of the budget work sessions.

New Board members Polly Jones and Terry Williams commented on School Board 101 Training sponsored by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) that they, along with Dr. Reeves, recently attended in Raleigh. Mrs. Jones said it was a lot of hard work and reading. Sessions detailing the responsibilities of local board members and what board members can and cannot do were led by NCSBA lawyers. She said she is learning a great deal and taking her job very seriously. The more she works with Dr. Reeves the more she realizes that he knows what he is doing and we are very fortunate to have him. Mr. Williams stated that the training was very educational and that he enjoyed it.

Dr. Reeves reported that the Project Lead the Way grant for \$100,000 at Ashe Middle has been tentatively approved. The Project Lead the Way curriculum will provide middle school students an engaging and thought-provoking classroom to develop critical thinking skills in math, science and technology through hands-on project based learning.

Dr. Reeves presented construction photos of the middle school pool and gave an overview of additional needs for that project. Dr. Beckworth proposed that the Board continue its agreement with the Commissioners and provide 1/3 of the additional expenses. The work performed by the school's maintenance department would apply towards the Board's share. The Superintendent was directed to arrange a meeting with the County Manager Dan McMillan to discuss the Board's proposal.

The Board received an attachment on the snow removal for winter 2010/11. Principals have provided a list of man hours used. Mr. Williams made a motion to purchase a blade for the commodities truck. Maintenance Director Kenneth Richardson discussed the time frame for removal of snow and noted that Jerry Weaver has three trucks as opposed to our one. Mr. Williams rescinded the motion. Mr. Richardson said to note that nothing was spent in 2005, 2006 and 2007. Dr. Beckworth mentioned that maybe they need to look at helping the schools get better equipment. Mr. Richardson is to research what could be done to help and he will obtain a needs assessment from the schools.

Other informational items included the following.

- 2011 NCSBA Legislative Committee Application
- Administration Staff Development

- Aspiring Principal Leadership Program
- Board Meeting, Monday, March 7, 7:00 pm

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a recess at 9:30 prior to entering closed session for the purpose of settling a claim with Two Rivers Charter School [NC General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3)].

The Board returned to regular session at 10:06 pm.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the resignation of April Blevins as receptionist at Ashe County High effective end of day February 17, 2011.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to employ an interim receptionist at Ashe High for the remainder of the school year.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to settling the claim with Two Rivers Charter School for fiscal years 2007, 2008 and 2009 in the amount of \$17,500.

There being no further business, a motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to adjourn at 10:10 pm.