

SPECIAL MEETING

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 30, 2012

A special budget work session was held as scheduled in the central office annex beginning at 5:30 pm. All members were present. Following dinner, Chairman King opened the floor for discussion.

Technology Director Amy Walker informed the Board that the wireless infrastructure project at the high school was complete and that the current wireless project approved through e-rate at Blue Ridge is underway. Funding received from the County Commissioners for technology is being used to pay the school system's 10 percent match for the Blue Ridge project. Following an in-depth discussion of technology needs, the Board agreed to using the money received from the County Commissioners for the following projects: an email archiving appliance system as required by current law, Amer switches, and wireless infrastructure at Ashe Middle, Mountain View and Westwood.

The senior staff gave an overview of the budgeting process and shared historical data on each of the funding sources—State, Federal and Local. The current 2012/13 budget shortfall in State and Federal funding is approximately \$2.2 million.

The replacement of an activity bus was discussed. The Board felt that a procedure for rolling over buses should be established, which would include the mileage limit for each activity bus. It also needs to be determined the actual number of activity buses needed.

Federal law prohibits any student charges remaining on the books at year end. The Board currently matches payment of these charges with the school on a 50/50 basis. A request was made to the Board to pay 100 percent of these charges. In surveying a number of other school systems, it was found that most schools are responsible for 100 percent of all student charges. Following discussion, the Board felt that the school system's current 50/50 cost share program should be left as is.

The senior staff recommended that Race to the Top funds be used to pay stipends for serving on the Common Core Curriculum Committee and for attending the school system's summer conference. Only certified teachers and teacher assistants would be eligible. The Board was in agreement with this recommendation and will take action at the February meeting.

The Board was informed that planning was underway to replace the greenhouse at the high school through CTE funds. There were no objections. The Board did ask the senior staff to explore the possibility of bidding the removal of the current greenhouse.

A motion at 8:16 pm by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to going into closed session for the purpose of considering a student action [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(1)] and a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(6)]. No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 9:26 pm, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.