

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 6, 2012

The February 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 agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, the Ashe Arts Council parent group STAE, Support Team for Arts Education, sung a song to the tune of Frere Jacques which highlighted the importance of keeping arts programming in the schools.

Superintendent Reeves recognized and presented a posthumous award to the *February Employee of the Month* Fred Absher, bus driver at Westwood, who passed away on January 1, 2012. The family was present to accept the award.

Superintendent Reeves recognized the following individual school *Teacher of the Year* nominees and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Sarah Tugman, Ashe High; Teresa Hughes, Ashe Middle; Richard Gill, Blue Ridge; Colleen Dixon, Mountain View; and Sherry Phillips, Westwood. Dr. Reeves then recognized Ashe High teacher Sarah Tugman as the *2011/12 Ashe County Schools Teacher of the Year* and presented Mrs. Tugman with a plaque acknowledging her achievement.

Teresa Stansberry, Director for Exceptional Children, recognized Ashe Middle teacher Holly McClure as the *2011/12 Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children*. Superintendent Reeves presented Mrs. McClure with a certificate recognizing her achievement.

The Superintendent recognized Jennifer Robinson, principal at Westwood, as the *2011/12 Ashe County Schools Principal of the Year* and presented her with a plaque acknowledging her achievement.

The Superintendent recognized the following recipients of the *2011 National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)* certification and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Dedra Buchanan, Blue Ridge; and Jana Baldwin, Eva Lucinda Jackson, Jamie Little and Robin Nethery, Mountain View.

A Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to the Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for its Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2010. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. The Superintendent recognized the Finance Department for this accomplishment. The Department is comprised of the Chief Financial Officer Phyllis Yates and her staff—Amanda Coldiron, Geneva Spencer, Donna Phillips and Kevin Anderson.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on January 2, 2012 and the special meeting on January 30, 2012.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe County High AP US History students for an overnight trip to UVA/Monticello/Appomattox Courthouse, March 23-25, 2012.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Mountain View 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 18-21, 2012.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth 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 27-30, 2012.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Westwood 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 1-4, 2012.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Lindsey Sutphin as temporary art teacher at Blue Ridge effective on or about January 31, 2012 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Dan McAulay as temporary art teacher at Ashe High effective January 2, 2012 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)
- Re-employment of Dianne Eldreth as temporary teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High effective January 2, 2012 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)
- Re-employment of Jenny Blevins as part-time (50%) teacher for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2012 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Kristi Booker from substitute teacher to temporary pre-k teacher at Ashe Early Learning Center effective January 2, 2012 through the end of the current school year (prior approval)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Mike Eldreth, Charles Johnson and Jessica Walker to the list of approved substitute teachers

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jill Gambill, art teacher at Ashe Middle, to extend her approved parental leave to on or about April 23, 2012 (FMLA = from 6 to 10 weeks)
- Request from Kelly Gunderson, media coordinator at Ashe Middle, to extend her approved parental leave through the end of the 2011/12 school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary

- Temporary personnel as required for DSSF programs at Ashe High and Ashe Middle for second semester

CLASSIFIED

4-H Afterschool

- Reassignment of Erica Roten from 4-H afterschool tutor coordinator at Blue Ridge to 4-H afterschool onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge effective December 12, 2011 (prior approval)

Bus Driver/Bus Monitor

- Resignation of Brandon Shepherd as bus monitor for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective January 2, 2012

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Kelly McNeil and Margaret Marze to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria Assistant

- Reassignment of Jinger Harless from substitute cafeteria assistant with Ashe County Schools to part-time (5.5 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective January 3, 2012 (prior approval)

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Elizabeth Miller and Kimberly Osborne to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Teacher Assistant

- Reassignment of Dawn Powers from substitute teacher to full-time temporary pre-k teacher assistant at Blue Ridge effective January 2, 2012 (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- 4-H afterschool tutor coordinator
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Bus monitor at Ashe Middle
- Part-time tutors

Following an in-depth discussion on the criteria for employing a football coach at the high school, a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to begin the search for the best possible teacher/coach.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to adopting both the calendar for 185 instructional days and the calendar for 180 instructional days as prepared by the 2012/13 School Calendar Committee. The official calendar will later be determined by whether or not the General Assembly grants a waiver of the five (5) additional days legislated in House Bill 200. If a waiver is approved, these five days will be designated as required teacher workdays and used to strengthen implementation and integration of the Common Core/Essential Standards.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to paying a stipend to ten-month certified employees from Race to the Top funds for committee leadership and attendance at the local Summer Conference for Common Core/Essential Standards.

Wesley Roten and Amanda Tugman, students at Ashe County High School, gave a presentation on the *Dick Miller Youth Leadership Program*. The program is sponsored by the Ashe County Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Ashe County Center, and Ashe County Schools. The goal of the program is to empower students to become responsible civic leaders in their community by exposing them to the basic organization of a community—government, business, environment, legal, media, civic, volunteer, etc.—and how these groups interact. On behalf of all the students involved in the program, Wesley and Amanda stated that the group was very appreciative of the opportunity to participate in the program and that it had proved to be a worthwhile learning experience.

Roman Gabriel, III, was scheduled to give a presentation on his *Sold Out Drug and Alcohol Awareness Program*, but did not get back from Indianapolis, Indiana in time to do so. The Superintendent, who had met with Mr. Gabriel on two occasions, explained that the program will be funded through private donations and that professional athletes will speak to high and middle school students during assembly programs. Mr. Gabriel has also met with the high school and middle school principals. Although the program has a very positive message, the Board felt that the program must be secular in nature and that at least one student assembly be held before allowing access to students through Facebook. Mr. Gabriel will be rescheduled for the March meeting.

On Tuesday, January 31, Ashe County Schools was invited to participate in a round-table discussion with the North Carolina State Board of Education members and advisors. The State Board invited one four-person team from each of State's eight educational regions. The designation of team members was very purposeful, in that they wanted to hear and value the perspectives of the various roles. The four-person team from Ashe County included the Superintendent, Chairman King, Principal Jason Krider and High School Math Teacher Carmen Wilson. The purpose of the round-table discussion was to help the State Board and its advisors gain insight on the most critical issues impacting public education as perceived by each of the regions. Chairman King, along with other team members, felt that the meeting was very worthwhile.

Announcements and information items included the following:

- Ashe County Presentation—NCASCD Conference, February 7-9—Julie Taylor, Tammy Hutchinson and Superintendent—*Success in Implementing Common Core Standards in a Small School District*
- Spelling Bee—Monday, February 13, 9:00 am, Blue Ridge Elementary (alternates February 16 or February 20)
- Blue Ridge Roofing Project (QSCB funding)—bid let Monday, February 13—bid opening Thursday, February 23, 2:00 pm, central office annex
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 5, 7:00 pm, at the central office annex.
- Battle of the Books—Grades 6-8—Friday, March 16, 9:00 am, Ashe High
- Tech Day for Commissioners—Monday, March 19, 10:00 am, Ashe High, luncheon

- Elementary Battle of the Books—Grades 3-5—Friday, March 30, 9:00 am, Ashe High
- DIAL Kindergarten Screenings: Mountain View—March 20-22; Westwood—March 27-29; Blue Ridge—April 16-18, PK April 19-20; and AELC—April 23-27

A motion at 8:34 pm by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams 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)], real estate [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)] and a student matter [NC General Statute §143-318.11(a)(1)]. Closed session began at 8:50 pm. No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 10:27 pm, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.