

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 4, 2013

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, Rebecca Herman from the Ashe Arts Council gave an overview of all the programming services provided to students and expressed appreciation to the Board for its support of art education.

Due to the inclement weather, all employee recognitions were rescheduled to the March meeting.

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 7, 2013.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina National Beta Club State Convention in Greensboro, February 21-23, 2013.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High AP US History students for an overnight trip to Charleston, South Carolina, April 26-28, 2013. Dr. Beckworth did express concern about the cost of fuel consumption when using an activity bus. The current system is not cost effective for trips beyond 100 miles when taking only a few students.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Blue Ridge Principal Callie Grubb to apply for a grant greater than \$10,000. The grant, entitled *The Leader in Me*, will help students to develop leadership skills and character.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the Ashe County Schools Chemical Hygiene Plan for School Science Labs as presented by Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to adopting two calendars—one for 185 instructional days and one for 180 instructional days as prepared by the 2013/14 School Calendar Committee. The official calendar will later be determined by whether or not the General Assembly approves funding for five additional instructional days.

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

CERTIFIED**Substitutes**

- Addition of Alice Collins, Judy Greer, Beth Harrington, Christina Worley and Darlene Zotter to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Wendy Brown, 6th grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about February 22, 2013 and continuing through the end of the 2012/13 school year (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Holly Roten, literacy specialist at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about April 9, 2013 and continuing through the end of the 2012/13 school year (FMLA = 6 weeks + 1 day)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED**Coaches**

- Resignation of Kendra Blevins as assistant ladies softball coach at Ashe High effective January 21, 2013
- Resignation of Brandon Stewart as assistant varsity baseball coach at Ashe High effective January 28, 2013
- Addition of Erin Covington to the approved spring coaches list as assistant ladies softball coach at Ashe High (paid position, prior approval August 2012 coaches list)
- Addition of Dustin Absher to the approved spring coaches list as assistant varsity baseball coach at Ashe High (split paid position)
- Addition of Darren Dotson to the approved spring coaches list as assistant varsity baseball coach at Ashe High (split paid position)
- Addition of Cory Roten to the approved winter coaches list as assistant wrestling coach at Ashe Middle (paid position, prior approval August 2012 coaches list)

Substitute Cafeteria Assistant

- Addition of Barbara Walters to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Custodian

- Resignation of Rosemary Dorinzi Walsh as custodian at Westwood effective January 14, 2013

Teacher Assistants

- Re-employment of Teresa Williams as interim teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective January 8, 2013 and continuing through the end of the 2012/13 school year (filling educational leave)

Tutor

- Reassignment of Erica Roten from 4-H afterschool onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge to part-time tutor (≈25 hours per week) at Blue Ridge effective January 22, 2013

Employee Leaves

- Request from Lois Barker, teacher assistant at Westwood, for a medical leave beginning January 30, 2013 and ending on or about March 13, 2013 (FMLA ≈ 6 weeks)
- Request from Jackie Gentry, bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave beginning January 21, 2013 and ending on or about March 4, 2013 (FMLA ≈ 6 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- 4-H afterschool on site coordinator
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Dr. Kurt Michael and Rafaella Sale provided a presentation on the effectiveness of the Ashe County Assessment, Support and Counseling (ACS) Center at Ashe High which provides clinical psychological services for students. Preliminary findings indicate that the majority of students served to date are reporting clinically significant improvements in attendance, disciplinary problems and academic performance. These results are being achieved with minimal impact on instructional time. The ACS team partners with the counseling staff at the high school.

Terry Richardson, Director of Exceptional Children and PK Programs, provided an overview of the 2013/14 DIAL Screening Program. She also explained the criteria for the pre-kindergarten screening process.

Announcements and information items included the following:

- Thursday, February 7—Spelling Bee, 6:00 pm, Ashe High—Snow date is February 12
- Thursday, February 14—Optional teacher workday could become a student day
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 4, 2013, 7:00 pm, at the central office annex.
- Friday, March 8—Required teacher workday for Common Core and Essential Standards
- Wednesday, March 20—Battle of the Books—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe High
- Wednesday, March 27—Elementary Battle of the Books—Grades 3-5, 9:00 am, Ashe High
- Monday, April 22—Regional Battle of the Books, Statesville
- Tuesday, April 23—Regional Elementary Battle of the Books, Hickory
- DIAL Kindergarten Screenings
 - Westwood—April 8-10
 - Mountain View—April 15-17
 - Blue Ridge—April 22-24

A motion at 8:12 pm by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones 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)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:28 pm. No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 9:37 pm, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.