

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

April 8, 2013

The April meeting was held at the Ashe County Arts Council as scheduled with all members present. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the deletion of recognizing the *Dick Miller Youth Leadership* and moving action on the personnel recommendations until after closed session, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

The Arts Council displays student art in its gallery in April of each year—each of the schools was represented. During public comments Rebecca Herman expressed appreciation to the Arts Committee for providing refreshments and to the Jam Club Kids and Ashe County High School Chorus for providing entertainment. Judy Current thanked the Board for its support of arts education and programming in the schools.

Superintendent Johnson recognized and presented the *March Employee of the Month* award to Phyllis Ashley, CTE teacher at Ashe County High School.

Superintendent Johnson recognized and presented the *April Employee of the Month* award to Ashley Brown, technology facilitator at Westwood.

The Superintendent recognized the Ashe County Educational Office Professionals (EOPs) for receiving the *2013 North Carolina Strive for Excellence Award* and presented President Beth Hodges with a certificate. Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates praised the EOPs for their hard work and dedication not only to their professional organization but to the school system as well. She stressed that Ashe EOPs are very deserving of this State award.

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 March 4, 2013.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe County High for an overnight trip to attend the Science Olympiad State Tournament in Raleigh, April 26-27, 2013.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe County Middle for an overnight trip to attend the Science Olympiad State Tournament in Raleigh, April 25-27, 2013.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to *Policy 3420, Student Accountability Standards* as amended by Director Phil Howell.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Committee to fund 11 of 26 grants in the amount of \$8,400.

A presentation was provided by Tim Goins with the Parsons Group on the widening of US 221 at the Fleetwood Community Center. With the proposed design no permanent right of way will be needed. A temporary easement may be needed to properly tie in the drive and allow for silk fence during construction. The storage tanks and well will be completely avoided. The Federal Highway Administration has determined that the Fleetwood Community Center is a Section 4(f) resource. In order to make a de minimis finding, they need written concurrence, from the official(s) with jurisdiction over the property, that the proposed project does not adversely affect the activities, features, and attributes that qualify the resource for protection under Section 4(f). The Board directed Superintendent Johnson to send the letter that is needed.

Dr. Beckworth provided information on the results from the Superintendent Search Staff Survey. There was a 51 percent return with 101 comments. The 15-question survey was scored to see what top five qualities employees would like to see in a new superintendent.

The top 5 criteria from the survey were as follows:

1. Understands how to provide safe environments for students and staff
2. Has strong human relations or "people" skills
3. Knows how to get staff, students, parents and community to work together to help children learn
4. Should be accessible and respond to concerns in a timely fashion
5. Understands current school programs.

Top comments were: The new superintendent should be someone that wants to stay in Ashe County, and not use Ashe County as a rung on a ladder and someone with common sense who appreciates teachers, preferably someone who has been a successful teacher.

Dr. Beckworth thanked all employees for participating in the survey.

Students Laken Brooks, Luke Cullifer and Kayla Osborne of Ashe High announced the formation of the "YES Team," a student-led anti-bullying initiative. The team's mission is taken from Rachel's Challenge, a nationwide program inspired by the example of Rachel Scott, the first student murdered at Columbine High School. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval for the request from Federal Programs Director Kim Barnes and School Health Advisory Council Chairman Stephanie Craven to apply for a grant through State Farm Insurance in the amount of \$67,000. The purpose of this grant is to increase community and student awareness of bullying and suicide prevention.

The Board was presented with a list of personnel eligible for probationary contracts, career contracts, and non-renewal for 2013/14. Action will be taken at the regular meeting for May.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the County Budget Request for FY 2013/14 as presented by Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates.

Announcements and information items included the following:

- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2013, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.

- Friday, April 12—Ashe County Middle Career Fair—9:00-2:00—lunch provided
- Thursday, April 18—Ashe County High Career Fair—8:00-11:00—breakfast provided
- 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 8:20 pm by Vice Chairman 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)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:30 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:30 pm.

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

CERTIFIED

Substitutes

- Addition of Pooja Patel to the approved teacher substitute list

Teacher

- Temporary employment of Dianne Eldreth to fill Patricia “Trish” Burkhart’s position as teacher for exceptional children at Ashe Middle through the end of the current school year

Employee Leave

- Request from Erin Hayes, kindergarten teacher at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about May 13, 2013 and extending through the end of the 2012/13 school year (FMLA = 3 weeks + 2 days)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Custodian

- Temporary employment of Rodney Miller as temporary custodian at Ashe County High through the end of the current school year

Coaches

- Reassignment of Justin Grubb from volunteer assistant basketball coach at Ashe High to assistant basketball coach (paid position)

- Reassignment of Harold Osborne from volunteer assistant girls soft ball coach to head girls softball coach at Ashe Middle (paid position)
- Reassignment of Glenn Sullivan to from volunteer assistant girls soft ball coach to assistant girls softball coach at Ashe Middle (paid position)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Darlene Cheek, child nutrition assistant at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective March 8, 2013 and extending through April 30, 2013 (FMLA = 7 weeks + 2 days)
- Request from Mary Young, child nutrition assistant at Ashe Middle and bus driver at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence effective on or about April 11, 2013 through on or about August 5, 2013 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.