

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 13, 2014

The January 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.

Following the addition of items 4.05, 4.06 and 5.04, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

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 December 2, 2013.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe County High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina State Convention in Greensboro, January 30-February 2, 2014.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe County High AP US History, AP Government and AP Politics and European History students for an overnight trip to Montpelier/Monticello/Appomattox/James Madison's Home, March 14-16, 2014.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Rachel Nave as music teacher at Blue Ridge effective January 2, 2014 (prior approval)
- Employment of Jill Stepp as interim art teacher at Westwood effective February 4, 2014 through the end of the current school year contingent upon pre-screening results (prior approval)
- Resignation of Sheri Lawrence, middle grades math and science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective January 13, 2014
- Resignation of Mark Matney, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High, effective January 20, 2014

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Courtney "Paige" Matheson to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from June Neaves, school counselor at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence beginning November 22, 2013 through December 13, 2013 (FMLA = 15 days)
- Request from Christina Pennington, math teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning January 3, 2014 through February 14, 2014 (FMLA = 6 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Middle grades math and science teacher at Ashe Middle
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Ruth Bare, cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge, effective January 1, 2014

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Cheryl Anderson and Margaret Richardson to the approved cafeteria assistant substitute list

Custodian Substitute

- Addition of Hayley Mash to the approved custodian substitute list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Clarence Dillard, custodian at Ashe High, for an extension of medical leave of absence effective through January 15, 2014
- Request from Teresa Ham, part-time cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence effective January 9, 2014 and ending on or about March 3, 2014 (not FMLA eligible)
- Request from Ronald Turnmire, custodian at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence effective January 29, 2014 and ending on or about March 12, 2014 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Full-time cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge
- Part-time tutors at all elementary schools
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Substitute custodians

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Joshua Baldwin to graduate early. Dr. Beckworth commended Joshua on the letter he submitted to the Board explaining his situation.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to participating in the Workforce Development Grant through the US Department of Labor which will fund career coaching and possibly paid internships for high school students. No matching funds are required from the school system.

Dr. Kurt Michael, Program Director of the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) through Appalachian State University, gave an update on the ASC program at the high school and the upcoming integration of the program at the middle school.

Associate Superintendent Phyllis Yates gave an overview of the 2014/15 Budget Calendar and Budget Planning Process.

Dr. Holden updated the Board on the lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the voucher law. The NC School Board Association requested that county school boards sign onto the lawsuit. While the Board sees this as a legal matter and is supportive of the lawsuit, members saw no benefit to Ashe signing on at this point in time.

Superintendent Holden presented the Board with a copy of the resolution that Rowan-Salisbury Schools submitted on *Read to Achieve* for 3rd grade students. Dr. Holden stated that while *Read to Achieve* had good intentions of boosting student interest in reading, he believes it will do just the opposite and in the end will turn students off to reading. The current design of the program puts a burden on the students, teachers and school system. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the Superintendent writing a resolution on behalf of the school system encouraging the Department of Public Instruction to consider alternative assessments and standards from those dictated in the state law. The Superintendent is to solicit input from the principals.

Other informational items included the following.

- Bullying Training for Administrators and Counselors—Tuesday, January 14, 2014
- Bullying and harassment incidents may now be reported on the website—form
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2014, 7:00 pm, and will be held in the commons area at Ashe County High. A reception for the annual recognition of Teacher of the Year nominees, Principal of the Year, National Board recipients, etc. will begin at 6:15 pm.
- Digital Learning Application

A motion at 8:04 pm by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave 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 [/143.318.11(a)(5)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:17 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:41 pm.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the promotion of Phil Howell from Director to Assistant Superintendent of K-12 Curriculum, Testing and Accountability.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.