

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 3, 2014

The November meeting was held as scheduled in the Board of Education Annex 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 item 4.06, Memorandum of Agreement, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

Transportation Director Shea Coldiron recognized the following bus drivers for perfect attendance in 2013/14:

- James Pennington—Ashe High
- Eddie Taylor—Ashe Middle
- Darlene Eller—Blue Ridge
- Marla Powell—Westwood

Ashe County Ford CEO Jeff Dollar awarded scholarships from the Ashe County Ford Teacher Scholarship Foundation to the following teachers:

- Olivia Jenkins—Ashe High
- Julie Taylor, Jodi Grubb—Ashe Middle
- Tonya Blevins, Tonya Denny, Julie Little—Blue Ridge
- Ronnie Pruitt, Misty Prichard, Robin Nethery, Kelly Mullis, Chelsea Clanton, Jessica Lyalls, Teresa Goodman, Ashley Fields, Connie Howell, Luci Jackson, Kristy Houck, Jana Baldwin, Jenny Johnson, Rhonda Donner, Leanne Miller—Mountain View
- Kevin Miller, Pam Hudler, Brandi Hurley, Mary Greene—Westwood

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 October 6, 2014.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Rho Kappa sponsors for an overnight trip to take students and travel to Philadelphia, Gettysburg and Washington, DC, March 12-16, 2015.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Re-employment of Shelia Richardson, media coordinator at Ashe Middle; effective date to be determined (prior approval)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Jennifer Gilbert and Ethan Graybeal to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leave

- Request from Holly L. McClure, 2nd grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave beginning on or about March 10, 2015 and going through the end of the 201415 school year (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Assistant principal at Ashe High
- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Middle grades math teacher at Ashe Middle
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Employment of Dillon Harless as bus driver (regular route ≤ 4 hours per day) at Mountain View effective October 9, 2014 (prior approval)
- Employment of Shelby Dowell as bus driver (regular route ≤ 5 hours per day) at Mountain View effective October 13, 2014 (prior approval)

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Elaine May to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jimmy Lewis, regular route bus driver at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence effective October 6, 2014; ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Erica Roten, 4-H school-age coordinator with Ashe County Schools, for a parental leave of absence effective on or about February 19, 2015 and ending on or about April 1, 2015 (FMLA ≈ 6 weeks)
- Request from Anita Chamberlain, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High, for an educational leave of absence effective second semester 2014/15 school year (grandfathered under old teacher assistant student teaching policy)
- Request from Marla Powell, regular route bus driver at Westwood, for an extension of her medical leave of absence effective through November 24, 2014 (FMLA 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim cafeteria assistant at Westwood
- Interim teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Cafeteria assistant (full-time) at Blue Ridge
- Tutor (part-time) at Blue Ridge
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the updated coaching assignments for Ashe County High.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the updated coaching assignments for Ashe County Middle.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Memorandum of Understanding between Ashe County High and Alleghany Wellness Center for swim team meets.

CTE Director Joallen Lowder provided an update on the STEM Academy. STEM is an infusion of Science, Technology, English, and Math through project-based learning to understand complex problems. The purpose is to provide students access to industry specific curriculum, work based learning experiences and relationships with business professionals. Mrs. Jones is glad that humanities are included. Dr. Holden thanked Mrs. Lowder for her hard work and dedication to this project.

Associate Superintendent Phyllis Yates gave an overview of recent grant awards—4-H Afterschool and ASU GEAR Up. The major changes to the afterschool grant include a required tutoring component and no fees are charged for students to participate. The seven-year grant from ASU will track students from 6th grade until graduation and offers major components such as tutoring and college visits. Both grants require an “in-kind” match only from the school system.

The Board was given Policy Section 5000 (Community Relationships), Section 6000 (Support Services), Section 8000 (Fiscal Management) and Section 9000 (Facilities) for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the regular meeting in December.

Dr. Holden commented on the AP scores—Ashe has a 65.2% efficiency and is in the top 15 of 115 school systems. He expressed thanks to Assistant Superintendent Phil Howell for his work on gathering the data.

Information items included the following:

- Tuesday, November 4—please make sure you vote!
- Friday, November 7—Veterans’ Day Program—Ashe Middle @ 9:30
- Monday, November 10—Veterans’ Day Programs—Mountain View @ 8:30, Westwood @ 10:00, Blue Ridge @ 1:30 and Ashe High @ 2:30
- Tuesday, November 11—Veterans’ Day—holiday
- American Education Week—November 17-21, 2014
- November 27-28—Thanksgiving holidays
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, December 1, 2014, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex. This will be an organizational meeting.
- Resolution Regarding the State’s Proposal to Assign Letter Grades to Each Public School—DRAFT
- Resolution Supporting Local Control of School Calendars

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 7:57 pm.