

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
January 5, 2015

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.

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 1, 2014.

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, February 6-8, 2015.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe County High HOSA students for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina State Competition in Greensboro, March 25-27, 2015. Dr. Beckworth expressed appreciation to HOSA Instructor Olivia Jenkins for getting this club active again.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe County High Husky Vanguard Marching Band for an overnight trip to perform at Universal Studios and Sea World in Orlando, Florida, during Spring Break 2016.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave 4-0 approval to the following personnel recommendations. Dr. Beckworth abstained from the vote.

**CERTIFIED**

**Teachers**

- Employment of Tonya Moore as teacher of exceptional children at Ashe High effective January 2, 2015 (prior approval)
- Resignation/retirement of Robin Reeves, physical education teacher at Ashe Middle, effective January 1, 2015
- Resignation/retirement of Cheryl Gamble, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, effective March 1, 2015

**Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Richard Kennedy and Kayla Absher to the approved substitute teacher list

**Employee Leaves**

- Request from Lindsey Postlethwait, art teacher at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about March 28, 2015 and extending through the end of the 2014/15 school year (FMLA=10 weeks)
- Request from Sarah Beckworth, English teacher at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about March 27, 2015 and extending through the end of the 2014/15 school year (FMLA=10 weeks)

**Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- Coordinator for Gear Up program (grant funded)
- Kindergarten teacher at Westwood
- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe Middle
- Substitute teachers

## **CLASSIFIED**

### **Bus Driver Substitute**

- Addition of Terry Lyalls to the approved bus driver substitute list

### **Cafeteria Assistant**

- Reassignment of Emily Sheets from substitute cafeteria assistant to interim, temporary, cafeteria assistant at Westwood effective December 3, 2014 (fills a medical leave of absence—prior approval)

### **Cafeteria Assistant Substitute**

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

### **Coach**

- Addition of Matthew Covington as non-faculty varsity assistant basketball coach to the approved coaches list at Ashe High

### **Custodian**

- Resignation of Clarence Dillard, as custodian at Ashe High, effective December 31, 2014
- Reassignment of Hayley Mash from interim custodian at Ashe High to permanent custodian at Ashe High effective January 1, 2015

### **Teacher Assistant**

- Reassignment of Linda Caldwell from substitute teacher to interim, part-time, teacher assistant with exceptional children at Ashe High effective January 5, 2015 (filling an educational leave--prior approval)

### **Tutor**

- Reassignment of Jennifer Gilbert from substitute teacher to part-time temporary tutor at Blue Ridge effective January 13, 2015 (prior approval)

### **Employee Leaves**

- Request from Joe Turnmire, custodian at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective December 3, 2014—ending date undetermined
- Request from Kristi Powers, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave beginning on December 19, 2014 and ending on January 16, 2015

### **Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- In-school suspension (ISS) assistant at Ashe Middle
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Mike Wike from Anderson Smith & Wike presented the Financial Audit for Ashe County Schools for the year ended June 30, 2014. Professional standards require that the audit firm provide the Board with information about the audit firm's responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Circular A-133. The auditors issued an unmodified report on all financial statements.

Associate Superintendent Phyllis Yates gave the Board a copy of the 2015/16 Budget Calendar and Budget Planning Process. She and the Superintendent will meet with principals and directors in February to discuss their budget requests. Budget meetings with the Board will be held in March.

Technology Director Amy Walker gave an update on the recent revisions by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and its impact on local technology and E-rate funding.

Assistant Superintendent Phil Howell gave an update on the Fall EOCs and math vertical alignment professional development.

Principal Jason Krider and Graduation Coach Keith Phillips gave an update on the attendance policy at Ashe County High. Overall, last year's changes in the attendance policy appears to have made a positive impact on student attendance.

Dr. Holden discussed moving forward with the Strategic Plan.

Other informational items included the following.

- Tuesday, January 27—Spelling Bee—6:30 pm, Ashe County High auditorium—Snow date is Tuesday, February 3.
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 2, 2015, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.
- Differentiated Pay Plan—ATTACHMENT
- Principal and Assistant Principal Compensation Issue Brief—ATTACHMENT
- School Calendar Coalition and Website—ATTACHMENT
- Wake County School Board Approves Bonuses for Support Staff—ATTACHMENT

A motion at 8:18 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)] and real estate [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(5)]. Closed session began at 8:30 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:48 pm.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following:

- Prior approval to employ a bus driver
- Employment of Keree Mackey as Gear Up coordinator for Ashe County Schools contingent upon affirmation by the Gear Up Project Director at Appalachian State University

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