

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

August 3, 2015

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

Policy 3400 *Evaluation of Student Progress* was added to the agenda, and a request was made to move the personnel recommendations and the personnel addendum until after closed session. A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the agenda as amended.

Ashe County Middle School staff Elaine Cox and Julie Taylor, along with Doug Brady, Past President of the NC Middle School Association, gave an overview of the *Middle Schools to Watch Conference* held in Washington, DC in July. This is the fourth time Ashe County Middle has been designated for this honor. Participation in the program is a choice, not a mandate, and the staff feels that participation makes Ashe County Middle a better school.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on June 30, 2015.

The request from Paul Daly to allow his daughter to attend school in Watauga County was postponed because the family was unable to attend due to a family emergency.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2015/16 coaching assignments at Ashe County High as presented by Marc Payne. Mr. Payne reported that the 23 varsity and 10 junior varsity teams represented a total of 485 athletic slots in 2014/15—70 percent were multi-sports athletes. Athletics is considered co-educational, and 183 of the participating athletes had a grade point average of 3.1 or better.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the 2015/16 coaching assignments at Ashe County Middle as presented by Mitchell Mash.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to revising Policy 3400 *Evaluation of Student Progress* to reflect a ten-point grading scale in grades 3-12. Local policy now aligns with recent action by the State Board of Education.

Marcia Elledge gave an update on the 14th Annual Endowment Golf Tournament held at Mountain Aire. This year's community support was overwhelming—32 businesses and several individuals donated either money or prizes and 25 teams (100 players) participated in the tournament.

Jamie Little reported on the State-mandated summer *Read to Achieve* program held at Westwood. Countywide, 24 students were required to participate and another 24 chose to participate. Seven of the required 24 became proficient.

Principal Jason Krider reported on the revised attendance policy at the high school. 2014/15 was the first full year of implementation, and overall, results were positive. Mr. Krider stated that the faculty was in favor of continuing the current policy.

The Superintendent spoke briefly on the status of the State budgeting process and expressed concerns about teacher retention and recruitment due to the budget.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- Tuesday, August 11—first day for teachers
- August 11-14—required professional development activities and workdays at individual school sites
- Monday, August 17—first day for students
- Tuesday, September 2—Beginning of Grade 3 (BOG) reading test and Cognitive Ability for Grade 4 (COGAT) test
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, September 14, 7:00 pm at the Central Office Annex.
- *Back to School* Webinars for school sites and/or Board Members

At 7:55 pm, a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to having a short recess prior to going into closed session to discuss 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 8:05 pm.

Upon return to open session at 9:40 pm, a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation/retirement of John Roberts, math teacher at Ashe High, effective July 1, 2015
- Resignation of Ronnie Pruitt, PE teacher at Mountain View, effective July 14, 2015
- Resignation of Jill Stepp, art teacher at Westwood, effective July 16, 2015
- Resignation of Ashley Brown, technology facilitator at Westwood, effective July 17, 2015
- Resignation of Dana Henson, math teacher at Ashe High, effective July 28, 2015
- Employment of Brett Lewis, science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Employment of Candace Butner, CTE business education teacher at Ashe Middle, effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Re-employment of Marty Latham, teacher at Westwood, effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Kristy Aldridge from coordinator of Community in Schools for Ashe County Schools to math teacher at Ashe Middle effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Cynthia Kastl-Harless from teacher for exceptional children at Ashe Middle to regular classroom teacher at Mountain View effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Anita Chamberlain from teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High to teacher of exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective August 11, 2015 (prior approval)
- Employment of Ashley Brown, 2nd grade teacher at Westwood, effective August 11, 2015
- Employment of Callie Barker, art teacher at Westwood, effective August 11, 2015
- Employment of Matthew Raisig, math teacher at Ashe High, effective August 11, 2015

Employee Leaves

- Request from Catherine Robinson, math and social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about October 15, 2015 and ending February 19, 2016 (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Johnna Church, social studies and language arts teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about November 16, 2015 and ending on April 4, 2016 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim art teacher at Blue Ridge
- Math teachers at Ashe High
- Certified staff as necessary to begin the 2015/16 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED**Bus Driver**

- Reassignment of Terry Lyalls from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Westwood effective August 17, 2015
- Reassignment of Paula Fox from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Westwood effective August 17, 2015

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation of Gail Neaves, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, effective August 1, 2015

Custodian

- Employment of Gary Bennett as interim custodian at Blue Ridge effective July 7, 2015 (prior approval)

Receptionist/Secretary

- Employment of Michelle Kitson as receptionist/secretary at Blue Ridge effective on or about August 11, 2015 contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)

Teacher Assistants

- Re-employment of Jeffery Wegman as teacher assistant with ISS/OSS at Ashe Middle effective August 11, 2015
- Employment of Laura Blackburn-Jones as facilitator of online classes/teacher assistant at Ashe High effective August 11, 2015 contingent on pre-employment screening (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- ESL tutor
- Classified staff as necessary to begin the 2015/16 school year
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Due to the major increase in cost to repair the track at the high school, the Board decided to approve only minimal repairs to the track at this time and to add needed repairs to the tennis courts. The Board directed the Superintendent to ask the Commissioners if the Board could bank the difference from the approved county allotment for track repairs to put towards paving at Blue Ridge in 2016/17.

The Board scheduled a special session for Monday, August 17, at 7:15 pm to work on the Superintendent's annual evaluation process.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.