

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 14, 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.

Following an addendum to personnel, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, Rebecca Williams, Ashe Arts Council, gave Board members a copy of Governor McCrory's *Proclamation of Arts in Education Week September 13-19, 2015*. Ms. Williams also shared a list of the Arts Council's school programming activities planned for 2015/16 and expressed appreciation to all the art teachers in the school system.

The following Social Studies students were recognized for winning the Centropa Milton Wolf Prize in Student Diplomacy—Laura C., Briana A., Jesse L. and Jonas M. According to their teacher Rachel Shepherd, students had to identify a problem in their community (they chose poverty and drug abuse), identify the resources that existed in the community to solve the problem, and create a presentation. The competition was open to students in public schools across the United States.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on August 3, 2015 and the special meeting on August 17, 2015.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe County High AP biology students for an instructional overnight trip to Brevard, North Carolina, September 25-28, 2015. The request from Instructor Alex Rollins for assistance with the fuel cost for use of the activity bus was denied.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High JROTC for an overnight trip to the Lost Sea Caverns in Sweetwater, Tennessee, October 24-25, 2015.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from ACHS Band for an overnight trip to participate in the Thanksgiving Day Parades in the Charlotte area November 25-26, 2015.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe County Middle 8th grade for an overnight trip to the Outer Banks April 19-22, 2016.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Westwood 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 21-24, 2016.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Mountain View 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 30-April 2, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Blue Ridge 6th grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 12-15, 2016.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Elizabeth Lauer as art teacher at Blue Ridge effective September 28, 2015 contingent on pre-employment screening (prior approval)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Monica Allen, Steven Allen, Terry Mahaffey, Elizabeth Stern and Erica Wrencher to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Resignation of Brenda Gorman, bus driver at Ashe Middle, effective September 2, 2015
- Resignation of Susan Carter, bus driver at Ashe High, effective September 11, 2015
- Promotion of Paula Fox from part-time regular route bus driver at Westwood to full-time regular route bus driver at Ashe Middle effective September 3, 2015
- Promotion of Vanessa Latham from substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools to part-time regular route bus driver at Westwood effective September 14, 2015
- Promotion of Carrie Argetsinger from substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools to part-time regular bus driver at Ashe High effective September 14, 2015
- Increase in hours for Marc Scott from part-time (<6 hours per day) bus driver at Ashe High to full-time (≥6 hours per day)

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Kristalee Vanessa Latham and Kenneth Blevins to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Jeanette Greer, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, effective October 1, 2015

Coach

- Addition of Amanda Elliott to the approved coaches list as assistant coach JV cheerleading at Ashe High (volunteer)

Communities in Schools

- Reassignment of Pamela Brady from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to Communities in Schools coordinator (part-time up to 29 hours per week) with Ashe County Schools effective September 4, 2015 (prior approval)

Custodian Substitute

- Addition of Jonathan Shumate to the approved substitute custodian list

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Melissa Rash from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective August 24, 2015 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Kelly Peak from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective August 21, 2015 (prior approval)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Ronald Turnmire, custodian at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence beginning September 1, 2015 and ending on or about October 27, 2015 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Shaina Dillard, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning August 28, 2015 and ending on or about October 9, 2015
- Request from Angela Calhoun, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence beginning August 1, 2015 and ending on or about September 1, 2015 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Teresa Mann, bus driver at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning August 17, 2015 and ending on September 7, 2015 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Full-time cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Following a presentation by Mitchell Mash who oversees athletics at Ashe Middle, a motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous to the addition of a middle school golf team at no cost to the school system. There are approximately 35 students interested, and clubs will be provided to any student who wants to participate but cannot afford clubs. Mountain Aire Golf Club is allowing students to play free, and the coach is a volunteer.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to renewing the lease between Ashe County Schools and Learning Thru Play at the West Jefferson site. This lease will be on a ten-year rather than a five-year cycle. Mr. Williams sustained from voting.

Curriculum Director Sandra Peterson gave an overview of the Transition Plan for Ashe County Schools as compiled by principals, assistant principals and guidance counselors. This plan addresses key grade-level components necessary to ensure a smooth transition for both students and parents between elementary, middle and high school grade advancements.

The Superintendent gave an update on the State budget process and the current status on funding for teacher assistants and the Driver Education program.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- Wednesday, September 30—Region 7 District NCSBA meeting, Alexander Central High School, 4:00-8:00 pm—leave central office at 2:00 pm
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, October 5, 2015, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.
- Monday, September 28—Parent/Teacher Conference, grades 7-12, 11:30-7:00 pm
- Monday, September 28—Required Teacher Workday, grades K-6, 8:00-3:30 pm
- Monday, October 26—Parent/Teacher Conference, grades K-6, 11:30-7:00 pm
- Monday, October 26—Required Teacher Workday, grades 7-12, 8:00-3:30 pm

- October 2015—National Principals Month
- American Education Week—November 16-20, 2015

At 8:00 pm, a motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to having 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 8:14 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:35 pm.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the Superintendent's annual evaluation. The evaluation included a one-year extension to the Superintendent's contract and a \$3,000 increase in salary.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:38 pm.