

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 11, 2016

The meeting was held as scheduled with all members present except Vice Chairman Jones who was absent due to surgery. 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.

Chairman Jeff Rose from the Board of County Commissioners spoke in support of plans for a new middle school so long as the project is not cost prohibitive.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 7, 2015.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe County High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina State Convention in Greensboro, February 5-6, 2016.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to all the following policy revisions and/or updates as presented at the December meeting except for optional Policy 2302 *Remote Participation in Board Meetings*. The Board did not see the need for such a policy.

- Policy 1320/3560 *Title 1 Parent Involvement*
- Policy 1710/4021/7230 *Prohibition against Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying*
- Policy 4040/7310 *Staff-Student Relations*
- Policy 4152 *Unsafe School Choice Transfer*
- Policy 4320 *Tobacco Products – Students*
- Policy 5022 *Registered Sex Offenders*
- Policy 5026/7250 *Smoking and Tobacco Products*
- Policy 5027/7275 *Weapons and Explosives Prohibited*

Following discussion, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Option and Structure Lease Agreement between Ashe County Schools and Carolina West with the following changes/modifications to the lease as discussed at this meeting.

- 1.(c) In consideration of Landlord granting Tenant the Option, Tenant agrees to pay Landlord the sum of Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (\$750) within thirty (30) business days of the Effective Date. The Option will be for an initial term of one (1) year commencing on the Effective Date (“the Initial Option Term”) and may be renewed by the Tenant for an additional (1) year upon written notification of the Landlord and the payment of an additional Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (\$750) no later than ten (10) days prior to the expiration date of the Initial Option Term. *(original version of lease)*
- 4.(a) Commencing on the first day of the month following the date that Tenant commences construction (the “Rent Commencement Date”), Tenant will pay the Landlord a monthly rental payment of Seven Hundred Fifty dollars (\$750) (“Rent”) for the first five (5) years of the (“Initial Term”)

and Eight Hundred Twenty Five dollars (\$825) ("Rent") for the second five (5) years of the ("Initial Term") at the address *(original version of lease)*

- 8.(d) If at any time during the Term it is determined that the Tenant has equipment which interferes with the operation of the Landlord as it relates to Westwood Elementary School, then and in that event, Tenant and Landlord shall work together to resolve such interference. If the interference cannot be resolved, the Landlord shall have the right to immediately terminate the Lease Agreement. *(new additional clause)*
- 3. Terms—c. change 4th to 5th throughout
- 21. Waiver of . . . Liens—strike "and without Landlord's consent" at end of second sentence

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations. Dr. Beckworth abstained from voting.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Amanda Hamby as pre-kindergarten teacher at Ashe Early Learning effective January 4, 2016 (prior approval)
- Employment of Debbie Sturgill as CTE family consumer science teacher at Ashe County High effective January 18, 2016 (prior approval)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Michal Durham, Dalene Hardison and Vicky Lemly to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Tonya Moore, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe County High, to extend parental leave due to newborn's medical needs until February 1, 2016
- Request from Brandi Hurley, teacher for exceptional children at Westwood, to extend parental leave to the end of the 2015/16 school year (per Board policy)
- Request from Jessica Dotson, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave beginning on or about March 28, 2016 and extending through the end of the 2015/16 school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Marc Scott, bus driver at Ashe County High, effective end of day January 15, 2016

Cafeteria Assistant

- Employment of Linda G. Bennett as cafeteria assistant (part-time ≤ 4 hours per day) at Ashe County Middle effective January 5, 2016 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Petra Martinez from substitute cafeteria assistant to cafeteria assistant (part-time ≤ 4 hours per day) at Ashe County High effective January 5, 2016 (prior approval)

Coaches

- Addition of Zachary Vogler as a volunteer assistant to Coach Brian Hampton in afterschool weight training at Ashe County High

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Part-time tutors at Ashe County Middle
- Part-time tutor at Westwood
- Bus drivers
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Dr. Kurt Michael and ASU staff member Whitney Van Sant, gave an update on the current statistics for the Assessment, Support and Counseling (ASC) program at Ashe County High. Since the inception of services at the high school 3.5 years ago, ASC has served students via crisis intervention for a total of 151 documented events (students at risk for suicide). Thus far, ASC has directly served 43 students during the current school year. Dr. Michael stated that the current model of service is equivalent to three full-time positions and that there is the chance of losing one position from his team at the ASC Center this upcoming year. He is currently in the process of making application for a major multi-year grant. The Board stated that it is very much aware of the program's value to students and the importance of the school system's collaborating partnership with the ASC Center.

Marc Payne and Amy Walker discussed the idea of adding a yearly EKG requirement and including rising 7th graders to participate in the *Heart of a Husky* program for 7-12 athletic eligibility. Rising 8th graders were added last year. Middle school and high school athletes would now have all the same eligibility requirements. The complete athletic physical and required EKG is free to the student and family. The *Heart of a Husky* is scheduled for May 20-21, 2016. Hospital Administrator Laura Lambeth has agreed to have a no-cost EKG done for any athlete who does not have one on the scheduled dates in May. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the plan as presented. Dr. Beckworth stated that once again the school system is being proactive for its students.

The 2016/17 budget planning process was reviewed with the Board. The Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer plans to meet with each principal and director to discuss budget needs.

The Superintendent presented and explained the proposed revisions to Policy 3460 *Graduation Requirements* to the Board for its consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the February meeting.

The Superintendent stated that the x-factor for the school system's achievements is due to teachers and administrators.

The following items of information were presented to the Board.

- Thursday, January 28—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm @ Ashe County High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, February 9
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 1, 2016, and will be held in the ACHS Commons area beginning at 6:15 pm (yearly recognition program).
- Friday, March 11—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- Thursday, March 24—Elementary Battle of the Books (EBOB)—Grades 4-5, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - NC PreK—March 21-24
 - Blue Ridge—March 28-30
 - Mountain View—April 11-13

➤ Westwood—April 18-20

At 7:55 pm, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones 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 [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:05 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 8:20 pm.

The Board accepted the resignation/retirement letter from Phil Howell, Assistant Superintendent for Testing and Accountability, effective March 1, 2016.

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