

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
February 1, 2016

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 the addition of two personnel items, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

Board Member Polly Jones recognized the 2015/16 NC Teacher of the Year Keana Triplett.

Board Member Terry Williams recognized the following individual school *Teacher of the Year* nominees and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Phyllis Ashley, Ashe High; Jennifer Williams, Ashe Middle; Dawn Powers, Blue Ridge; Kelly Lambert, Mountain View; and Monica Parsons, Westwood. Kelly Lambert was then recognized as the *2015/16 Ashe County Teacher of the Year* and presented with a plaque.

Vice Chairman Jones recognized the following individual school *Teacher Assistant of the Year* nominees and presented each with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Linda Sloan, Ashe High; Amanda Royal, Blue Ridge; July Roark, Mountain View; and Shalane Dillard, Westwood. Linda Sloan was then recognized as the *2015/16 Ashe County Teacher Assistant of the Year* and presented with a plaque.

Board Member Polly Jones recognized Ashe High teacher Jennifer Treva as the *2015/16 Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children* and presented her with a certificate acknowledging her achievement.

Board Member Lee Beckworth recognized Mountain View teacher Tina Key as the *2015/16 NC Outstanding Math Teacher* and presented her with a certificate acknowledging her achievement.

Board Member Terry Williams recognized David Blackburn, principal at Mountain View, as the *2015/16 Ashe County Schools Principal of the Year* and presented him with a plaque acknowledging his achievement.

The Superintendent recognized Associate Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer Phyllis Yates and the finance department—Amanda Coldiron, Geneva Spencer, Kevin Anderson and Sandy Rhodes—for receiving the *2013/14 Excellence Award from the National Government Finance Officers Association*.

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 January 11, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the revision to Policy 3460 *Graduation Requirements* as presented at the January meeting.

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

CERTIFIED**Employee Leaves**

- Request from Ronda Donner, 1st grade teacher at Mountain View, for a leave of absence beginning January 4, 2016 and going through March 25, 2016 to care for her daughter (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Luci Jackson, 3rd grade teacher at Mountain View, for a medical/parental leave of absence beginning January 4, 2016 and going through the end of the 2015/16 school year (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Vicky Winebarger, 4th grade teacher at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning February 10, 2016 and ending on or about March 25, 2016 (FMLA = 6 weeks)
- Request from Martha Turner, Child Nutrition Coordinator at Central Office, for an intermittent leave of absence beginning January 25, 2016 to care for husband; ending date to be determined
- Request from Cati Robinson, math teacher at Ashe Middle, for an extension of her parental leave through the end of the 2015/16 school year (per Board policy)
- Resignation of Oliva Jenkins, CTE health occupations teacher at Ashe High, effective February 26, 2016

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim middle grades teacher at Ashe Middle to fill leave to the end of the 2015/16 school year
- Interim teacher for exceptional children at Westwood to fill leave to the end of the 2015/16 school year
- CTE health occupations teacher at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED**Bus Drivers**

- Reassignment of Randell Baldwin from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Ashe High effective January 19, 2016 (prior approval)
- Request from Denise Austin, regular bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave beginning on January 14, 2016 and ending on February 3, 2016 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Cafeteria Assistant Substitute

- Addition of Dreama Blevins to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list (prior approval)

Coaches

- Addition of Chad Burgess to the approved coaching list as head softball coach at Ashe Middle (TBA on August Coaching list—paid)
- Addition of Dave Hudler to the approved coaching list as assistant softball coach at Ashe Middle (TBA on August Coaching list—paid)
- Addition of Leanne Cronk to the approved coaching list as assistant track coach at Ashe Middle (rover—paid)
- Addition of Zach Huffstetler to the approved coaching list as assistant baseball coach at Ashe High (volunteer)

Tutor

- Employment of Phyllis Anna Sutherland as part-time temporary tutor at Ashe Middle effective February 2, 2016, contingent upon drug screen and criminal history (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Stacy Halsey from substitute teacher to part-time temporary tutor at Ashe Middle effective February 10, 2016 (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Part-time tutor at Ashe Middle
- Part-time tutor at Westwood
- 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, 2015. 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, or clean, report on all financial statements.

Two senior students from the Appalachian Studies class at Ashe High, along with instructor Josh Beckworth, gave a presentation on naming Ashe County's teacher of the year award in honor of Oddie Cox. In recognition of Black History Month, Justin Blevins wrote a paper about Mr. Cox who was a well-respected and accomplished teacher in the early 1900s; Jared Richards did the actual presentation. The Board will take this under consideration.

The Superintendent gave an update on the survey results from teachers at the high school on whether or not student cell phones presented a problem in the classroom setting—the results were about 50/50. As a solution, he recommended that the school system purchase wall jackets in which students can place their cell phones during class.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- Update on Improper Equipment Fee Lawsuit
- National School Counseling Week—February 1-5, 2016
- WIDA ACCESS testing for limited English students—February 1-March 25
- February 2016—CTE Month
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, March 7, 2016, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.
- 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
- Friday, March 25, 2016—Good Friday holiday
- Spring Break—April 4-8, 2016
- Monday, April 11, 2016—Board meeting will be held at Ashe County Arts Council beginning at 7:00 pm.

There being no further business, a motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams adjourned the meeting at 7:59 pm.