SPECIAL MEETING ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION March 21, 2016

The special 5:00 pm dinner meeting was held as scheduled with all members present. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2016/17 budget requests.

The agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

The Board went into closed session at 5:25 pm 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)]. No action was taken.

The Board returned to regular session at 6:05 pm.

The Board set high school graduation for Friday, June 3, 2016.

The Superintendent gave an overview and responded to questions on the logistics of the 2016/17 School Calendar. The calendar will be presented for consideration at the April meeting.

The Cooperative and Innovative High School (CIHS) initiative encourages local education agencies to partner with their local postsecondary institutes of higher education to provide joint programs that expand students' opportunities for education success. The Board approved the request from the Superintendent to investigate the feasibility of applying for a CIHS grant from the Department of Public Instruction.

In conjunction with the CIHS initiative, the Superintendent also discussed the feasibility of implementing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Education in the future beginning at the elementary level.

The Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer gave an in-depth review of all the line item budget requests from principals and directors. Discussion was heard. The Board felt it needed more time to review the requests and scheduled another 5:00 pm dinner meeting for Tuesday, March 29, to continue its budget discussions.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 7:30. No action was taken.