

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 7, 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 a personnel item, the agenda was approved by consensus of the Board.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on February 1, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe County Middle selected 8th grade band members (five girls and three boys) for an overnight trip to participate in the NC Piedmont Honor Band at Glenn High School in Kernersville March 17-18, 2016.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations. Due to a conflict of interest, Chairman King relinquished the meeting to the Vice Chairman and abstained from voting. Following the vote, the Chairman resumed leadership.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Roxane Gilbert as WFD-CTE health occupations teacher at Ashe High effective April 1, 2016 (prior approval)
- Re-employment of Janet Barr as interim middle grades teacher at Ashe Middle effective February 15, 2016 through the end of the 2015/16 school year (filling leave of absence)
- Resignation/retirement of Emma Sexton, middle grades teacher at Ashe Middle, effective June 30, 2016

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Trenton Lee Burleson, Erick Christoferson, Robin Jones and Roxane Gilbert to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Heather Goss, speech-language pathologist at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence starting on February 17, 2016 and ending on March 16, 2016 (FMLA = 4 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of Terry Treadway to the approved bus driver substitute list (prior approval)

Coaches

- Addition of Jonathan Risk to the approved coaching list as assistant baseball coach at Ashe Middle (paid)
- Addition of Jessica Calhoun to the approved coaching list as assistant softball coach at Ashe High

Teacher Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Lois Barker, teacher assistant at Westwood, effective July 1, 2016

Testing Facilitator

- Additional job duties assigned to Sarah Blevins, testing facilitator at Ashe High, as temporary testing facilitator at the district level effective March 1, 2016 and ending May 31, 2016 and on an “as needed basis” during the month of June

Tutor

- Employment of Sherry Woodward as part-time temporary tutor at Westwood effective February 15, 2016 (prior approval)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Denise Austin, bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning January 14, 2016 with ending date undetermined (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Robin Scott, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence beginning February 11, 2016 and ending on or about March 7, 2016 (FMLA ≈ 17 days)
- Request from Kelly Peak, exceptional children teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave of absence beginning March 31, 2016 and ending on April 30, 2016

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

The Superintendent led discussion on naming Ashe County’s teacher of the year award in honor of Oddie Cox. In recognition of Black History Month, two students, Justin Blevins and Jared Richards, along with instructor Josh Beckworth, from the Appalachian Studies class at Ashe High, presented this idea to the Board at its February meeting. Mr. Cox, a well-respected and accomplished teacher in the early 1900s, was an excellent role model for young people. He was responsible for lobbying the school board to build the first consolidated black school, a four-room building in the Bristol Community. Former retired school administrators Sam Shumate and Morris Walker relayed to current Board members that this honor was “long overdue—Mr. Cox gave to young people so they would have a better life.” A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to naming Ashe County’s teacher of the year award in honor of Mr. Oddie Cox.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- Town of West Jefferson approval of the Conditional Use Permit to upgrade the Carolina West Wireless cellular communications tower located at the Westwood site
- Friday, March 11—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- Friday, March 18—3rd Annual Leadership Day at Blue Ridge, 8:30-11:00
- Monday, March 21—budget work session, 5:00 pm, dinner meeting, annex
- 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
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2016, 7:00 pm and will be held at the Ashe Arts Council.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.