

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 11, 2016

The meeting was held as scheduled at the Ashe Arts Council with all members present. The Chairman called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

New items were added to the agenda—additional personnel recommendations and a request for an overnight trip from the middle school to attend the State Envirothon competition. The agenda was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, Arts Council Director Jane Lonon thanked the Board for its support of arts education and pointed out the K-12 Annual Young at Art Exhibit showcased around the room. She gave an overview of the upcoming arts programs on April 16—the Very Special Arts Festival and Spring Fest. Mrs. Lonon commended the school system for its stellar art programs. The partnership between the schools and Arts Council sponsored 46 performances for students to enjoy this school year.

Dr. Beckworth recognized Miguel G., 8th grade student at Ashe County Middle, as the 2016 Ashe County Spelling Bee Champion and presented Miguel with a certificate and trophy. Miguel was also the 2015 County Spelling Bee Champion.

The Board recognized the 2015/16 Dick Miller Youth Leadership participants. On behalf of all the participants, students Keely Caddell and Tori Colvard spoke on the many benefits they gleaned from participating in the program and thanked the Board for its support.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on March 7, 2016.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe County High Science Olympiad Team for an overnight trip to attend the Science Olympiad Tournament in Raleigh, North Carolina, April 22-23, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe County Middle Envirothon Team for an overnight trip to attend the NC State Envirothon Competition in Burlington, North Carolina, April 29-30, 2016.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2016/17 Federal grants to the Department of Public Instruction.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2016/17 County Budget Request as presented by Associate Superintendent Phyllis Yates.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation/retirement of Evelyn Colvard, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, effective July 1, 2016
- Resignation/retirement of Debbie Newton, 3rd grade teacher at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2016

- Resignation/retirement of Dianna Miller, 3rd grade teacher at Westwood, effective July 1, 2016
- Resignation of Chelsea Clanton, 2nd grade teacher at Mountain View, effective June 10, 2016
- Resignation of Dustin Roten, math teacher at Ashe High, effective June 10, 2016
- Resignation/retirement of Pat Lanno, music teacher at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2016

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Kathleen Williams to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Middle grades language arts/social studies teacher
- Math teacher at Ashe High
- Elementary teachers at Mountain View and Westwood
- Certified staff as necessary to begin the 2016/17 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Terrance Kepple, bus driver at Mountain View, effective April 15, 2016
- Reassignment of James Stephenson from substitute bus driver to temporary full-time bus driver at Mountain View effective April 18, 2016

Maintenance

- Resignation/retirement of Mark Shepherd, maintenance mechanic with Ashe County Schools (Central Office), effective end of day March 31, 2016

School Bookkeeper

- Resignation/retirement of Dianne Ballou, secretary/bookkeeper at Ashe High, effective July 31, 2016

Teacher Assistant

- Resignation of Kelly Peak, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge, effective April 14, 2016
- Reassignment of Jocelyn Bruening from substitute teacher to temporary teacher assistant for exceptional children at Blue Ridge effective April 14, 2016

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Maintenance mechanic
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Karee Mackey, the Gear Up Coordinator for Ashe County, gave an overview of the Gear Up grant through Appalachian State University that focuses on college awareness and readiness undergraduate programs. The program grant, which began with grade 6 in February 2015, will track this cohort of students through graduation from high school. Gear Up actively encourages students to set high academic expectations and offers an array of opportunities which enables students to increase their knowledge of educational options beyond high school.

Marcia Elledge, the Board Liaison to the Endowment Committee, gave an overview of the 2016 Ashe County Schools Endowment Grant Awards. The Grant Committee awarded a total of \$11,906 to 16 of the 20 grants submitted. A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the disbursement of grant monies. The recipients will be recognized at the May meeting of the Board.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the proposed 2016/17 School Calendar as presented by the Superintendent and the School Calendar Committee.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the transmission line easement agreement with Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation. The easement is located on the Ashe County Middle School property.

The Superintendent expressed appreciation to the Ashe Arts Council for its commitment to the students of Ashe County.

Superintendent Holden submitted his resignation as Superintendent of Ashe County Schools effective July 1, 2016 to take a superintendent's position in Madison County. Dr. Holden stated that this was a very difficult decision and expressed appreciation to the Board and staff for their support.

The following announcements and information were shared with the Board.

- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - Mountain View—April 11-13
 - Westwood—April 18-20
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2016, 7:00 pm and will be held in the annex.
- Special Olympics—Tuesday, May 3 (rain dates are Wednesday, May 4, or Thursday, May 5)
- Tuesday, May 3—National Teacher Day
- Friday night, May 20, and Saturday, May 21—*Heart of a Husky* athletic exams, Ashe County High
- Friday, June 3—high school graduation @ 7:00 pm—Project Graduation immediately following @ Mountain View

The Board took a short recess beginning at 8:11 pm prior to going into closed session at 8:21 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)].

The Board returned to regular session at 9:08 pm.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to accepting the resignation of Dr. Todd Holden as Superintendent of Ashe County Schools.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to holding a public hearing prior to its regular meeting on Monday, May 2, 2016, to discuss the construction schematics and location of a new middle school for grades 6-8.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 9:11 pm.