

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

June 6, 2016

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

Following the addition of personnel items, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

Dr. Beckworth recognized Alyssa H., 5th grade student at Westwood, who was the 1st place winner of the State Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest and presented her with a certificate. Alyssa won \$325 from the State for her accomplishment.

Terry Williams recognized the Mountain View team—Eli C., Landon J., Frankie M., Jezik M., Lane M., Paige O., John Fields P. and Whitley Y.—for winning both the local and regional Elementary Battle of the Books competition and presented the team with a certificate to display at their school.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on May 2, 2016.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe High JROTC Husky Battalion to attend the JROTC Leadership Challenge Camp at Camp Bud Schiele, Rutherfordton, NC, June 11-16, 2016. The Chairman commended MSG Chalk Wetmore and the cadets for attaining 97.75 out of 100 points at their recent inspection.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following 2016/17 bids and/or bid extensions for the Child Nutrition program:

- US Foods—food and food supplies—*bid extension*
- Pet/H&S Dairy—ice cream—*bid extension*
- Bimbo Bakeries—bakery—*new bid*
- Dr. Pepper Bottling—water, isotonic beverages and juice—*new bid*
- Pet Dairy—dairy—*bid extension*

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2016/17 school lunch/meal prices as presented by Child Nutrition Coordinator Martha Turner. Prices will remain the same as in 2015/16 except for the adult lunch which increased from \$3.25 to \$3.50.

- student breakfast—paid \$1—reduced \$0
- student lunch—paid grades PK-6 \$2, reduced \$0.40—paid grades 7-12 \$2.25, reduced \$0.40
- extra milk—\$0.40
- adult meals—breakfast \$1.25—lunch \$3.50

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the 2016/17 Local Plan for Career and Technical Education as presented by CTE Director Joallen Lowder.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the administrative contract recommendations. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2016/17 one-year teacher contract recommendations. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Vanessa Van Valin as music teacher at Mountain View effective August 16, 2016 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Caitlyn O'Donnell from substitute teacher to interim teacher at Mountain View effective August 16, 2016 (filling a leave—prior approval)
- Resignation of Brandi Hurley, teacher for exceptional children at Westwood, effective June 10, 2016
- Resignation of Kellie Johnson, middle grades language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, effective June 10, 2016
- Resignation of Katie Hodgin, pre-kindergarten teacher at Ashe Early Learning, effective June 9, 2016
- Resignation of Ashley Fields, 1st grade teacher at Mountain View, effective June 9, 2016
- Resignation of Jennifer Williams, math teacher at Ashe High, effective June 9, 2016
- Transfer of Jessica Roland from pre-kindergarten teacher at Ashe Developmental Day to pre-kindergarten teacher at Ashe Early Learning Center effective August 16, 2016

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Brittany Church, Hannah Goodman, Erica Marion and Jessica Miller to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Certified staff as necessary to begin the 2016/17 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Reassignment of Jamie McNeill from substitute teacher/bus driver to temporary regular route bus driver at Westwood effective April 8, 2016 and ending June 7, 2016
- Resignation of Paula Fox, bus driver at Ashe Middle, effective May 18, 2016
- Resignation of Dennis Houck, bus driver at Ashe Middle, effective June 7, 2016
- Resignation of Carrie Argetsinger, bus driver at Ashe High, effective June 7, 2016

Employee Leave

- Request from Pete Eller, custodian at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence starting on May 10, 2016 and ending on June 10, 2016 (FMLA = 4 weeks + 4 days)

Substitute Bus Drivers

- Addition of Charles “Mike” Adams and David Miller to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Phyllis Hart, cafeteria assistant at Westwood, effective June 1, 2016

Custodian

- Promotion of Kenneth Blevins from bus driver at Blue Ridge to 2nd shift custodian at Blue Ridge effective June 8, 2016 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Jimmy Thompson, Jr. from substitute custodian with Ashe County Schools to 1st shift custodian at Blue Ridge effective June 1, 2016 (prior approval)

Lifeguards

- Re-employment of Brandon Shepherd as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective June 7, 2016
- Re-employment of Jordan Avery as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective June 7, 2016

Pool Manager

- Additional employment of Brittany Wood as pool manager at Ashe Middle effective May 3, 2016 (summer season)

Teacher Assistant

- Transfer of Renee Weaver from teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe Developmental Day to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe Early Learning effective August 16, 2016

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Lifeguards at Ashe Middle
- Classified staff as necessary to begin the 2016/17 school year
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Thomas Mullis from the Department of Transportation informed the Board that the Department of Transportation wanted to change the agreement approved at the May 2016 meeting from a permanent to a temporary easement for highway purposes over a portion of the Fleetwood property. The property will revert back to the Board of Education upon completion. The \$6,000 settlement will remain the same. The Board agreed to this change and the Chairman signed the necessary paperwork.

Gear Up Coordinator Karee Mackey gave a presentation on the promotion by Gear Up enabling educators to participate in the Education Policy Fellowship Program through the NC Public School Forum. The Board delayed its decision until the upcoming June/July meeting at which time Ms. Mackey will present the names of those wanting to participate.

Jamie Little, who is coordinating the Read to Achieve Summer Camp as mandated by the General Assembly, presented an update to the Board. The camp has been expanded to encompass grades 1-3 rather than just grade 3 so that struggling students in grades 1-2 can participate. This year's camp will

be offered at all the elementary sites June 13-30 for six hours per day. The mClass assessment tool was used to identify approximately 147 students who would be eligible to participate.

Technology Director Amy Walker gave an update on the e-rate wireless connectivity project. The project began on March 14 of this year. As of this date, the vendor has pulled 78,000 feet of wire (almost 15 miles), installed 292 access points (one per classroom), installed 19 commercial grade Brocade 10 gig switches and clocked approximately 520 hours of labor, thereby giving the school system a very robust wi-fi system. If not for e-rate and the one-time Race to the Top funding, this project would have cost the school system over one-half million dollars. The school system only incurred an out-of-pocket cost of \$5,600.

The Superintendent asked the Board to revise Policy 4400 Attendance to allow the Superintendent to develop procedures for student tardies. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the Board's next regular meeting.

June 29 was established as the date for the June/July 2016 meeting.

The Superintendent, whose resignation is effective June 30, stated that it had been a pleasure working for Ashe County Schools and that "he would miss it immensely". He congratulated Mrs. Yates on becoming the next Superintendent.

The following announcements and information items were shared with the Board.

- Ashe County Schools Equity Data Plan for Certified Personnel
- Tuesday, June 7—last day for students—early release—11:00, 11:30, 12:00
- Wednesday, June 8—Required Teacher Workday
- Thursday, June 9—Optional Teacher Workday—last day for teachers
- June 13-30—Summer Reading Camps @ each elementary school
- Wednesday, July 13—Endowment Golf Tournament—Jefferson Landing
- Monday, August 1—regular meeting of the Board

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to taking 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 began closed session at 8:00 pm and returned to regular session at 9:18 pm. No action was taken.

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