

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
September 12, 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.

The agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

During open comments, Joyce Current, on behalf of the Ashe Arts Council, gave Board members a copy of Governor McCrory's *Proclamation of Arts in Education Week September 11-17, 2016*. Mrs. Current also shared a list of the Arts Council's school programming activities planned for 2016/17 and expressed appreciation to all the art teachers in the school system.

The Board heard comments from residents of North Main Street in Jefferson—Kareis Wagner, Christopher Curtin and Drew Martin—regarding the process used to determine the location for the proposed new middle school. The following questions and/or concerns were voiced: what sites were considered for the school, how the Board became aware of these sites, the criteria used to determine the site, the cost of the site, traffic flow/congestion, the plan for public entrance to the site and the amount of time children would spend on buses. The Chairman told residents that the Board would take all these comments under consideration.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on August 8, 2016.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Blue Ridge 6<sup>th</sup> grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 28-31, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Westwood 6<sup>th</sup> grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 10-13, 2017.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Mountain View 6<sup>th</sup> grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, April 26-29, 2017.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the Child Nutrition a 'la cart pricing for 2016/17 as presented by Child Nutrition Coordinator Martha Turner.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to submission of the 2017/18 LEA Based Calendar Waiver Request for Weather Related Causes (G.S. 115C-84.2) to the State Board of Education. If approved for a weather related waiver, the opening date may be no earlier than the Monday closest to August 19, 2017.

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

**CERTIFIED****Teachers**

- Employment of Rhoda Griffith as CTE Career Management teacher at Ashe High effective August 16, 2016 (prior approval)
- Employment of Stefan Kunz as social studies teacher at Ashe High effective August 16, 2016 (prior approval)
- Employment of Annerys Soto as teacher for exceptional children at Westwood effective August 16, 2016 (prior approval)

**Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Beckie Ballard, Emily Berglund, Ashlynn Hill, Laura McMillan and Lucy Phipps to the approved substitute list

**Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- Substitute teachers

**CLASSIFIED****Bus Drivers**

- Re-employment of Susan Carter as temporary bus driver at Westwood effective August 22, 2016
- Reassignment of Carrie Argetsinger from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Westwood effective September 13, 2016
- Resignation of Alice JoAnn Graybeal, regular route bus driver at Blue Ridge, effective August 21, 2016

**Bus Driver Substitute**

- Addition of Anna Miller to the approved substitute bus driver list effective August 22, 2016

**Cafeteria Assistant Substitute**

- Addition of Kristalee Vanessa Latham to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list effective September 1, 2016

**Coaches**

- Addition of Avery Barr and Joey Burgess to the approved coaching list as assistant football coaches at Ashe Middle (volunteer)

**Teacher Assistant**

- Employment of Anna Martin as prekindergarten teacher assistant at Ashe Early Learning effective September 12, 2016 (one-year assignment)

**Employee Leave**

- Request from Matthew Reeves, custodian at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning September 27, 2016 and ending on November 28, 2016 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

**Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- Part-time cafeteria assistants at Ashe High, Blue Ridge and Westwood
- Bus drivers at Ashe County Middle, Blue Ridge and Westwood

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Community Health Services Director Stephanie Bunch presented the 2016/17 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Appalachian District Health Department and the Ashe County School System, highlighting the three new components within the MOA—onsite pediatric dental services, collaboration to support the operation of the school-based health center at the middle school and implementation of community specific strategies to improve health outcomes based on assessment tool results. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Memorandum of Agreement.

The Superintendent gave an overview of a grant opportunity from the MacArthur Foundation. Nancy Kautz is spearheading a team of community leaders to submit a proposal that addresses the social determinants of health in the following five domains—economic stability, education, health and health care, neighborhood and built environment and social and community context. If awarded, the \$100 million grant would provide enough funding to make lasting change in the communities of Ashe County. The deadline for the grant application is October 3.

Student Services Coordinator Jamie Little gave a presentation on the Title V Abstinence Education Grant Program. Ashe County has been selected to receive an award of \$50,000 to implement abstinence education based initiatives. If the school system selects to participate, it must complete a memorandum of agreement by October 5, 2016.

The Superintendent gave an update on alcohol abuse education, a State-sponsored campaign by local ABC Boards. Mary Howell, a retired teacher, is the educational provider for Ashe County, as well as other systems across the State. Mrs. Howell plans to expand this training to include sixth grade students in 2016/17.

Items of information included the following:

- Comparison data—SAT scores, graduation rates, teacher turnover
- Meeting with Jefferson Town Aldermen—Monday, September 26, 7:00 pm, at Town Hall
- Wednesday, September 28—Region 7 District NCSBA meeting, Alleghany High School, 4:00-8:00 pm—leave central office at 2:45 pm
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2016, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.
- Monday, October 10—Parent/Teacher Conferences, grades K-12, 11:30-7:00 pm
- October 2016—National Principals Month
- American Education Week—November 13-19, 2016
- 2016/17 Board Development Opportunities

The Chairman announced that the Board would respond to the questions and concerns presented by residents of North Main Street in Jefferson at a later time.

A motion at 7:52 pm by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams 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)]. Closed session began at 7:58 pm.

Upon return to regular session at 9:08 pm, a motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to entering into an agreement to allow the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) to enter the Fleetwood School property to ascertain its viability and utility as the future location of the VFD. This action was made necessary by the North Carolina Department of Transportation acquisition of the existing VFD property due to the widening of Highway 221.

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