

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 9, 2017

The meeting was held as scheduled with all members present. Chairman Jones 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.

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 December 5, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from ACHS Husky Choir for an overnight trip to attend the Festivals of Music at Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, April 20-23, 2017.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina State Convention in Greensboro, February 3-4, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to revisions in the following policies as presented at the December meeting.

- Policy 1760/7280 *Prohibition Against Retaliation*
- Policy 6305 *Safety and Student Transportation Services*
- Policy 6315 *Drivers*
- Policy 7335/10335 *Employee Use of Social Media*
- Policy 9010 *Site Selection*
- Policy 9020 *Facility Design*
- Policy 9110 *Use and Selection of Architects, Engineers, Surveyors and Construction Managers at Risk*

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Lois Barker, Christie Bast, MacKinsey Johnson, Nicholas May, Brian Macharg, Emma Sexton, Evelyn Strasbaugh, and Christos Tsigas to the approved substitute list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Patsy Taylor, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective January 31, 2017

ESL Tutor

- Reassignment of Hannah Goodman Romero from substitute teacher to part-time ESL tutor at Mountain View effective January 23, 2017 through the end of the 2016-2017 school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Career development coordinator for grades 7-12—effective the 2017/18 school year
- Part-time tutors at Ashe Middle (DSSF funds)
- Interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle
- Full-time cafeteria assistant at Mountain View
- Interim ISS teacher assistant at Ashe High
- GEAR UP math tutors (grant funded)
- Bus drivers at Ashe High and Mountain View
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Board of Education adopting the following Resolution approving the sale of the Fleetwood Elementary School property to the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc. for the sum of \$150,000.

WHEREAS, the Ashe County Board of Education previously has determined that the Fleetwood Elementary School property is no longer needed for public school use; and

WHEREAS, the Ashe County Board of Commissioners has elected not to acquire this property pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 115C-518; and

WHEREAS, the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc. has offered to purchase this property from the Ashe County Board of Education for the sum of \$150,000.00; and

WHEREAS, following compliance with the provisions of North Carolina General Statute 160A-269, no additional offer for the purchase of this property has been received.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Ashe County Board of Education approve the sale of the Fleetwood Elementary School property to the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc. for the sum of \$150,000.00. It is further hereby **RESOLVED** that the Chairperson and the Secretary of the Ashe County Board of Education be authorized to execute and deliver to the Fleetwood Volunteer Fire and Rescue Department, Inc. a deed conveying the Fleetwood Elementary School property upon receipt of the purchase price.

Mike Wike from Anderson Smith & Wike presented the Financial Audit for Ashe County Schools for the year ended June 30, 2016. Professional standards require that the audit firm provide the Board with information about the audit firm's responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* and OMB Circular A-133. The auditors issued an unmodified, or clean, report on all financial statements.

Director of Human Resources Lesia Goodman gave an update on the 2015/16 Attrition and Mobility Report, formerly known as the Teacher Turnover Report. Of the 115 local education agencies in the State, Ashe County has the fourth lowest attrition rate—7.17 percent. This speaks well for the school system and its working conditions. The overall state attrition rate for 2015/16 was 9.04 percent.

Student Services Coordinator Jamie Little updated Board members on the progress of funding a coordinator through Title V grant funds. Mrs. Little stated that AppHealth has agreed to partner with Ashe County Schools to provide contracted services for an Abstinence and Youth Development Coordinator to

work with students in grades 4-6. Hopefully, AppHealth will have someone employed in this position and working with these students very soon.

Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron reviewed the 2017/18 budget planning process with the Board. The Superintendent and Mrs. Coldiron will meet with each principal and director to discuss budget needs, followed by a budget work session with the Board in March.

A revision to Policy 4270/6145 *Concussion and Head Injury* was presented to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action on this policy will be taken at the January meeting.

To showcase the yearly K-12 Annual Young at Art Exhibit, the Superintendent reported that the Ashe County Arts Council has requested to host the regular meeting of the Board in April.

The Superintendent reported that Policy 4316 *Student Dress Code* and Policy 7340 *Employee Dress and Appearance* as presented at the December meeting had been tabled for further review by school administrators.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to reversing the motion at the December meeting to revise the current school calendar for the purpose of professional development.

The Superintendent was excited to report that five students from Ashe County High—Monica Uribe-Francisco, Madelyn Goodman, Juan Jaramillo, Jacob Key and Lucas Pruitt—had won the North Carolina 9th-12th Grade Verizon App Challenge. Mrs. Carmen Wilson was the teacher sponsor. Only one high school team from each state was selected. Each Best in State team will receive a \$5,000 award to enhance STEM education at their school and an Android mobile tablet for each team member. These students will be recognized at the February Board meeting.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Thursday, January 19—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm @ Ashe County High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, January 24
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 6, 2017, and will be held in the ACHS Commons area beginning at 6:15 pm (yearly recognition program).
- Friday, March 10—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 5-8, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - Mountain View—March 13-15
 - PreK—March 20-23
 - Westwood—March 27-29
 - Blue Ridge—April 3-5

At 7:40 pm, the Board took a ten-minute 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 went into closed session at 7:50 pm and returned to regular session at 8:24 pm.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to increasing the monthly stipend for Board Chairman from \$125 to \$250 and Board members from \$100 to \$200. This is the first increase in the Board stipend rate in more than 22 years.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.