

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
November 6, 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.

Following the addition of another request for an out-of-county student reassignment and consideration of revising Policy 3210, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on October 2, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Lee and Wanda Hamilton, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their son to attend school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Amanda Miller, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Alleghany County effective immediately.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following student requests for early graduation contingent upon completion of all course work at the end of the first semester: Dustin B., David B., Jade B., Colin C., Gabriel C., Landis H., Shay H., Karissa M., Nicholas N., Lorena S. and Ethan S.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to the request from Technology Director Amy Walker and Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman to apply for a planning grant for Digital Learning through the Department of Public Instruction to implement the digital competencies for teachers and administrators as required by legislation.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the 2017/18 revised coaching assignments for Ashe County Middle.

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

CERTIFIED

Teacher

- Resignation/retirement of Sherrie Phillips, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, effective January 1, 2018

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Oliver Moss and Gary DeWitt to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Phyllis Ashley, CTE teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning on November 20, 2017 and ending on February 19, 2018 (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Wendy Brown, 6th grade teacher at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning on or about November 27, 2017 and ending on or about January 2, 2018 (FMLA = 5 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher at Westwood
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Reassignment of John Ring from substitute bus driver to regular route bus driver at Mountain View effective November 1, 2017 (prior approval)

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of John Ring to the approved bus driver substitute list effective October 20, 2017

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Debra Lynn McNeill as cafeteria assistant at Ashe High effective November 1, 2017

Custodian

- Employment of Jason Goodman as 2nd shift custodian at Ashe High effective October 30, 2017 (prior approval)

PowerSchool Coordinator

- Resignation of Kim Roten as the county-wide PowerSchool coordinator and data manager effective January 5, 2018

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Heather Phillips from substitute teacher to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective November 1, 2017 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Taylor Hinrichs from substitute teacher to part-time teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective October 23, 2017 (prior approval)

Tutor

- Reassignment of Tonya Lee from substitute teacher to part-time tutor at Westwood effective October 30, 2017 (homeless funding)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Pamela Potter, teacher assistant at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective September 29, 2017 and ending on or about November 8, 2017 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Barbara Roland, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, for a family medical leave of absence effective October 17, 2017—ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Debra Lynn McNeill, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a family medical leave of absence effective October 9, 2017 and ending on or about October 20, 2017

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- PowerSchool coordinator and data manager
- Two part-time (approximately four hours per day) cafeteria assistants at Ashe High
- Interim full-time cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle to fill leave of absence
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Principal Dustin Farmer and team members from the middle school gave an update on the 2017/18 initiatives—Canvas, Thinking Maps, rigor through the SAMR model (substitution, augmentation, modification and redefinition), walkthroughs and vocabulary instruction. In addition to the walkthroughs by administrators, the middle school has added a new twist of staff observing staff. Comments from the presenters were very positive, indicating that the initiatives are proving to be beneficial to both students and teachers.

Coordinator of Student Services Jamie Little informed the Board that Fawn Roark has been employed as the site coordinator at the middle school through the grant awarded from Communities in Schools National and that her employment will begin November 20, 2017. Communities in Schools will serve as the fiscal agent.

Director of Accountability Joallen Lowder gave an update on the county-wide benchmark assessments and data day. This was the school system's first system-wide benchmark assessment and data analysis review as required by the District Data Plan. The process went very well. There are some changes that were suggested by teachers for the second benchmark assessment.

Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman requested that the Board consider adopting, revising or updating the following policies: 4231, 3210, 7130, 7405, 7410, 7510, 7530, 7810, 7900, 7930 and 7940. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the December meeting.

The Superintendent explained that the current class size reporting requirements allows a local board of education to request a waiver of class size requirements for an individual class in grades K-3 under certain scenarios. A request for a waiver must be received by the Department of Public Instruction prior to November 30 should Ashe County have an overage as of the 40th instructional day. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to submitting a waiver request should the Superintendent deem it necessary once the class size data in PowerSchool is pulled and reviewed.

The Superintendent reviewed the middle school site visits made on October 17, 2017. The team (Superintendent, Board members, Maintenance Director, Principal and Architect) toured and talked with equivalent staff members at William Lenoir Middle in Caldwell County, Northview Middle in Hickory City and Oak Grove Middle in Davidson County to gain insight in construction of a middle school. Pertinent information and ideas were gleaned from the visits for the Board to consider when preparing the architectural plans for its middle school project.

Board member assignments were made for school visits to recognize staff during American Education Week, November 13-17, 2017.

The following information items were shared with the Board.

- Tuesday, November 7—Veterans' Day Program—Westwood @ 10:15 am in the auditorium
- Thursday, November 9—Veterans' Day Program—Mountain View @ 8:30 am in the gymnasium
- Thursday, November 9—Veterans' Day Program—Ashe County Middle @ 9:00 am in the gymnasium
- Thursday, November 9—Veterans' Day Program—Ashe County High @ 9:30 am in the gymnasium
- Thursday, November 9—Veterans' Day Program—Blue Ridge @ 1:00 pm in the gymnasium
- Friday, November 10—Veterans' Day—holiday
- American Education Week—November 13-17, 2017
- November 23-24—Thanksgiving holidays—*early release on November 22*
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2017, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex. *This will be an organizational meeting.*
- EOC testing—last five days in the semester

At 8:10 pm, the Board took 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 went into closed session at 8:17 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:20 pm.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to the employment of Elaine Cox as the principal of the Ashe Early College High School effective July 1, 2018.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the Superintendent's annual evaluation. The evaluation included a two-year extension to the Superintendent's current contract.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the Superintendent writing a letter of support to secure State grant funding for the School Based Health Center.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:30 pm.