

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 1, 2017

The meeting was held as scheduled with all members present except for Vice Chairman King who was absent due to health reasons. The Chairman called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

An addendum to personnel was added to the agenda. Following a request to move all personnel items to after closed session, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

Abbie D., Chase M., Tyler B. and Jolie T., 5<sup>th</sup> grade student winners in the Young Authors Contest sponsored by the NC Reading Association, were recognized. Dr. Ellen Pesko, a member of the NC Reading Association, was present and stated that there were 600 entries from across the State, 21 of which were from Ashe County. Two hundred entries made the final selection and were published in a book. The Board presented each student with a certificate and commended them for their accomplishment.

The Board recognized the 2016/17 Dick Miller Youth Leadership participants from the high school. Individual students from the 15-member team commented on how the program had been beneficial to each of them, including promotion of student leadership and soft skills. Sponsors Joallen Lowder and Jennifer Glass gave an overview of the benefits this program affords to students. The program is a partnership between Ashe County Schools, Ashe 4-H and Ashe Chamber of Commerce.

The Board recognized the 2016/17 Ashe Junior Youth Leadership participants from the middle school. This is the first year of organization for this five-member team and mimics the high school program. Sponsors Assistant Principal Elaine Cox and State Employees Credit Union Manager Derrick Douglas gave an overview of this program as well.

Board Liaison to the Endowment Committee Marcia Elledge and Committee Member Joyce Kilby recognized the following Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund recipients. Grant awards for 2017 totaled \$11,986.

Blue Ridge—Jessica Jordan—*Adapting Technology for Special Learners*

Ashe County High—Walter Pugh—*Rotating Student CNC Fabricating Art Exhibit*

Mountain View—Misty Prichard, Kelly Mullis, Stacy Greer, Robin Nethery, Jessica Lyall—*Expanding our Minds*

Ashe County Middle—Leeann Cronk—*Race to the Moon*

Westwood—Jessica Dotson, Charlene Goodman—*Manners Matter!*

Central Support—Lesia Goodman—*Adventures Through Imaginary Worlds on The Literacy Express*

Mountain View—Jennifer York—*Boys' Book Buffet*

Mountain View—Vanessa Van Valin—*World Music Drumming Project*

Ashe County Middle—Brett Lewis—*Creating a Virtual Reality for Middle School Students*

Westwood—Michelle Blevins, Lindsey Hagel, Amanda Bloomer, Charles Johnson, Annerys Soto—*Social Skills Fair*

Blue Ridge—Kim Turnmire—*Can you Hear Me and Other Techie Stuff*

Westwood—Ashley Brown, Sara Lambert, Audrea Little, Holly McClure, Makayla Spencer—*Vocabulary Superheroes*

Westwood—Charles Johnson—*A Very Special Enterprise*

Mountain View—Sarah McLeese, Kathy Maloney, Kelly Lambert, Jenny Sluder, Tina Key—*Geology Rocks!*

Westwood—Cara Elliott—*Boys Need Balance*

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for April 3, 2017 and the special closed session on April 12, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Dustin and Jennifer Kerley, who reside in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2017/18 school year.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High JROTC Husky Battalion for an overnight trip to attend the JROTC Leadership Challenge at Camp Bud Schiele in Rutherfordton, NC, June 11-15, 2017.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Gear Up to take 15 rising 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the overnight Outdoor Adventure Camp in Watauga County, June 27-29, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the revision to Policy 7335/10335 *Employee Use of Social Media* as presented at the April meeting.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the revision to Policy 7920 *Professional Personnel Reduction in Force* as presented at the April meeting.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the revision to Policy 7950 *Probationary Teachers Nonrenewal* as presented at the April meeting.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a utility easement agreement with Blue Ridge Electric Membership which will enable the Town of West Jefferson to install an electric vehicle charging station on school property that is currently leased to the Town of West Jefferson. The Board directed the Superintendent to amend the current lease with the Town of West Jefferson to include the Town's removal of the filling station should the Board have need of the leased property in the future.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the 2017/18 School Calendar as prepared and presented by the School Calendar Committee. The Board gave the Superintendent permission to study and research the feasibility of year-round schools in Ashe County.

Principal Jason Krider and staff members Amanda Hipp, Gordon Prince, Josh Beckworth and Jennifer Treva gave a presentation on the implementation of the *Smart Lunch* program at the high school beginning the 2017/18 school year. Students first brought the idea to administration last year, and students Addie Fairchild and Jacob Key spoke in support of the program. Administration, teachers, staff members and students have visited other school systems which have this program in place and two more visits are scheduled in the near future. *Smart Lunch* offers an extended single lunch period for one hour. As young adults, students have the opportunity to eat lunch and participate in a variety of activities of their choice—tutoring, work makeup, assistance with homework, club participation, open gym, maker stations, socializing with friends, etc—during the hour timeframe. *Smart Lunch* will be a privilege and students will have the opportunity to maximize achievement through resources and time. Mr. Krider and staff gave an overview of the *Smart Lunch* matrix and how administration and departments will provide student supervision and services.

Dr. Kurt Michael from Appalachian State University and Whitney Van Sant, counselor at the high school, gave an update on the preliminary data for the Assessment, Support and Counseling (ASC) services offered through the university-school partnership for grades 7-12. The ASC Center has directly served a total of approximately 178 students or 20 percent of the high school student body and 1 percent of the middle school student body in the

2016/17 school year. During the last four years this program has been in place, the ASC Center has documented 217 crisis intervention events, none of which were followed by death by suicide. Mental health in schools is a hidden crisis across the nation, and the ASC program is providing comprehensive school mental health systems of support for Ashe County students.

Lesia Nave-Goodman gave an update on *The Literacy Express*. The mobile unit is near completion, orders for equipment and books are near completion, staffing needs have been identified and put in place and the community schedule has been completed.

The administrative contract recommendations, the one-year teacher contract recommendations and one nonrenewal contract were presented to the Board for its consideration and review. Action will be taken at the regular meeting for June.

Revisions to Policy 5030 *Community Use of Facilities* were presented to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the May meeting.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Testing dates for Spring 2017
- Tuesday, May 9—National Teacher Day
- Special Olympics—Wednesday, May 10, Ashe County High—*rain date is Friday, May 12*
- Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—Friday/Saturday, May 19-20—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*
- Wednesday, May 31—last day for students—early release—11:00, 11:30, 12:00
- Thursday, June 1—Required Teacher Workday as originally scheduled in the calendar
- Friday, June 2—High school graduation @ 7:00 pm—Project Graduation immediately following at Mountain View—Required Teacher Workday
- June 2, 5, 6, 7—Required Teacher Workdays w/o students
- June 8—Optional Teacher Workday—this is the 5<sup>th</sup> OTW
- June 9, 12—Annual Leave
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 5, 2017, 7:00 pm in the annex.

At 9:26 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 9:35 pm and returned to regular session at 10:17 pm.

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

#### **CERTIFIED**

#### **Project Coordinator for Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant**

- Additional employment of Rachel Nave-Lewis as project coordinator for *The Literacy Express* effective April 17, 2017 (grant funded—prior approval)

#### **Teachers**

- Resignation/retirement of Thomas Roberts, science teacher at Ashe High, effective August 1, 2017
- Resignation/retirement of Joan Bach, teacher of exceptional children at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2017

- Resignation of Maggi Fernandez, teacher of exceptional children at Blue Ridge, effective end-of-day May 4, 2017
- Reassignment of Steve Scott from CTE drafting/cabinetry teacher at Ashe High to career development coordinator grades 7-12 for Ashe County Schools effective July 1, 2017 (prior approval)

#### **Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Ethan Poulos, Jessica Martin and India Sturgill to the approved substitute list

#### **Employee Leave**

- Request from Deborah Hess, 1<sup>st</sup> grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a maternity leave of absence beginning on or about August 13, 2017 and ending on November 27, 2017

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

- Band teacher at Ashe High
- CTE drafting/cabinetry teacher at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers

#### **CLASSIFIED**

#### **Bus Driver**

- Resignation of Robert Carlton McNeill, bus driver at Mountain View Elementary, effective end of day May 31, 2017

#### **Employee Leave**

- Request from Randy Barker, maintenance mechanic, for a medical leave of absence effective May 15, 2017; ending date to be determined (possibly up to 9 months)

#### **Substitute Bus Driver**

- Addition of Gale Elliott to the approved substitute bus driver list

#### **Pool Manager**

- Additional employment of Susan Poe as pool manager at Ashe Middle effective May 2, 2017 (summer season—prior approval)

#### **Tutor**

- Resignation of Hannah Romero, ESL tutor at Mountain View Elementary, effective April 14, 2017

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

- Lifeguards
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.