

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 8, 2018

The meeting was held as scheduled with all members present except for Mr. King and Mr. Williams who were absent due to illness—a quorum was present for the meeting. 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 Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 4, 2017.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Brandon and Rachel Shepherd, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their sons to attend school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Dale Hudler, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from ACHS ProStart I class for an overnight trip to attend the ProStart I competition in Charlotte, February 25-27, 2018.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the NC State Convention in Greensboro, February 2-3, 2018.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Lesia Goodman, grant writer for the school system, to apply for a \$75,000 STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) grant through the Honda Foundation.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Hannah Betsch as social studies teacher at Ashe High effective January 16, 2018 (verbal prior approval)
- Employment of Rebekah Washburn as social studies teacher at Ashe High effective January 29, 2018 (verbal prior approval)
- Resignation of Zack Holden as social studies teacher at Ashe High effective January 2, 2018
- Resignation of Jenny Risk as social studies teacher at Ashe High effective January 15, 2018
- Resignation of Kristi Booker as third grade teacher at Mountain View effective January 19, 2018
- Re-employment of Hannah Romero as kindergarten teacher at Westwood effective January 2, 2018 (prior approval)

Substitute Teacher

- Addition of Richard Bare, Joan Bach, Jennifer “Nikki” Marley and Tonya Greer to the approved substitute list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Coaches

- Addition of Joshua Poe as assistant women's soccer coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (paid)

Receptionist/Secretary

- Employment of Krystal Eller as receptionist/secretary at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2018 (verbal prior approval)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Petra Martinez, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective January 3, 2018 and ending on or before February 28, 2018
- Request from Debra Church, assistant cafeteria manager at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective January 8, 2018—ending date to be determined

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Instructional math support assistant (grant funded thru Gear Up)
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to revisions to Policy 6442 *Vendor Lists* and 6430 *Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials and Supplies* as required in response to the recent Federal audit by the Department of Public Instruction.

Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron informed the Board that the 2018/19 budget planning process will soon be underway. The Superintendent and Finance Officer will meet with each principal and director to discuss budget needs, followed by a budget work session with the Board in March.

Directors Amy Walker and Lesia Goodman informed the Board that the State Board of Education approved a Digital Teaching and Learning Grant for Ashe County. The purpose of the \$50,000 State grant is to advance digital-age teaching and learning in public schools. There were 61 grant applicants across the State and 31 were granted, three of which were in our region. The focus of the grant is to develop a vision and plan to drive the digital teaching and learning competencies in Ashe County. The grant was specific in the percentage allocation of funds—40 percent for contracted services (consultant), 25 percent for hardware/software, 25 percent for professional development and 10 percent for stipends, transportation or substitute costs. Ashe County will utilize the funding to organize a technology leadership team made up of teachers from each school to lead the way in developing and disseminating innovative models for digital learning.

The Superintendent informed the Board that Wilkes Community College was awarded four NC Works Career Coaches. The purpose of this program is to place community college career coaches in high schools to assist students with determining career goals and identifying community college programs that enable students to achieve these goals. Ashe County High will be recipient of one coach—that position will be effective in July 2018.

Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman requested that the Board make revisions to Policy 7410 *Teacher Contracts* based upon required legislation. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the February meeting.

The Superintendent commented on the following items.

- The faculty review of the architectural plans for the middle school is scheduled for Wednesday, January 24, 3:30-5:00 pm at Ashe County Middle.
- The Board member training session (Every Student Succeeds Act/ESSA, Multi-Tiered System of Support/MTSS, Testing and Accountability) will immediately follow the faculty review. The dinner meeting will be held in the annex, and principals and directors will attend the training as well.
- The Superintendent is scheduled to attend the Superintendents Cohort V training at Research Triangle Park, January 10-11, 2018.
- The Superintendent asked that Board members let her know if they wanted to register for any of the legal webinars sponsored by the NC School Boards Association.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Monday, January 15—Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- Thursday, January 18—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm, Ashe County High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, January 23
- Sunday, January 21—Required Parent Meeting for students interested in attending Ashe Early College, 2:00 pm, Ashe County High Auditorium
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 5, 2018, and will be held in the ACHS Commons area beginning at 6:15 pm (yearly recognition program).
- National School Counseling Week—February 5-9, 2018
- Friday, March 9—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- Thursday, April 12—Elementary Battle of the Books (EBOB)—Grades 4-5, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium

There being no further business, a motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to adjourning the meeting at 7:28 pm.