

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 3, 2018

The December meeting was held at the Board of Education annex as scheduled with all members present. Incumbent Polly Jones returned to her position on the Board. Newly elected members are Dianne Eldreth and Keith McClure. Superintendent Yates called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Policy 2200, *Election of Officers/Organization of Board*, requires that the Board of Education hold an organizational meeting at the first meeting in December of each year at which time a chairman and vice chairman are elected. Following opening remarks by the Superintendent, the floor was opened for nominations for chairman. A motion by Lee Beckworth and a second by Dianne Eldreth gave unanimous approval to appointing C. B. Jones as Chairman. Superintendent Yates relinquished the meeting to Chairman Jones who opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. A motion by Polly Jones and a second by Keith McClure gave unanimous approval to appointing Lee Beckworth as Vice Chairman. The Board will continue to hold its meetings on the first Monday night of each month (unless altered by a holiday) at 7:00 pm in the annex.

The agenda for the meeting was approved by unanimous consensus of the Board.

Public comments were heard by the Board. Parent Sarah Osborne stated that there is an epidemic of head lice in our schools—her child has had lice nine times in the last two years, and this has become a financial burden to the family. Mrs. Osborne felt that the schools need to better educate parents. Tara Blevins, owner of a local hair salon, reported that she has seen 31 cases thus far this year. She spoke about the financial burden as well. A family without insurance must pay \$333 for a prescription. The Board will respond to these concerns at its January meeting.

Athletic Director David Koontz recognized the following coaches and students for their accomplishments in the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference, and the Superintendent presented each with a certificate on behalf of the Board of Education.

- Recognition of Brian Hampton as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in Football
- Recognition of Shane Greene as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Coach of the Year in Cross County Men and Women
- Recognition of Luke H. as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Offensive Player of the Year in Football
- Recognition of Zachariah B. as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Defensive Player of the Year in Football
- Recognition of Tafton B. as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Male Runner of the Year in Cross Country
- Recognition of Mahaley C. as the Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Female Runner of the Year in Cross Country

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on November 5, 2018.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation of Jennifer Chandler as teacher of exceptional children at Ashe High effective end-of-day November 16, 2018

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Teresa Eller to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Penny Barnes, kindergarten teacher at Blue Ridge, for an intermittent medical leave of absence beginning on November 13, 2018 and ending on December 21, 2018 (FMLA)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Reassignment of Brenda Bare from substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools to part-time regular route bus driver at Mountain View effective December 1, 2018 (prior approval)

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Barbara Kearley to the approved cafeteria assistant substitute list

Coaches

- Addition of Jimmy Black to the approved coaches list for Ashe High as assistant girl's JV basketball coach (paid—fills open position)

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Canzada Lyall from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to temporary teacher assistant at Westwood effective January 3, 2019 through end of current school year (to fill retiree position)
- Reassignment of Taylor Hinrichs from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to temporary teacher assistant at Westwood effective January 3, 2019 through end of current school year (to fill retiree position)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Loretta Swafford, bus monitor at Ashe High, for medical leave of absence beginning November 8, 2018 and ending on November 25, 2018 (not eligible for FMLA)
- Request from Sandra Dillard, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning November 6, 2018 and ending on or about March 21, 2019 (FMLA)
- Request from Darlene Calhoun, bus driver at Ashe High, for medical leave of absence beginning December 10, 2018—ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe High (to fill leave of absence)
- Custodian at Ashe Early Learning Center
- Part-time cafeteria assistant at Westwood
- Teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View beginning January 2019 through end of school year (to fill a promotion)
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Silvia T., a student at Ashe Early College, gave a presentation on the Ashe Early College Newsletters, highlighting all the activities and happenings during the Fall semester. Thus far, the journalism class has published 18 newsletters—all publications have been student led. The Board was given a sample copy of a newsletter. The Vice Chairman commented how pleased the Board is with the way students have taken ownership in the Early College.

Maintenance Director Jerry Baker gave an update on the new athletic field at the high school. This field replaces the practice field that was sold to Wilkes Community College for expansion purposes. The new field has almost the same amount of usable space—158' x 306' vs 154' x 305'. Mr. Baker reviewed the items remaining in order to complete the project—seeding, irrigation and landscaping, sodding and fencing. The Board instructed Mr. Baker to move forward with the project.

Athletic Director David Koontz asked the Board to consider changes in the Track and Field event locations now that the new practice field is adjacent to the main athletic field. The Board approved moving the shot put and discus throwing pads to the areas indicated on the map that Mr. Koontz shared with the Board. Additionally, the pole vault pad and apparatus needs to be updated to meet the current national athletic safety codes. Due to safety reasons, the Board approved the costs associated with both requests.

The Board approved sending letters to our local State legislators in support of returning control of the school calendar to the local education agency. The Superintendent is to ask the Commissioners to send a letter of support as well.

Due to the number (25) of newly elected State legislators, the Superintendent asked the Board to consider joining the Small Schools Consortium in order to employ a lobbyist to help ensure that the State Legislature continue Small County Supplemental funding. There are currently 27 counties that receive small county funding—all have joined the Consortium except for Ashe. The Vice Chairman stated that by becoming a member of the Consortium the Board would be stepping into the political arena and instructed the Superintendent to seek permission from the County to spend local funds for this purpose. If the County has no objections, then the Board is supportive of this \$2,500 expenditure for this year. Ashe County Schools currently receives \$1.548M in Small County Supplemental Funding.

The Superintendent shared a copy of the NC School Boards Association 2019/20 Legislative Agenda with the Board.

The Superintendent shared a copy of the Legal Prohibition Against Receiving “Gifts and Favors” from Groups Contracting with or Seeking to Contract with Schools Boards published by the NC School Boards Association.

The Board chose not to join the NC School Boards Action Center.

The Superintendent gave an update on the current status of the School Calendar and an overview of the Veterans' Day programs at the schools and the accomplishments of the Ashe High Varsity Football team.

Board Member Keith McClure was selected to serve on the 2019/20 School Calendar Committee.

Board Member Dianne Eldreth was selected to serve on the Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Committee.

Chris Campbell, from Campbell and Shatley Law Offices in Asheville, will present a training session on school law to the Board and to all district and school-based administrators on Monday, December 17. The training will be held in the media center at Ashe High beginning at 5:00 pm.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- December 6—Invitation to the Etiquette Meal at Ashe High during 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th periods
- Friday, December 7—*Dream Big, Rock On* Leadership Day at Blue Ridge, 8:00-11:30 am
- EOC testing—last five days in the semester
- December 24-January 1—Christmas break—*student early release on December 21*
- Wednesday, January 2—required teacher workday
- Thursday, January 3—students return
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2019, 7:00 pm, at the Central Support annex.
- Thursday, January 24—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm, Ashe High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, January 29, 2019

There being no other business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.