

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 5, 2018

Due to the number of attendees, the meeting was moved to the auditorium at the high school. March has been officially designated by the National Association for Music Education for the observance of *Music in Our Schools Month*, so the high school's Steel Band provided entertainment in the Commons area prior to the meeting. The Chairman called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm, welcomed those in attendance and led the pledge of allegiance. All members were in attendance.

Following the addition of another out-of-county request for change in student assignment, the agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

During open comments, the school-based music teachers—Andrea Gardner, Paula Carlton, Lindsey Scarborough, Rachel Nave-Lewis, Vanessa Van Valin and Mary Greene—celebrated the *Music in Our Schools* theme by performing an arrangement of *La Bamba* using their voices accompanied by boom whackers, bongos and a washboard. Ms. Van Valin explained how music can connect the left and right sides of our brain and increase the learning power of students.

The following students were recognized and presented with a certificate acknowledging their accomplishments.

- Recognition of the 2018 finalists in the Young Author's Contest—Josie R., Ashe Middle; Laken W., Alexis R., Lanie B., Jolie T., Abi D., Mason A., Katlyn F. and Jamie R., Blue Ridge; Breanna B., Mountain View; and Alex V., Westwood
- Recognition of Ashe Middle students Bianca G., Jaz G., Lindsey P., Angel P., Macie R., Daniel R., Austin T. and Catori W. for their acceptance into the North Carolina Piedmont Honors Band
- Recognition of Ashe High students Jordan C., Miguel G., Marissa L. and Olivia S. for their selection into the Virginia Tech Honors Band
- Recognition of Ashe High students Jordan C., Nick C., Miguel G., Tyler G., Marissa L., Emma L., Katie M., James M., Devin O., Emily R. and Olivia S. for their acceptance into the North Carolina Piedmont Honors Band
- Recognition of Miguel G. for auditioning for the Northwest North Carolina All-District Band and earning a chair in the highest scoring Symphonic Band—Miguel performed for the public with the ASU Band on February 18.
- Recognition of the NCHSAA Division 2 Varsity Non-Tumble State Champions—Abigail H., Britney M., Shantell M., Kinsey R., Katelyn R., Rachael E., Laken E., Sophia F., Olivia S., Sarah B., Alex F., Haleigh G., Savanna V., Emilee W. and Summer Y.

Due to a baseball game, Zachariah B., the State 2A Wrestling champion for the 220 weight class, was unable to attend the meeting.

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 February 5, 2018.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Mary Strong, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request from Scott Cahan, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Jennifer Carroll, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Michael Childers, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Amanda Mills, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her children to attend school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High HOSA for an overnight trip to attend State Competition in Greensboro, March 22-24, 2018.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe County High selected band members for an overnight trip to participate in the NC Piedmont Honors Band at Glenn High School in Kernersville, March 22-23, 2018.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe Middle selected band members for an overnight trip to participate in the NC Piedmont Honors Band at Glenn High School in Kernersville, March 22-23, 2018.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the requests from ASU Gear Up programming for summer overnight trips.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request from Child Nutrition Coordinator Martha Turner to participate in the USDA Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program for the 2018/19 school year if eligible.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request to apply for a grant greater than \$10,000 for implementation of the next step in digital technology and learning.

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

CERTIFIED

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Emily Stewart, John Faulkenberry, Gina McLamb, Leslie Barnes and Emily King to the approved substitute list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Phyllis Ashley, CTE teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning on March 26, 2018 and ending on or about April 16, 2018 (FMLA eligible = 9 weeks)
- Request from Andrea Davis, CTE teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about March 20 and ending on or about May 15 (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Resignation of David Goss as bus driver at Ashe Middle effective after morning run on February 12, 2018
- Reassignment of Nicholas Smith from substitute bus driver to regular part-time bus driver at Ashe Middle effective March 5, 2018

Substitute Bus Drivers

- Addition of Nicholas Smith and Sharon Price to the approved substitute bus driver list effective March 2, 2018

Substitute Cafeteria Assistants

- Addition of Jesse Ingersoll and Loretta Swafford to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Teacher Assistant

- Resignation of Helen Ann Combs as teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective end-of-day March 9, 2018

Transportation Safety Assistants (Bus Monitor)

- Resignation of Sharon Price as bus monitor for exceptional children at Ashe High effective February 21, 2018
- Employment of Loretta Swafford as temporary (<6 months), part-time (afternoon run \cong 3 hours) bus monitor for exceptional children at Ashe High effective February 27, 2018

Employee Leaves

- Request from Brittany Walters, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence beginning on February 5, 2018 and ending on March 2, 2018 (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)
- Request from Tina Shepherd, bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning on March 2, 2018 and ending on or before May 15, 2018 (FMLA = not eligible)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

AppHealth Director of Community Health Services Maria Julian and Student Services Coordinator Jamie Little gave an update on the results of the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS). The nationwide survey was administered in the Spring of 2016 to all students in grades 6-12 and is used to measure all areas of student health and wellness. The results of the survey indicated a few highlights that were vast improvements over the last survey conducted two years ago—decreased suicidal thoughts and attempts; decreased alcohol, tobacco and other drug use; and decreased risky dietary practices. Areas of concerns included increased video gaming and computer use and fewer students eating breakfast. Overall, it appears that the areas focused upon as a result of the previous YRBS have produced positive results. The report will be highlighted in the upcoming Community Health Report.

The Superintendent reported that school safety has always been a top priority of the Ashe County Board of Education and its administrators. Following the recent tragedy in Florida, school safety has become a major topic of conversation both at the local and national level. Although the school system does have a safety plan in place, a committee composed of educators, law enforcement officials, emergency management experts, parents and students has been organized to contribute ideas for preventing and responding to safety concerns. Through organized conversations, the Safe Schools Committee will analyze, dissect and design measures and tactics to ensure student and staff safety within the school system. This Committee will begin meeting in the near future.

The Superintendent reported that the middle school baseball team can now use the Ashe Aces practice facility in Laurel Springs when the weather is bad. The facility is owned by Bow and Rusty Estes.

The 2018/19 budget work session was scheduled for Tuesday, March 27, 2018, beginning with a dinner meeting at 5:00 pm.

The following announcements and items of information were shared with the Board.

- Friday, March 9—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- Thursday, April 12—Battle of the Books (EBOB) Grades 4-5, 9:00 am, Ashe County High auditorium
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - PreK—March 26-29 (M-Th)
 - Westwood—April 10-12 (T-Th)
 - Blue Ridge—April 17-19 (T-Th)
 - Mountain View—April 23-25 (M-W)
- Monday, April 9, 2018—Board meeting will be held at Ashe County Arts Council beginning at 7:00 pm—the meeting date changed from April 2 to April 9 due to Spring Break.
- Friday, March 30—Good Friday holiday
- Spring Break—April 2-6, 2018
- Tuesday, May 8—Banquet for Scholarship Recipients, 5:30 pm, Ashe County High
- Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—Friday/Saturday, May 18-19—free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12

At 8:26 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 8:45 pm and returned to regular session at 10:10 pm. No action was taken.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.