

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 9, 2018

The meeting was held as scheduled at the Ashe Arts Council with all members present. The Chairman called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After adding an addendum to personnel and deleting agenda items 4.05 and 4.06, requests for school overnight trips, and 5.03, update on Ashe Early College, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, Arts Council Director Jane Lonon thanked the Board for its support of arts education. She spoke about the value of the arts no matter the age and pointed out the K-12 Annual Young at Art Exhibits showcased around the room. She gave an overview of the upcoming arts programs—the Very Special Arts Festival and Spring Fest. Mrs. Lonon commended the school system for its stellar art programs, stating that the partnership between the schools and Arts Council exposes our students to all art forms. The Ashe County High Chorus presented a program of choral arrangements prior to the meeting. Mrs. Lonon invited the audience to Forty Fest—the 40th anniversary of the Ashe County Arts Council on June 2, 2018.

Lynn Robinson from the B5 Council invited the Board and community to the Photo Voice Gallery Opening and reception being held at the Ashe County Public Library Thursday, May 3, from 4:00-6:45 pm. The program—*My Story, My Voice, Finding Hope*—is an innovative approach in creating a community that is inviting to everyone, particularly children with disabilities.

Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman recognized Phyllis Yates for completion of *The Next Generation Superintendent Development Program Cohort V*.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for March 5, 2018 and the special budget work session on March 27, 2018.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Brandy Ellis, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her sons 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 a request from Megan Bryan, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son 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 middle school administration to attend the Schools to Watch Conference in Washington, DC, June 27-29, 2018. This is the fifth time that Ashe Middle has been designated as a school to watch.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the school system providing water and fruit for the Ashe Dash 5K Run scheduled for Saturday, May 5, 2018. Proceeds from the race will benefit Ashe Middle School's Top Dog Clinic, which provides primary medical and

behavioral health services to middle school students. Ashe County Schools and AppHealth Care co-sponsor this event.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2018/19 Federal grants to the Department of Public Instruction as presented by Director of Federal Programs Sandra Peterson.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2018/19 Local Budget requests as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation of Holly Flynn, English/theater arts teacher at Ashe High, effective June 12, 2018

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Sandra Weeks and Carl Witherspoon to the approved substitute list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Mandy Keziah, 3rd grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about March 16 and going through the end of the 2017/18 school year (FMLA eligible 12 weeks)
- Request from Rachel Bledsoe, 8th grade teacher at Ashe Middle, for an intermittent medical leave of absence beginning March 13, 2018 and going through the end of the 2017/18 school year (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)
- Request from Cynthia Coldiron, ESL teacher at Ashe High and Westwood, for an extension of medical leave of absence to end on April 27, 2018

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers
- Summer personnel for Literacy Express (grant funded)

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistants

- Resignation of Emmy Halsey, interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle and Westwood, effective March 2, 2018
- Resignation/retirement of Mary Sluder, cafeteria assistant at Westwood, effective July 1, 2018

Coaches

- Addition of Wayne Cable as assistant soccer coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (volunteer)

Swimming Pool Manager

- Additional employment of Susan Poe, 5th grade teacher at Blue Ridge, as pool manager effective April 10, 2018

Employee Leaves

- Request from Andy Goodman, custodian at Ashe Early Learning Center, for a medical leave of absence beginning March 1, 2018—ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Lifeguards

As the Endowment Fund Liaison, Marcia Elledge appeared before the Board requesting approval to award Endowment grants for the 2018/19 school year. The primary purpose of the Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Fund is to provide grant funding to teachers that will enrich student learning and educational opportunities over and above the resources provided from local, state and federal funding streams. The Endowment Committee awarded nine grant proposals amounting to \$7,767. A motion by Mr. King and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to awarding the grants as requested by Mrs. Elledge. The Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund has disbursed a total of \$100,117 from 2003 to date.

K-12 Curriculum Director Sandra Peterson presented an overview of the new ELA and Math standards as adopted by the State with implementation set to begin in August 2018. Planning for professional development to assist teachers in unpacking the standards is underway. Writing and grammar have been added back into the curriculum.

The Superintendent informed the Board that the cross-program consolidated monitoring review for all Federal programs has concluded and that the school system successfully met all statutory compliance requirements in the review conducted by the Department of Public Instruction between January 20 and February 2, 2018. A copy of the letter was shared with the Board.

The Superintendent gave an update on the Safe Schools Committee meeting on March 26, 2018. The next meeting will be either Monday, April 23, or Monday, April 30.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Thursday, April 12—Elementary Battle of the Books (EBOB)—Grades 4-5, 9:00 am, Ashe High Auditorium
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - Westwood—April 10-12 (T-Th)
 - Blue Ridge—April 17-19 (T-Th)
 - Mountain View—April 23-25 (M-W)
- Tuesday, May 8—National Teacher Day
- Tuesday, May 8—Senior Scholarship Banquet, 5:30 pm, Ashe High gymnasium—*save the date!*
- Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—Friday/Saturday, May 18-19—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*
- Wednesday, July 11—Endowment Golf Tournament—Jefferson Landing—*save the date!*

At 8:14 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 8:25 pm and returned to regular session at 9:26 pm. No action was taken.

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