

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
June 4, 2018

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

Following the addition of items from an amended agenda, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

Vice Chairman Beckworth recognized sophomore Josh H. as the Track 400 meters State Champion and presented him with a certificate for his accomplishment. According to Track Coach Alex Rollins, Josh is only a ½ second off from the all-time state record.

Board Member Polly Jones recognized Blue Ridge Elementary for attaining *Lighthouse Status* for the Leader in Me program and presented the administrative team—Callie Grubb, Jerry Baker and Tonya Blevins—with a certificate for this accomplishment. There are over 4,000 Leader in Me schools world-wide and less than ten percent have attained *Lighthouse Status*.

Tracey Bates, the Nutrition and Education Consultant from the Department of Public Instruction, recognized the Jr. Chef team from Ashe High—Joseph Martinez, Ramses Lopez and Ayona Wilkie—who won second place at State competition in Greensboro on April 9. Ms. Bates shared that the team, although the youngest in the competition, represented Ashe County well—they were professional, polished and poised. Each team member received a \$10,000 scholarship from Sullivan University in Kentucky. Ms. Bates presented the team with a plaque for their accomplishment and Mrs. Jones congratulated the team on behalf of the Board.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on May 7, 2018 and the special meeting held on May 14, 2018.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from George and Thea Young, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year contingent upon the family moving to Watauga County.

A motion by Mr. King and a second by the Vice Chairman 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 10-14, 2018.

LTC Hollis shared with the Board the restrictions and restraints the JROTC program now faces in supporting different events within the county. In accordance with Cadet Command Regulations, JROTC Cadets can no longer fire blank or live ammunition as part of a salute battery or firing party at any event, present folded flags at Veterans funerals or keep uniforms at home over the summer break from school. LTC Hollis emphasized that Cadets can, and will, support veteran functions, parades and school and community events but that some methods must change.

A motion by Mr. King and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High FFA for an overnight trip to attend the NC State FFA Convention in Raleigh June 29-31, 2018.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following 2018/19 bids and/or bid extensions for the Child Nutrition program:

- Sysco—food and food supplies (does not include produce)—*new vendor*
- Pet Dairy—ice cream—*bid extension*
- Flowers Bakery—bakery products—*new vendor*
- Dr. Pepper Bottling—water, isotonic beverages and juice—*bid extension*
- Pet Dairy—dairy products—*new bid*

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the Child Nutrition Procurement Plan.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the 2018/19 Local Plan for Career and Technical Education (CTE) as presented by CTE Director Joallen Lowder.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the administrative contract recommendations as presented by Human Resources (HR) Director Lesia Goodman. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2018/19 one-year and four-year teacher contract recommendations per policy and principal recommendations as presented by the HR Director. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

## **CERTIFIED**

### **Literacy Express—College Intern**

- Employment of Madison Goodman, NC State college intern, to assist on The Literacy Express (prior approval—grant funded)

### **Non-Instructional Support**

- Approval of two-year contract for Regan Perry as school nurse at Mountain View effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020
- Approval of two-year contract for Libby Matheson as school nurse at Westwood effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2020
- Approval of one-year contract for Whitney Van Sant as mental health coordinator effective July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

### **Teachers**

- Employment of Benjamin Thomas-Reid as English/theater teacher at Ashe High effective August 13, 2018 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Rachel Farley from substitute teacher at Ashe High to English teacher at Ashe High effective August 13, 2018
- Resignation of Wesley Rousseau, English teacher at Ashe High, effective June 12, 2018
- Resignation of Angela Brock, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High, effective June 12, 2018
- Transfer of George Neil from science teacher at Ashe High to science teacher Ashe County Early College effective August 13, 2018

- Transfer of Julie Jones from school counselor at Ashe Middle to school counselor at Ashe County Early College effective August 13, 2018

#### **Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Stephanie Evans, Amber Lane and Hope LaPointe to the approved substitute list

#### **Employee Leaves**

- Request from George Neil, science teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave beginning on April 30, 2018 and ending on May 18, 2018 (FMLA = 3 weeks)
- Request from Cati Robinson, math and social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave beginning on May 28, 2018 and ending on January 2, 2019 (FMLA=12 weeks)
- Request from Katie Absher, 5<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a parental leave beginning August 13, 2018 and ending on October 4, 2018

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

- Certified staff to begin the 2018/19 school year
- Substitute teachers
- Summer personnel for Literacy Express (grant funded)

#### **CLASSIFIED**

##### **Bus Driver**

- Resignation of Tina Shepherd, regular route bus driver at Westwood, effective end-of-day June 1, 2018

##### **Bus Monitor (TSA)**

- Reassignment of Loretta Swafford from substitute bus monitor (TSA) at Ashe High to regular full-time bus monitor effective August 20, 2018

##### **Coaches**

- Addition of Kevin Jones as girls' varsity basketball assistant coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (paid)

##### **Cafeteria Assistants**

- Transfer of Mehida Ruth Roark from cafeteria assistant (full-time, 6 hours per day) at Ashe High to cafeteria assistant (full time, 6 hours per day) at Blue Ridge effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Mary Steelman from cafeteria assistant (full-time, 6 hours per day) at Ashe High to cafeteria assistant (full time, 6 hours per day) at Westwood effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Kristi Townsend from cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4 hours per day) at Ashe High to cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4 hours per day) at Blue Ridge effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Teresa Ham from cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4.5 hours per day) at Blue Ridge to cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4.5 hours per day) at Mountain View effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Linda Powers from cafeteria assistant (full-time, 6 hours per day) at Blue Ridge to cafeteria assistant (full-time, 6 hours per day) at Ashe High effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Ruby Ham from cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4 hours per day) at Westwood to cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4 hours per day) at Blue Ridge effective beginning of 2018/19 school year

- Transfer of Angela Calhoun from cafeteria assistant (full time, 6 hours per day) at Ashe Middle to cafeteria assistant (full time, 6 hours per day) at Ashe High effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Ruth Blair from cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4.5 hours per day) at Mountain View to cafeteria assistant (part-time, 4.5 hours per day) at Westwood effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Mary Jane Cox from cafeteria assistant (part-time, 5 hours per day) at Blue Ridge to cafeteria assistant (part-time, 5 hours per day) at Ashe Middle effective beginning of 2018/19 school year
- Transfer of Darlene May from cafeteria assistant manager (full time, 7 hours per day) at Blue Ridge to cafeteria assistant (full time, 7 hours per day) at Ashe Middle effective beginning of 2018/19 school year

#### **Office Support**

- Promotion of Tonya Greer from teacher assistant for the Literacy Express (part-time) to administrative assistant at Central Support Services (full-time) effective July 1, 2018
- Employment of Heather Resendiz as finance secretary at Ashe High effective June 1, 2018 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Jennifer Hart from receptionist at Ashe Middle to data manager at Ashe Middle effective July 1, 2018
- Resignation/retirement of Sharon Lucas, data manager at Ashe Middle, effective July 1, 2018

#### **Teacher Assistant**

- Transfer of Pachia Wayt from teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective August 13, 2018

#### **Lifeguards**

- Re-employment of Jordan Avery as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 8, 2018
- Re-employment of Lauren Robinson as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 8, 2018
- Re-employment of Mason Shumate as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 8, 2018
- Re-employment of Travis Hartsoe as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 8, 2018
- Re-employment of Tanner Kilby as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 8, 2018

#### **Employee Leaves**

- Request from Amber Woodward, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence effective May 22, 2018 and ending on October 12, 2018 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

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

- Receptionist at Ashe Middle
- Classified staff to begin the 2018/19 school year
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the submission of training activities, in which Board members participated at the local level, to the North Carolina School Boards Association for professional development credit.

Following a presentation by Michael Maybee from Watauga Opportunities and Director for Exceptional Children Terry Richardson, a motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a MOU agreement between Watauga Opportunities, Inc. and Ashe County Schools to provide pre-employment transition services (PETS) to students with disabilities at Ashe High. Watauga Opportunities partners with Ashe Adapt in providing services. In July, an Ashe Opportunities office will open in the county.

Dr. Kurt Michael from Appalachian State University gave an update on the progress of the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) at Ashe High for the current school year. Dr. Michael highlighted several notable trends in the mental health of high school students. Some positive trends included that 92% of students who were treated for mental health diagnosed illnesses, either at school or in a clinical setting, improved by the end of the treatment. This is a vast improvement over past years. Since 2014 the number of Ashe County adolescents that attempted suicide has declined from 6.6 percent to 3.3 percent. Dr. Michael stated that having school-based mental health program is a rare occurrence and the fact that Ashe County has had this in place for seven years is a testament to the commitment of all parties to the health and safety of students. Dr. Michael also highlighted the progress and success of having a full-time mental health counselor at the Top Dog Clinic at Ashe Middle. He stated that the clinic and school staff have identified the successes of the current school year and developed goals for the next school year.

Amy Walker gave an update on the *Heart of a Husky* program held May 18-19 for all 7-12 athletes. A total of 473 students participated in the screening. Money was available to employ a pediatric cardiologist and be on-site to read every EKG. Of the 473 students, 30 students were flagged for cardiac issues. Many of these students are flagged every year and have a cardiologist who clears their physical. There was also an orthopedic doctor who volunteered to help with the program. Mrs. Walker recognized Blue Ridge Electric Membership and Ashe Memorial Hospital for its financial support of the program and thanked the many medical providers, paramedics, doctors, nurses and school staff who volunteered their services and expertise to ensure that students are physically able to participate in athletics. Mrs. Walker also spoke to the possibility of partnering with the hospital to write a grant to fund an ECHO machine to have on site for next year.

Jamie Little, Student Services Coordinator, gave an update on the plans for Summer Reading Camp. Camps will be held from June 13-28 at each elementary school with an enrollment of approximately 110 students in grades 1-3. There are less students enrolled this year due to fewer students being eligible to attend—students must be below grade level in order to be invited. Mrs. Little believed the lower numbers are due to strong K-2 instruction plus the fact that students who attended Summer Reading Camp in previous years are now performing on grade level.

Thursday, June 22, was established as the date for the June/July meeting. The dinner meeting will begin at 5:15 pm in the annex.

The Superintendent asked the Board to consider revisions to Policy 2131 *Board Member Conflict of Interest*. Per policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting.

HR Director Lesia Goodman reported that the Teacher Turnover rate for last year was 7.73 percent—this rate has remained fairly steady over the years.

Mrs. Goodman also reported that the *Literacy Express* is ready to roll for the summer. The work schedule is in place and workers have been employed. The bus now has a science, technology, engineering, arts and math focus in addition to the literacy activities and book distribution.

The Superintendent commented on the success of the Senior Scholarship Banquet on May 8—she received many positive comments from both parents and seniors. Joallen Lowder, along with assistance from high school staff, spearheaded this event. The Superintendent and staff members are meeting with Seven Oaks Hardware to discuss the security measures at Mountain View, Westwood and the Early Learning Center. Work will be complete prior to the start of school.

Items of information included the following.

- June 4-8—Required Teacher Workdays—student enrichment/retesting and/or professional development
- June 11, 12—Required Teacher Workdays
- June 13-28—Read to Achieve Summer Camps @ each elementary school—7:30-3:00
- Wednesday, July 11—Endowment Golf Tournament—Jefferson Landing
- Monday, August 6—regular meeting of the Board

At 8:58 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 9:05 pm and returned to regular session at 9:56 pm.

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