

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 7, 2019

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

Following a request by Vice Chairman Beckworth to move personnel until after closed session, the agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 3, 2018.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Jacob Ray, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his children to attend school in Watauga County effective immediately.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High ProStart I class for an overnight trip to attend the ProStart I competition in Charlotte, March 7-9, 2019.

A motion by Mr. McClure 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 7-8, 2019.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the request from seven Ashe County Husky Band students for an overnight trip to participate in the annual Virginia Tech Honors Band in Blacksburg, Virginia, January 25-27, 2019.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Blue Ridge 6th grade chorus for an overnight trip to perform at Dollywood's Performing Stars during the Festival of Nations, March 22-23, 2019.

Kelly Welsh, Director of Clinical Services at AppHealthCare, responded to the concerns expressed during Open Comments at the December meeting regarding head lice. She reviewed key points and recommendations about prevention and control measures. Ms. Welsh said that it is important for parents to know that head lice, while it is a nuisance, does not transmit disease and that over-the-counter treatment does not fully eliminate live lice—the prescription treatment is much more effective. Because of the cost, AppHealthCare has set aside a limited amount of scholarships for uninsured children. According to the Center for Disease Control, students diagnosed with head lice do not need to be sent home—they can go at the end of the day and return after the appropriate treatment has begun, which is consistent with the school system's current policy. Links to pertinent information on head lice were provided. A joint meeting between the school system and the Health Department will be held later to work on the logistics of working together to educate parents, school employees and the community.

Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron informed the Board that the 2019/20 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.

The Superintendent made comments on the following.

- The Superintendent will attend the Superintendents Cohort VI at Research Triangle Park January 9-10, 2019. The purpose of these cohorts is to provide next generation superintendent development programs.

- New Board Member Core Training will be held at the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) in Raleigh, January 10-11, 2019. The Superintendent, Dianne Eldreth and Keith McClure will attend this training.
- The 1st semester at the high school will end January 18, and the 2nd semester will begin Wednesday, January 23.
- The Superintendent reported that she and other agencies are looking for grants for afterschool programming.
- The Blue Ridge Leadership Day held Friday, December 7, was very successful.
- The Superintendent reported she has submitted the required notarized affidavit to the State Superintendent verifying that Ashe County does not have any class-size overages.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Sunday, January 13—Parent Meeting for Application to Ashe Early College—Westwood Auditorium @ 1:30 pm
- Monday, January 21—Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- EOC testing—last five days in the semester
- Thursday, January 24—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm, Ashe County High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, January 29
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 4, 2019, and will be held in the ACHS Commons area beginning at 6:15 pm (yearly recognition program).
- February 2019—CTE Month
- National School Counseling Week—February 4-8, 2019
- School Bus Driver Appreciation Week—February 11-15, 2019
- DIAL Kindergarten Screenings
 - PreK—March 19-22
 - Blue Ridge—April 2-4
 - Westwood—April 9-11
 - Mountain View—April 15-17

At 7:32 pm, the Board took a short recess prior to going into closed session at 7:42 pm 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)].

Upon return to regular session at 9:16 pm, a motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Courtney Williams as temporary 3rd grade teacher at Westwood effective January 2, 2019 (prior approval)
- Employment of Lynn Cook as teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High effective January 2, 2019 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Dalton Lewis from substitute teacher to temporary language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle effective January 2, 2019
- Resignation of Phyllis Sutherland, language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, effective December 10, 2018
- Resignation of George Neil, science teacher at Ashe Early College, effective end-of-day January 18, 2019

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Erica Roten, Amanda Church, Kaleb Jones and Brian Armstrong to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Cati Robinson, science teacher at Ashe Middle, to extend parental leave through the end of the 2018/19 school year
- Request from Pam Cole, 5th grade teacher at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning on January 18, 2019 and extending through March 8, 2019 (FMLA = 8 weeks +3 days)
- Request from Hannah Romero, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about March 22, 2019 and extending through the end of the 2018/19 school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers
- Science teacher at Ashe Early College
- Interim science teacher at Ashe Middle

CLASSIFIED

4-H Afterschool

- Resignation of Erica Roten, 4-H Afterschool coordinator for Ashe County Schools, effective December 31, 2018

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of Robert Heavner to the approved bus driver substitute list

Cafeteria Assistant

- Reassignment of Barbara Kearley from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time (\cong 4 hours per day) cafeteria assistant at Westwood effective December 3, 2018

Custodian

- Employment of Edward Hoosier as custodian (11 months) at Ashe Early Learning Center effective December 10, 2018 (prior approval)

Teacher Assistant

- Reassignment of Jelynn Richie from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to temporary teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective January 3, 2019 through the end of the 2018/19 school year (to fill promotion—student days only)

Tutor

- Additional hours of employment for Ana Ruiz as ESL tutor from 16 hours per week to 28 hours per week (currently 16 hours at Mountain View—adding 12 hours at Ashe High—grant funded)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Mary Steelman, cafeteria assistant at Westwood, for a family medical leave of absence effective January 29, 2019—ending date to be determined
- Request from Jennifer Hart, data manager at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence effective February 5, 2019 and ending on or before April 30, 2019 (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe High (to fill leave of absence)
- Interim cafeteria assistant at Westwood (to fill leave of absence)
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 9:17 pm.