

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 4, 2019

Prior to the regular meeting, a reception honoring 104 student recognitions was held in the Commons area of Ashe County High School. The regular meeting began at 7:00 pm with all members present. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the addition of a request for an overnight trip to attend the National Art Honor Society in Winston-Salem and moving the responses to busing and safety to follow the public comments, the agenda for the meeting was approved by consensus of the Board.

During open comments, Brian Jones expressed concerns about a bus driver, his children being attacked and the fact that his children ride the bus four hours a day. Larry Denny, a parent from the Pond Mountain area, spoke about his issues with busing and how children from that area are not being treated fairly. Parents Amanda Elliott and Laura McClure had concerns about the recent threats at the middle school and how the Superintendent should have been more transparent in communication with parents. Transportation Director Shea Coldiron and Superintendent Phyllis Yates responded to the concerns about busing and safety.

The Board is always proud to recognize the achievements and accomplishments of its students. Each of the 104 students in the following categories were presented with a certificate or plaque on behalf of the Board of Education. The presenters made comments on the importance and significance of each award.

- Recognition of the 2019 Ashe County Spelling Bee Champion Landon J., 7th grade, Ashe Middle—Dr. Lee Beckworth
- Recognition of the 2019 finalists in the Young Author's Contest—Lanie B. and Karlee H., Blue Ridge; John David L., Maleah L. and Ava P., Mountain View; and Claire H. and Hunter W., Westwood—Dr. Ellen Pesko
- Recognition of the 6th grade winners in the *Keep Ashe County Drug Free* poster contest—Shyanna E., Blue Ridge; Sarah M., Mountain View; and Laura A., Westwood—Alice A., Youth Development Coordinator
- Recognition of Ashe Middle students Chasity C., Abby E., Abigail C. and Shu K., Red Band; Bianca G., Gavin P., Catori W., Josh J., Jaz G. and Vanessa H., White Band; and Kaylee M. and Hudson M., Blue Band, for their acceptance into the North Carolina Piedmont Honors Band—Lindsay Scarborough
- Recognition of Ashe High students Marissa L., Emma L., Gabby G., Jordan C., Devin O., Olivia S., Emily R., Joey V. and Miguel G. for their acceptance into the North Carolina Piedmont Honors Band—Paula Carlton
- Recognition of Anna B. as 1st place winner in the Division II Language Arts competition at the BETA Convention in Greensboro—Amanda Hipp
- Recognition of Joshua H. as the 1A/2A Indoor Track 300 Meter State Champion—David Koontz
- Recognition of Carter W. as the 1A/2A Indoor Track Shot Put State Champion—David Koontz
- Recognition of Zachariah B. as the State 2A Wrestling Champion for the 220 weight class—first 2x State Wrestling Champion in ACHS history—and Mountain Valley Athletic Conference Wrestler of the Year—Adam Elliott
- Recognition of Ashe Middle 7th grade girls' basketball team Abigail J., Abilene D., Bailey R., Chloe B., Emmi C., Hayden L., Hana H., Julia H., Katie F., Macie M. and Paige O. as the undefeated Blue Ridge Athletic Conference Champions—Mitchell Mash
- Recognition of the Ashe Middle Wrestling team Aiden B., Austin H., Bryson T., Colin E., Eli B., Gabe Y., Haley S., Lukus S., Rhett B., Zach S., Luke P., Arianna K., Bryant B., Canyon P., Dylan B., Ethan H., Gage C., Luke S., Matthew P., Victor B. and Josh S. as the undefeated Blue Ridge Athletic Conference Champions—Mitchell Mash

- Recognition of the Ashe Middle grades 7/8 boys' soccer team Montana L., Elijah S., John Fields P., Gracen C., Eli Reed, Michael A., Anderson S., Eli L., Bray H., Elliott C., Sawyer B., Dylan S., Grayson H., Kolin P., Jackson K., Chris G., Harrison L., Bryce L., Danny R., Anthony R., Mason A. and Isaac P. as the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference Champions—Mitchell Mash
- Recognition of the Ashe Middle 8th grade girls' volleyball team Lydia E., Emily R., Hannah T., Alyssa H., Lillian B., Adeline B., Lindsey R., Megan P., Josie D., Caroline G., Natalie L., Mallory B. and Kirklyn H. as the Blue Ridge Athletic Conference Champions—Mitchell Mash

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the regular minutes of the Board on February 4, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High HOSA students for an overnight trip to attend the State Competition at the Charlotte Convention Center, March 6-9, 2019.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High selected band members for an overnight trip to participate in the NC Piedmont Honors Band at Robert Glenn High School in Kernersville, March 28-29, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure 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 Robert Glenn High School in Kernersville, March 28-29, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to requests from ASU Gear Up programming for summer overnight trips to allow students to visit colleges. The number of students who get to participate has yet to be determined—once that number is determined, participation will be on a first-come basis.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High art students for an overnight trip to attend the National Art Honor Society field trip to Salem College and Renoylda House in Winston-Salem, March 29-30, 2019.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Lesia Goodman and Laura Absher to apply for a \$180,000 grant from the Burroughs Wellcome Fund for after-school STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) enrichment activities at the elementary schools and STEM enrichment camps during the summers. If awarded, the grant years will be February 2020 through February 2023.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the revisions to Policy 4400 *9-12 Attendance* as presented by the SIT Chairman Trey Simmons and Curriculum Coach Christina Pennington at the regular meeting in February.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Reassignment of Sherrie Phillips from substitute teacher to interim kindergarten teacher at Westwood (filling parental leave)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Journey Ward to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistants

- Resignation/retirement of Darlene May, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, effective March 1, 2019
- Resignation of Tammy Mallette, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective end of day March 1, 2019
- Employment of Mary Heather Cox as interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe High effective February 4, 2019 and ending on or about March 21, 2019

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Dreama Blevins to the approved cafeteria assistant substitute list

Coaches

- Addition of Pierce Cox as assistant baseball coach to the approved coaches list at Ashe Middle contingent upon drug and background screenings (paid—split position)
- Addition of Dawn Richardson as assistant track coach to the approved coaches list at Ashe Middle (paid—split position)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jill Phipps, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective February 18, 2019 through the end of the 2018/19 school year (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Math tutor at Ashe High (Gear Up funding)
- Cafeteria assistant at Mountain View and Ashe Middle
- Bus driver at Ashe Middle
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

The NC New Teacher Support Coach Dr. Betsy Rosenbalm, Regional Director for Beginning Teachers Trish Caviness-Bliss and Ashe County beginning teachers Chelsea Eller, Jordan Nemeth and Morgan Vasquez gave a presentation on the new teacher support program in Ashe County Schools. The primary purpose of this program is to improve student achievement by improving teacher effectiveness and teacher retention. This program has been very successful in Ashe County.

Director of Student Services Jamie Little gave an update on the Attendance Policy 4400 *Grades PreK-8*. The parameters within the policy are very stringent and working well in Ashe County. The policy itself requires no revisions.

Principal Elaine Cox gave an update on the 2019/20 Student Selection process for Ashe Early College. A total of 77 students applied—11 withdrew before interviews occurred. Of the 66 students interviewed, there were 37 females and 29 males. Five of the sixty students currently enrolled are planning not to return in the fall.

The Superintendent commented on the following.

- Ashe County Administrative Team visit to Polk County, February 18
- Dinner and Program with State Superintendent Mark Johnson, February 19
- Visit to Ashe County by the Watauga Instructional/Curriculum Team, February 22

Thursday, March 7, was selected for the 2019/20 budget work session. The dinner meeting will be held in the annex beginning at 5:00 pm.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Thursday, March 14—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe High auditorium
- Thursday, March 14—Elementary Battle of the Books (EBOB) Grades 4-5—immediately following BOB
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - PreK—March 19-22
 - Blue Ridge—April 2-4
 - Westwood—April 9-11
 - Mountain View—April 15-17
- Monday, April 1—United States Poet Laureate Tracy K. Smith, Ashe Civic Center, 7:30 pm. Ms. Smith will be with students from Ashe High and Ashe Early College during the day on Tuesday, April 2.
- Tuesday, April 2, 2019—Board meeting will be held at Ashe County Arts Council beginning at 7:00 pm—meeting date changed from April 8 due to conflict with elementary Chorus Festival

At 9:11 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 9:24 pm—no action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 10:25 pm, the Chairman immediately adjourned the meeting.