

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 2, 2019

The meeting was held as scheduled at the Ashe Arts Council with all members present except for Chairman Jones who was out-of-state. Vice Chairman Beckworth led the meeting, called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

After adding a request for an overnight trip for Battle of the Books and a request for a memorandum of understanding between the school system and Wilkes Community College to share PowerSchool data, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, Arts Council Director Jane Lonon thanked the Board for the long-working partnership between the Board of Education and the Arts Council to enhance arts education for students. She spoke about the value of the arts no matter the age and pointed out the array of K-12 Young at Art Exhibits showcased around the room. She gave an overview of upcoming arts programming—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 and at the opening of the meeting.

Following open comments, Vice Chairman Beckworth recognized Jane Lonon and congratulated her on her upcoming retirement effective June 30, 2019. On behalf of the Board of Education, teacher Amber Dillingham and student Lindsey Greer presented Mrs. Lonon with a gift of various art work.

The Board recognized the achievements of the following personnel and students. Each received a certificate or plaque on behalf of the Board of Education. The presenters made comments on the importance and significance of each award.

- Honorarium from the Daniel Boone Chapter of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution to Marty McKenzie as the 2019 Outstanding Teacher of American History—Principal Amanda Hipp
- Recognition of Karter L., 4th grade student at Mountain View, who was the 1st place winner of the Regional Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest—Teacher Jorena Sparks
- Recognition of Katy R., 6th grade student at Mountain View, who was the 1st place winner of the Regional Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest—Teacher Jorena Sparks
- Recognition of Alan B., 3rd grade student at Westwood, who was the 1st place winner of the Regional Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest—Teacher Callie Lewis
- Recognition of Ashe County High School for serving as a community partner with the Blue Ridge Piedmont Chapter of the American Red Cross—Ken Becker from the American Red Cross

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on March 4, 2019, and the special work session on March 7, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Connie Riet, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Amy Gardner, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

Roxane Gilbert, Health Education teacher and Health Occupations Student Association (HOSA) Advisor, requested permission for student Jordan L. to attend the HOSA International Leadership Conference at the Disney Resort in Orlando, Florida, June 18-23, 2019. The cost for the student to attend the conference would be approximately \$2,000, and Mrs. Gilbert requested that other students be allowed to participate in fundraising activities to help fund the trip for Jordan. Any shortage from the fundraising activities would be covered by the student's family and sponsors. Students who helped with fundraising would receive community service points needed for HOSA members. In addition, Mrs. Gilbert requested that students be allowed to begin fundraising this summer and on into the fall in order to have funding for the 2020 HOSA state and international competitions. Mrs. Eldreth moved to approve both of Mrs. Gilbert's requests. The motion did not receive a second and, therefore, the Board moved to further action. Mrs. Jones moved to approve raising up to \$500 (the cap on a student trip at the high school level) and then to come back to the Board to discuss the need for any additional funding after family and sponsor funds are secured and to allow students to begin fundraising in the summer and fall for 2020 events. Mr. McClure seconded this motion. The Board approved this motion 3-1, with Mrs. Jones, Mr. McClure and the Vice Chairman voting "aye" and Mrs. Eldreth voting "no."

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Debbie Sturgill, teacher for Family and Consumer Sciences at Ashe High, to attend Level 1 ProStart training in Columbia, SC, June 9-14, 2019. ProStart requires that Levels I, II and III training be taken in sequential order.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the 2018/19 Summer Plan Program for re-administration of EOGs in ELA and science for grades 4-8 only as presented by Testing and Accountability Director Joallen Lowder.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2019/20 Federal grants to the Department of Public Instruction as presented by Federal Programs Director Sandra Peterson.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2019/20 Local Budget Requests as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

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

CERTIFIED

Central Services Support

- Resignation/retirement of Lesia Goodman, Director of Human Resources, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Sandra Peterson, Director of K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs, effective July 1, 2019

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Kristina Graybeal and Veda Johnson to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Johnna Church, 7th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about April 19, 2019 and extending through the end of the 2018/19 school year
- Request from Dedra Buchanan, kindergarten teacher at Blue Ridge, for an intermittent leave of absence beginning on March 11, 2019—ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Director of Human Resources
- Director of K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Cafeteria Assistants

- Resignation of Teresa Ham, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective end-of-day March 15, 2019
- Reassignment of Mary Heather Cox from interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe High to interim cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective March 8, 2019 and ending on or about May 30, 2019 (fills leave of absence)
- Additional hours of employment (1.5 hours per day) for Brandy Staton, part-time temporary cafeteria assistant at Westwood, from March 25 thru April 4, 2019

Coaches

- Request from Donald Conrad, head JV baseball coach at Ashe High, to be removed from the coaches list as a paid coach effective March 5, 2019 (would like to volunteer as available)
- Reassignment of Chase Wall from assistant softball coach (volunteer) at Ashe High to head JV baseball coach at Ashe High effective March 8, 2019 (paid)

Custodian

- Resignation of Richard Dean Bare, custodian at Ashe High, effective end-of-shift April 5, 2019

Swimming Pool Manager

- Additional employment of Susan Poe, 5th grade teacher at Blue Ridge, as pool manager at Ashe Middle effective April 3, 2019

Employee Leaves

- Request from Laken Lyall, accounting specialist at Central Support Services, for a parental leave of absence effective on or about June 27, 2019 and ending on or about September 1, 2019 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Bryan Matkins, bus driver at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence beginning on March 18, 2019—ending date to be determined (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Custodian at Ashe High
- Lifeguards
- Cafeteria assistants at Mountain View
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from the Mountain View Battle of the Books team to attend the State competition at the Wake Forest Tech Center in Raleigh on May 10, 2019. There will be no cost to students. This group of 6th grade students competed in and won at the regional level on March 26 and accumulated an impressive 166 points.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Memorandum of Agreement by and between Ashe County Schools and Wilkes Community College to share student demographic data to better serve students in the transition from high school to postsecondary education. The sharing of this information between parties will be in a manner consistent with the Family Education Records Privacy Act of 1974 (FERPA). The information will then be used by Ashe County Schools to fulfill the mandatory graduation verification (GDVR) end-of-year reports.

Endowment Liaison Marcia Elledge presented the 2019 Ashe County Schools Endowment Grant Awards totaling \$12,083. A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave a 3-0 approval to granting these awards. Vice Chairman Beckworth abstained from voting.

Principal Elaine Cox gave an update on the 2019/20 student selection process for Ashe Early College. Fifty-five out of the 60 current students plan to return for the second year. The Selection Committee interviewed 66 students—1 rising sophomore, 2 homeschoolers, 1 academy and 62 rising freshmen. The Committee chose 50 students initially—8 declined the invitation, 8 were not selected to attend and 7 are on the waiting list if a slot becomes available. Currently, 45 have accepted to attend. The total number attending Ashe Early College in 2019/20 is 100—15 rising juniors, 40 rising sophomores and 45 rising freshmen, including the 2 homeschoolers and 1 academy.

The Superintendent and Principal Elaine Cox gave an update on the Ashe Early College visit summary by DPI Consultant Isaac Lake. Mr. Lake spent the majority of a day observing classroom instruction and talking with students and staff. At the end of the day, he met and discussed the program with the Superintendent and Mrs. Cox. He felt the program was going quite well in its first year and was impressed by the amount of support the school is receiving from the Board of Education and the Superintendent. Mr. Lake was very complimentary in his written report. His only suggestion was about the limited number of CTE courses offered at the community college level.

The Superintendent commented on the following.

- Acceptance letter from the NC Department of Health and Human Resources on the 6-30-2018 audit
- School Calendar update
- K-3 class size for 2019/20
- Special meeting on April 11 with Architect Larry Greene for update on middle school project

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Saturday, April 6—Spring Fest @ Ashe Early Learning Center—9:00-2:00 pm
- Monday, April 8—Ashe County Schools Choral Festival—gymnasium @ Ashe High, 7:00 pm
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - Westwood—April 9-11
 - Mountain View—April 15-17
- Thursday, April 18—Career Day @ Ashe Middle—8:00-2:00 pm in the gymnasium—lunch provided—*save the date—hope you can attend!*
- Thursday, April 18—Google is coming to Westwood for 5th grade coding—Blue Ridge and Mountain View 5th grades will be participating as well
- Spring Break—April 19-26—*contingent upon no additional inclement weather*
- Saturday, May 4—Prime Rib dinner @ Ashe High, 6:00 pm
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, May 6, 2019, 7:00 pm, at the Central Support annex.
- Monday-Friday, May 6-10—Teacher Appreciation Week
- Saturday, May 11—Ashe High Prom @ Blue Ridge Dinner Theatre, 8:00 pm—midnight
- Saturday, May 11—Ashe Dash fundraiser for the Bulldog Clinic @ Ashe High track, 8:00 am
- Tuesday, May 14—Senior Scholarship Banquet, 5:30 pm, Ashe High gymnasium—*save the date!*
- Saturday, May 18—JROTC Military Ball, Jefferson Landing
- Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—Friday/Saturday, May 17-18—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*
- Thursday, May 30—last day for students—*contingent upon no additional inclement weather*
- Friday, May 31—Graduation @ Ashe High, 7:00 pm—Project Graduation immediately following @ Mountain View—*save the date!*
- Thursday, July 18—18th Endowment Golf Tournament—Mountain Aire—*save the date!*

There being no further business, a motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure adjourned the meeting at 8:34 pm.