

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 6, 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.

The agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

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

- Recognition of Mountain View students Abby B., Bryan B., Zoey L., Evie P., Becky R. and Juan Olalda S. for winning the Regional Battle of the Books—Amy Walker
- Recognition of Ashe High band students Joey V., Serena B., Gabby G., Cade B., Macie R., Lindsey P. and Tristan M. for receiving the highest honor rating of Superior I at the District Solo and Ensemble Music Performance Assessment competition in Hickory—Paula Carlton
- Recognition of Ashe Middle students Stanley B. and Luke B. for their selection to attend the 2019 Oak Ridge National Laboratory Summer Math, Science-Technology Institute and Summer Science Academy in Oak Ridge, TN, July 13-19, 2019 (all major expenses covered!)—Luke Eggers
- Recognition of Anna B. and Chloe P. for completing their Associates in Arts degree from Wilkes Community College—Director Kendra Perkins, Curriculum and Student Services
- Recognition of the 2019 North Carolina High School Athletic Association Scholar Athletes Varsity teams from the Fall and Winter seasons—Athletic Director David Koontz

Board Liaison to the Endowment Committee Marcia Elledge and Committee Member Joyce Kilby recognized the following Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund recipients. Grant awards for 2019 totaled \$12,083.

- Ashe High—Josh Beckworth—*Appalachian Studies Bird Watching Supplies*
- Ashe High—Katherine Greene—*Making Paper with Purpose*
- Ashe Early College—Alice Everette, Brittany Slaughter, Brian Armstrong—*Reuse It or Lose It*
- Mountain View—Barbara Heufel—*Math<sup>3</sup>- Math, Movement and Motivation*
- Mountain View—Shera Ashley—*Something Old, Something New, Something Created, Something Cool*
- Mountain View—Misty Prichard, Jenny Johnson, Jana Wyatt, Kristy Houck, Robin Roberts—*F.R.I.E.N.D.S.—Fun, Revolutionary, Innovative, Energizing, Noisy, Design Sessions*
- Mountain View—Jessica Calhoun—*Aerobic Beats*
- Westwood—Holly McClure, Cara Elliott, Sara Lambert, Audrea Little, Makayla Spencer—*Run, Jump, Focus!*
- Westwood—Brittany Alff, Paige Sturgill—*Bee Bot Bonanza*
- Westwood—Michelle Blevins, Emily Warrenburg, Annerys Soto, Alex Miller, Amanda Bloomer—*A Voyage to Social Success . . . Exploring Social Skills*
- Westwood—Kevin Miller—*Please Heal My Broken Arrow*
- Westwood—Angela Miller—*Action Math Moves Us!*

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on April 2, 2019, and the special session on April 11, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Rob Sanders, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his son Robert Sanders, IV, to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the request to allow Dakota Carl Miller to graduate with 24 credits.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe County High JROTC Husky Battalion for an overnight trip to attend the JROTC Leadership Challenge at Camp Bud Schiele in Rutherfordton, NC, June 9-13, 2019.

Maintenance Director Jerry Baker and Marc Payne (retired athletic director) gave an overview of the bid results to upgrade the six tennis courts at Ashe High. Mr. Baker reviewed each of the three bids and recommended that the Board approve the bid from Tri-County Paving. A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to awarding the \$235,602.49 bid to Tri-County Paving as recommended. The budgeted allotment for this project was \$254,035.

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

#### **CERTIFIED**

- Resignation/retirement of Rhonda Griffith, CTE teacher at Ashe High, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Ginger Hopson, 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Mary Greene, music teacher at Westwood, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Michelle Blevins, speech language pathologist at Westwood, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Laura Bowers, media coordinator at Westwood, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Lizabeth Shelton, media coordinator at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2019
- Resignation of George Zeller, middle grades language arts and social studies teacher at Ashe Middle, effective June 8, 2019
- Resignation of Thomas Slaughter, math teacher at Ashe High, effective June 8, 2019
- Resignation of Brittany Slaughter, math teacher at Ashe Early College, effective June 8, 2019

#### **Substitute Teacher**

- Addition of Tasha Ward to the approved teacher substitute list

#### **Employee Leaves**

- Request from Tanya Rogers, CTE teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning on May 6 and extending through the end of the 2018/19 school year (FMLA = 4 weeks)
- Request from Andrea Gardner, music teacher at Ashe High, for an intermittent medical leave of absence beginning on March 9, 2019 and extending through the end of the 2018/19 school year (FMLA eligible)

- Request from Emily Warrenburg, teacher of exceptional children at Westwood, for a parental leave beginning August 12, 2019 and extending through November 4, 2019 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

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

- Certified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Substitute teachers

**CLASSIFIED**

**Bus Driver Substitutes**

- Addition of Tyler Dillard to the bus driver substitute list

**Cafeteria Assistants**

- Reassignment of Dreama Blevins from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time temporary cafeteria assistant (5 hours per day) at Mountain View effective March 28, 2019 through end of 2018/19 school year

**Coaches**

- Resignation of Samuel Piercy as men's head varsity soccer coach at Ashe High effective end of 2018/19 season

**Custodians**

- Resignation/retirement of Pete Eller, lead custodian at Ashe High, effective July 1, 2019
- Promotion of Tim Walton from 1<sup>st</sup> shift custodian at Ashe High to lead custodian effective July 1, 2019
- Reassignment of Bobby Greer from 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian, 10-month, 35 hours per week, at Ashe High to 2<sup>nd</sup> shift custodian, 11-month, 40 hours per week, effective April 8, 2019

**Teacher Assistants**

- Resignation/retirement of Lynda Mahaffey, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2019

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

- Classified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Coaches at Ashe High
- Custodians at Ashe High
- Lifeguards
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Following a presentation by AIG Director Sandra Peterson and the AIG Specialists, a motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the Ashe County Schools Local Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan effective 2019-2022. This plan will now be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction as required.

Members of the Board of Directors for the School-Based Health Center Top Dog Clinic—Director of Clinical Services Kelly Welsh and Director Jennifer Greene, AppHealthCare, and Chairman David Blackburn, Ashe Baptist Association—along with employees from the Top Dog Clinic gave its yearly presentation on the

Clinic. The purpose of the Clinic is to foster a healthy student community by providing accessible quality care to influence health habits and behaviors which promote the development of young minds and bodies. The Clinic is staffed by a family nurse practitioner, an expanded role child health registered nurse, a certified nursing assistant/medical assistant and a dually licensed clinical social worker and clinical addiction specialist. This current year, 85 percent of the middle school population (413 students) have enrolled for services. Over 1,000 clinic visits were provided—23 percent of these visits were to address mental health needs. Sadly, mental health needs for youth are increasing nationwide. The group highlighted the benefits that the Top Dog Clinic provides for students, teachers and parents. The partnership between Ashe County, Ashe County Schools in-kind contributions and AppHealthCare provides the annual funding for the Clinic.

Following a presentation by Student Services Director Jamie Little, a motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to renewal of the Contract for School-Based Mental Health Services between Appalachian State University and Ashe County Schools for Counseling Services through the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) for the 2019/20 school year. It is worthy to note that since the program was first launched in 2011, the Ashe County Schools/ASC Center Partnership has served numerous students and families in need of mental health treatment at no cost to them.

Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman presented the 2019/20 teacher contract recommendations to the Board for its consideration and review. Action will be taken at the regular meeting for June.

Mrs. Goodman presented the 2019/20 administrative contract recommendation to the Board for its consideration and review. Action will be taken at the regular meeting in June as well.

Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron asked the Board to consider adopting Policy 7650 *Travel* as required to meet the Federal 2CRF Part 200.474(a) and 200.474(b) guidelines. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the regular meeting in June.

The Superintendent commented on the following.

- Yearly professional development for Board members must be submitted to the NC School Boards Association in June. Training on school system initiatives will be held on June 4 or June 6.
- The Board was given a copy of the 2018/19 Testing Calendar.
- The Superintendent commented on the Ashe Choral Festival, The Crucible, the Husky Band Concert, and the Google Roadshow. Student performance in each of these activities was exceptional.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 3, 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 23—Senior Awards in the afternoon
- 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!*
- Monday-Friday, June 3-7—required teacher workdays
- Thursday, July 18—Endowment Golf Tournament—Mountain Aire—*save the date!*

At 8:40 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 8:50 pm. No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 9:20 pm, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.