

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
January 13, 2020

The meeting was held at 6:00 pm as scheduled with all members present except Mr. McClure who was out of town. 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.

During open comments, Rose Price stated that the system is failing students at the high school. Students fear retaliation if they report bullying and fighting. Vaping, drug deals, cameras being turned off, teachers using vapes and theatre play selections were major areas of concern for her. The Chairman said these items would be addressed at the February meeting.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 2, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Whitney Hagaman, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request to allow eight symphonic Ashe Husky Vanguard students for an overnight trip to participate in the ETSU Honor Band in Johnson City, Tennessee, January 24-25, 2020.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the North Carolina State Beta Club Convention in Greensboro, February 6-7, 2020.

A motion by Mrs. Jones 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 at Johnson and Wales University in Charlotte, February 20-21, 2020.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation/retirement of Sheryl Robards, Spanish and French teacher at Ashe High, effective December 31, 2019
- Employment of Marta Perez Verilla De Pacheco as Spanish teacher at Ashe High effective January 9, 2020
- Employment of Megan Colvard as health science teacher at Ashe High effective January 3, 2020

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Christina Forsythe, Rhonda Griffith, Charlene Horton, Cynthia Lewis, Lauren Robinson and Cori Richardson to the approved substitute list (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Chorus teacher, part-time, at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Resignation of Linda Tucker as bus driver at Ashe High (4 hours/day) effective December 20, 2019
- Employment of Mike Howell as regular route bus driver (5.3 hours/day) at Ashe High effective January 6, 2020
- Resignation/retirement of Rita Brown, bus driver at Ashe Middle, effective end-of-day January 31, 2020

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Brandon Shatley to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria

- Employment of Pamela James as cafeteria manager (8 hours/day) at Ashe High effective January 2, 2020
- Promotion of Donna Faircloth from cafeteria assistant at Westwood to cafeteria assistant manager (7 hours/day) at Westwood effective January 6, 2020 (prior approval)
- Employment of Cassie Lewis as part-time (4 hours/day) cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle effective January 6, 2020 (prior approval)
- Employment of Amanda Stuerwald as full-time (6 hours/day) cafeteria assistant at Westwood effective January 6, 2020
- Increase in hours for Jacqueline Tyler from part-time cafeteria assistant (5 hours/day) at Westwood to full-time cafeteria assistant (6 hours/day) at Westwood effective January 6, 2020 through the end of the current school year

Office Support

- Promotion of Laken Lyall from accounting specialist at Central Support Services to payroll specialist at Central Support Services effective March 1, 2020

Teacher Assistants

- Reassignment of Emily Sheets from substitute teacher to teacher assistant for exceptional children Ashe High effective December 10, 2019 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Tonya Lee from substitute teacher to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective December 16, 2019 (prior approval)

Tutors

- Employment of Kathy Adams as ESL tutor at Ashe High effective January 14, 2020

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Office support position at Central Support Services
- Part-time cafeteria assistants at Ashe High
- Regular route bus drivers
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

The Superintendent and Student Services Director Jamie Little informed the Board that the Ashe County Cooperative Extension will no longer be allowed to provide 4-H afterschool services in Ashe County effective the end of this school year. During meeting discussions with Cooperative Extension Director Travis Birdsell, County Manager Adam Stumb, Commissioners Todd McNeill and Larry Dix, Chairman CB Jones and others, the idea of allowing Communities in Schools (CIS) to provide afterschool child care was discussed. CIS is overseeing afterschool child care in other school districts, the latest being Alleghany County. The group asked that the Superintendent seek the Board's approval to move in this direction. The Board had no objections to CIS managing the afterschool program for Ashe County Schools effective the 2020/21 school year.

Technology Director Amy Walker presented revisions to Policy 7335/10335 *Employee Use of Social Media* for the Board's consideration. The revisions include the addition of new social media technologies and prohibiting employee access to social networking websites for personal use during the work day. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the February meeting.

Architect Larry Greene contacted the Superintendent and requested a meeting between he and his engineers, the Superintendent and the school system's directors for technology and maintenance to discuss construction options in these areas for the new middle school. The engineers provided a detailed list of common facility needs for the school system to offer feedback. Visits were made to schools recently constructed in Cabarrus and Davidson counties to gather input and feedback on products used and why, on things they would have done differently, things that worked well, etc. The visits proved to be very helpful in determining construction options. Directors Amy Walker and Jerry Baker have prepared and shared an excel spreadsheet with the architect providing feedback to the document provided by the engineers at the initial meeting.

Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron informed the Board that the 2020/21 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.

- WBTV news crew—Wednesday, January 8—presented the Husky Vanguard the Charlotte Parade Turkey Trophy—videoed the presentation—aired Friday morning, January 10
- Husky Vanguard Band Concert, Sunday, December 15
- Schools Security Committee Meeting—tomorrow night, January 14, @ 6:30, Ashe High
- Superintendents Cohort VII—Burroughs Fund Wellcome Center, RTI, January 15-16
- 1st semester end date—Friday, December 20—2nd semester began Monday, January 6
- The Reality of Money cancelled for the year due to weather and scheduling conflicts
- Update on the replacement of the wind-damaged roof at the high school

The Superintendent ended her comments with her announcement that she plans to retire effective July 1, 2020 in order to spend more quality time with her family.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Tuesday, January 14—Schools Security Committee Meeting—Ashe High Media Center @ 6:30 pm
- Monday, January 20—Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday
- Wednesday, January 22—Ashe Early College 2020/21 Parent/Student Informational meeting—Ashe High auditorium, 6:30-7:30—application packets will be distributed
- Thursday, January 23—Spelling Bee, 6:30 pm, Ashe High auditorium—snow date is Thursday, February 6
- Thursday, February 6—Ashe Early College Beta Club—attend State Beta Convention in Greensboro

- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, February 3, 2019, and will be held in the ACHS Commons area beginning at 6:15 pm (yearly recognition program).
- February 2020—CTE Month
- National School Counseling Week—February 3-7, 2020
- School Bus Driver Appreciation Week—February 10-14, 2020
- DIAL Kindergarten Screenings
 - PreK—March 16-19 (M-Th)
 - Mountain View—March 24-26 (T-Th)
 - Blue Ridge—March 30-April 1 (M-W)
 - Westwood—April 6-8 (M-W)

The Superintendent and Finance Officer held a brief Board training session on the history of non-classified employee pay tables. It was explained that the pay tables are out of sync across the State, not just in Ashe County. While administration has been well aware of the inequities within the pay tables for quite some time, monies to adjust the tables have not been available. The Superintendent feels the school system should have a third party complete a salary study and present a proposal on how to rectify the inequities.

The Board went into closed session at 7:58 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)]. It returned to regular session at 8:34 pm.

The Board, as a unit, gave unanimous approval to the Superintendent's annual evaluation. The Board concluded that the Superintendent has done well in all areas of the evaluation rubric.

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