

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
March 19, 2020

The special dinner meeting was held as scheduled in the annex beginning at 5:00 pm with all members present. Polly Jones teleconferenced into the meeting. The primary purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2020/21 local budget requests.

The meeting began with Chairman Jones presenting a resolution to grant emergency powers to the Superintendent during the COVID-19 crisis. The Vice Chairman made the motion to accept the resolution as presented, followed with a second by Mr. McClure. Mrs. Eldreth asked for clarification on compliance with guidance from the health department and contracts in any dollar amount. The motion passed.

### **Resolution to Grant Emergency Powers to the Superintendent**

**Whereas** on March 14, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper declared a state of emergency and the closure of all North Carolina public schools for instructional purposes through March 30, 2020, as a safeguard against the further spread of COVID-19; and

**Whereas** under G.S. § 115C-36, the local Board of Education has general control and supervision of all matters pertaining to the public schools; and

**Whereas** under G.S. § 115C-47(15) the local Board of Education has the authority to prescribe the duties of the Superintendent, subject to G.S. § 115C-276(a); and

**Whereas** the Ashe County Board of Education finds that the current state of emergency requires that the Superintendent be granted greater flexibility to respond quickly and appropriately to the evolving crisis; and

**Whereas** under Board Policy 2420, the operation of any section or sections of Board policies not established by law or contract may be suspended temporarily by a majority vote of Board members present at a Board meeting held in compliance with law and Board policy;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Ashe County Board of Education grants to the Superintendent the following temporary powers to address the COVID-19 emergency:

1. Authority to temporarily waive such Board policies or provisions of Board policies as the Superintendent shall deem necessary to comply with guidance from appropriate health or governmental authorities or necessary for other effective response.
2. Authority to take any lawful actions necessary to ensure the continuation of public education, to provide for the health and safety of students and employees, or to respond to direction from appropriate health and government authorities. Such actions may include, but are not limited to: adjustments to the curriculum and the provision of alternative educational program options; adjustments to employee work schedules and assignments; modifications to the school calendar; adjustments to the delivery of

school-provided meals; limitations on access to property owned or controlled by the Board of Education; applying to any governmental body for financial or other aid as may be available; and applying to any governmental body for waiver of regulations or requirements, compliance with which is affected by the COVID-19 emergency.

3. Authority to enter into contracts without board approval for any dollar amount necessary for the purchase of materials, equipment, supplies, or services for sanitation, cleaning, technology, or other needs directly related to the COVID-19 emergency situation, provided such action is consistent with all applicable State and Federal laws.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Superintendent is directed to keep the Board of Education informed of any actions taken under this emergency authority as soon as is practicable in light of the circumstances.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the temporary powers authorized by this Resolution are in effect for the duration identified in Governor's Order of March 14, 2020, and any subsequent extension of that order, unless otherwise rescinded or extended by the Board upon a two-thirds majority vote.

**NOW, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that execution of this Resolution is conclusive evidence of the Board's approval of this action and of the authority granted herein.

Chairman Jones discussed how to abide by the Governor's recommendation of social distancing at the Board meeting on April 6. It was suggested that holding the meeting in the auditorium at Ashe County High would allow attendees to practice social distancing. It was also stated that only people who were on the agenda would be required to attend. The Superintendent said she would not require staff members to attend the April meeting unless they had an item on the agenda. Certificates, along with a letter, would be sent to students acknowledging their accomplishments.

Superintendent Yates stated that the work of the School Calendar Committee will most likely be held remotely. She stated that the Committee would select the calendar that had majority approval within the group.

A brief recess was taken to eat dinner.

The meeting resumed with the presentation of the budget. Mrs. Eldreth made a motion to get noncertified employees "up to snuff" on salaries. Mr. McClure seconded the motion. Following much discussion, Mr. McClure rescinded his second. The motion then died on the table. At this time, Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron and the Superintendent reviewed each of the local budget requests from principals and directors. The State has not distributed the 2020/21 planning allotments to local school districts which impacts local budget decisions. The Board gave direction on the local budget. Requests for the 2020/21 local budget requests will be approved at the regular meeting for April.

There being no further business, the Vice Chairman made the motion to adjourn, followed by a second from Mrs. Eldreth. The Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm.