

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
March 2, 2020

Prior to the regular meeting, a reception honoring student recognitions was held in the Commons area of Ashe County High School. The order of the agenda was changed to accommodate the large number in attendance—the *Awards and Recognitions* were held in the auditorium beginning at 6:30 pm. All members were present except Mrs. Jones who was ill.

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

- Recognition of Ashe High Husky Culinary Team—Jaylen F. and Santanna C.—for winning second place in the 2020 North Carolina Jr. Chef Competition at Johnson & Wales University in Charlotte—Jr. Chef Competition Committee Member Tracey Bates and Instructor Debbie Sturgill
- Recognition of Ashe Middle 7th grade girls' volleyball team Alexis R., Hadleigh W., Chloe F., Isabella F., Phoebe W., Kayden K., Ally G., Lanie B., Ella Y., Maylee B., Zoey L., Hannah O., Kailei S. and Addie S.—Mitchell Mash
- Recognition of Ashe Middle 8th grade girls' volleyball team Jillian M., Carrigan K., Emmi C., Natalie B., Madison L., Paige O., Hana H., Zoey K., Madison W., Darby M., Julia H., Brittany H. and manager Anna R.—Mitchell Mash
- Recognition of Ashe Middle 8th grade girls' basketball team Paige O., Abigail J., Emmi C., Macie M., Hayden L., Emily H., Bailey R., Julia H., Katlyn F. and scorekeeper Carlee R.—Mitchell Mash
- Recognition of Ashe Middle wrestling conference champions Luke O., Mason A. and Luke P.—Mitchell Mash

Following the Awards and Recognitions, the meeting then transitioned to the media center. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Because the high school administration was attending the State tournament for Varsity Girls Basketball, the Superintendent informed the Board that agenda items 5.01 and 5.02 would be postponed until a later time. The agenda was then approved by consensus of the Board.

The Chairman read the response to the public comments made at the February meeting.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the Board meeting minutes for the regular meeting on February 3, 2020.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Jennifer Mahala, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Joel and Erin Thompson, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure 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 26-27, 2020.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe High HOSA Club for an overnight trip to participate in the North Carolina HOSA State Competition at the Charlotte Convention Center, April 1-4, 2020.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from selected Ashe High Culinary students for an overnight trip to attend the Southeast Jr. Chef Competition at Sullivan University in Louisville, Kentucky, May 7-8, 2020.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the 2020 E-rate plan as presented by Technology Director Amy Walker.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the 2019/20 Summer Program Plan for remediation as presented by Accountability Director Earl Pennington.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the contract resulting from the receipt of the US Department of Education Rural Mental Health Grant between Ashe County Schools and Appalachian State University as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the contract resulting from the receipt of the US Department of Education Rural Mental Health Grant between Research Triangle Institute and the Ashe County Board of Education as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave 3-0 approval to the personnel recommendations as presented by Human Resources Director Roy Putman. Mr. McClure abstained from voting.

CERTIFIED

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Shannon Anderson to the approved substitute list (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Resignation/retirement of Wanda Woodard as full-time regular route bus driver at Ashe High effective March 1, 2020
- Transfer of Nicholas Smith from part-time regular route bus driver at Ashe Middle to part-time regular route bus driver at Westwood effective February 17, 2020

Coaches

- Resignation of Phil Morrison as indoor and outdoor track coach at Ashe High effective after February 15, 2020 state track meet

Office Support

- Employment of Cynthia Houck as accounting specialist at Central Support Services effective February 24, 2020 (prior approval)

Employee Leaves of Absence

- Request from Kahryn Blevins, accounting specialist at Central Support Services, for a parental of leave of absence beginning on or about July 30, 2020 and ending on or about September 24, 2020

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Full-time regular route bus driver at Ashe High
- Fulltime bus driver/cafeteria assistant at Ashe High
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Assistant Human Resources Director Marcia Elledge asked the Board to consider the recommended revisions to Policy 7241 *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators*. These revisions are a direct result of new Federal Clearinghouse guidelines. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Student Services Director Jamie Little and Child Nutrition Director Martha Turner gave an update on the revisions to Policy 6130 *Student Wellness*. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the next regular meeting of the Board.

Maintenance Director Jerry Baker gave an update on rerouting the electrical cable between the baseball and softball fields at the high school. Following discussion, a motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to Blue Ridge Electric burying the aerial power lines between the baseball and softball fields.

The Board was informed that the high school did not want seating installed at the site of the new practice field. Therefore, a motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to rescinding the motion made at the February meeting to add concrete steps and a foundation pad for aluminum seating at the new practice field.

The Superintendent reported that plans to secure an alternative service provider for the school system's afterschool program effective July 1 is still in the planning stage.

The Board made the final decision to begin all regular Board meetings at 6:00 pm.

The Superintendent gave Board members a hard copy of the School Mental Health Support Personnel Local Report as required by House Bill 75, Part V.

The 2020/21 budget work session was scheduled for Thursday, March 19. The dinner meeting will be held in the annex beginning at 5:00 pm.

The following items of information were shared.

- Friday, April 3—Ashe County Middle School Career Day—*all-day event—staggered times for the elementary schools*
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, April 6, 2020, and will be held at the Ashe County Arts Council beginning at 6:00 pm.
- Wednesday, March 11—Battle of the Books (BOB)—Grades 6-8, 9:00 am, Ashe High auditorium
- Wednesday, March 11—Battle of the Books (EBOB)—Grades 4-5, immediately following BOB
 - 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)
- Friday and Saturday, May 15-16—Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*

At 7:51 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)]. The Board went into closed session at 7:59 pm and returned to regular session at 9:28 pm. During closed session, a motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the closed session on February 3, 2020. No other action was taken.

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