

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 6, 2020

The meeting was held as scheduled with all members present. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Mrs. Jones and Mrs. Eldreth attended the meeting electronically, as well as the general public. Only those who had an item on the agenda were actually present for the meeting. Each presenter was called to the meeting as their item appeared on the agenda to prevent having more than ten people in attendance. The Chairman called the meeting to order and led the pledge of allegiance.

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

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 March 2, 2020 and the special budget work session on March 19, 2020.

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

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the request from Isaac and Brittany Critcher, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the revisions to Policy 7241 *Drug and Alcohol Testing of Commercial Motor Vehicle Operators* as presented by the Assistant HR Director Marcia Elledge at the March meeting.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the revisions to Policy 6130 *Student Wellness* as presented by Student Services Director Jamie Little and Child Nutrition Director Martha Turner at the March meeting. The Board did request that the policy be further changed to distinguish between 30 minutes and extra-curricular activities.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the 2020/21 Child Nutrition Bid Extensions as presented by Child Nutrition Director Martha Turner.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to awarding a 2020/21 Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Grant to each of the following recipients. The grant awards totaled \$9,000.

- Mountain View—G.A.M.E.S. *Generations, Achieving, Memories, Education, Support*—\$1,500
- Westwood—*Stop Being So-So and Start Using Osmo*—\$1,500
- Westwood—*Read and Ride*—\$700
- Westwood—*Winning with Social Skills*—\$1,000
- Mountain View—*It Just Makes Sensory*—\$1,300
- Ashe High—*We Can't See in the Dark*—\$1,500
- Mountain View—*It's a STEM . . . It's a STEAM . . . No, It's a STREAM!!!*—\$1,500

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2020/21 Federal Grants to the Department of Public Instruction as presented by Director of Federal Programs Julie Taylor.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the 2020/21 School Calendar as presented by the Superintendent and Board Member Keith McClure.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Contract to Audit Accounts for the 2019/20 Fiscal Year to the auditing firm Anderson Smith & Wike PLLC as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval the submission of the 2020/21 Local Budget Requests as presented by the Superintendent and Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations as presented by Human Resources Director Roy Putman.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation/retirement of Susan Greer, 5th grade teacher at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2020

Employee Leaves

- Request from Hannah Betsch, teacher at Ashe Early College, for a family medical leave-of-absence, effective on or about April 20, 2020 and ending on or about July 13, 2020 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Employment of Mason Price as regular route full-time bus driver at Ashe High effective March 9, 2020

Bus Garage

- Employment of Russell Clark as interim fuel truck driver effective March 11, 2020 and ending on or about May 30, 2020

Cafeteria

- Reassignment of Tammie Woodie from cafeteria assistant manager at Ashe High to cafeteria assistant at Ashe High effective April 3, 2020

Custodian

- Resignation/retirement of Dean Treadway, custodian (12-month) at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2020

Teacher Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Susie Korevec, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2020

Employee Leaves

- Request from Leonard Houck, fuel truck driver/general laborer at bus garage, for a medical leave-of-absence effective February 24, 2020 and ending on or about May 29, 2020 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from David Higgins, bus driver/custodian at Westwood, for a medical leave-of-absence, effective March 4, 2020 and ending on or about March 20, 2020

- Request from Matthew Reeves, custodian at Westwood, for a medical leave-of-absence effective March 16, 2020 and ending on or about May 4, 2020

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Full-time cafeteria assistant manager at Ashe High
- Full-time bus driver/cafeteria assistant at Ashe High
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

The Vice Chairman gave an update on the middle school project. The site is good—there was no erosion or damage to the footprint from the recent torrential rains. There is some erosion to the lower levels. Engineer Jason Herman and Maintenance Director Jerry Baker will work on the punch list in April. Vannoy Construction is responsible for the site through May 15. Architect Larry Greene is behind schedule—it will probably be late June or July before documents are ready to bid. One of his engineers is dealing with the coronavirus. The pandemic might also impact the workforce and supply needs.

Principal Elaine Cox gave an update on the 2020/21 Ashe Early College student selection process. Due to the coronavirus, the process is not complete. Mrs. Cox reviewed how the process works and responded to questions from the Vice Chairman.

Human Resources Director Roy Putman presented the Board with a list of the 2020/21 employee contract recommendations. Action will be taken at the May meeting.

The Superintendent gave an update on the following.

- COVID-19 Supplement Funds—Ashe County received \$101,205 in State funds in COVID-19 Supplemental Funds
- Online remote learning is going well—teachers have gone beyond expectations.
- 17,796 meals were prepared and delivered the week of March 30.
- K-3 class size for 2020/21 will remain the same.
- Emergency child care has been organized at the West Jefferson site—there are currently nine students enrolled.

The following items of information were shared.

- Spring Break—April 10-17
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2020, 6:00 pm, and will be held either at the Central Support Services annex or electronically.
- Monday-Friday, May 4-8—Teacher Appreciation Week

At 7:47 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 7:53 pm and returned to regular session at 8:42 pm. No action was taken.

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