

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 29, 2020

The regular meeting was held at 6:00 pm as scheduled with all members present. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the meeting was held electronically and was open to the public. Chairman Jones called the meeting to order—the pledge of allegiance was led by Westwood students Trey, John Emory and Kathryn Y.

After adding an addendum to personnel and an action item on an easement at Ashe County Middle, a motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the agenda.

The Board recognized Ashe County Middle, winner of the Vocabulary.com Division III National Championship and the North Carolina State Championship. Teacher Todd Rivver and Principal Dustin Farmer reported that middle school students mastered 167,199 words during the 2019/20 Vocabulary Bowl season.

The Board recognized the Ashe County High School Athletic Program for receiving the National Level 1 Honor Roll status from the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS). Athletic Director David Koontz gave an overview of the process used in order to achieve this status.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the Board meeting minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on June 1 and the special budget meeting on June 24, 2020.

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

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the request from Samantha Roark, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Eric Church, who will live in Ashe County, to allow his children to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2020/21 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the 2020/21 K-12 virtual class options for Ashe County Schools as presented by K-12 Curriculum Director Julie Taylor. Implementation of virtual learning opportunities would provide consistency in instruction and allow families to make individual decisions about their child's learning environment during the pandemic and moving forward. Each virtual course/learning experience would be taught by a classroom teacher.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the adoption of Policy 7635 *Return to Work* as presented at the June 1 meeting by Human Resources Director Roy Putman.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the adoption of Policy 5071/7351 *Electronically Stored Information Retention* as presented at the June 1 meeting by the Superintendent.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the revisions to Policy 3460 *Graduation Requirements* as presented at the June 1 meeting by CTE Director Earl Pennington.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2019/20 Budget Amendments as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron. A copy of the amendments is on file in the Finance Department.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the following 2020/21 Interim Budget Resolution as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer for the Ashe County Board of Education be, and hereby is, authorized to continue paying salaries and the usual, ordinary expense in amounts not to exceed those set in the current budget period. This authorization is to be effective from July 1, 2020 until the adoption of a new budget resolution pursuant to North Carolina G. S. 115C-434. Any such interim appropriations expended shall be charged to the proper appropriation in the 2020/21 budget upon adoption.

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

CERTIFIED

Administrators

- Resignation of Kathleen Gawsyszawski as assistant principal at Ashe High effective June 30, 2020
- Employment of Sarah Mossow as assistant principal at Ashe High effective July 1, 2020—contingent upon employment screenings (prior approval)

Nurses

- Recommendation of a two-year contract for Libby Matheson, school nurse at Westwood, beginning with the 2020/21 school year
- Recommendation of a two-year contract for Reagan Perry, school nurse at Mountain View, beginning with the 2020/21 school year

Teachers

- Recommendation of a four-year contract for Todd Rivver, teacher at Ashe Early College, beginning with the 2020/21 school year
- Resignation of James Burgess as CTE teacher at Ashe High effective June 8, 2020
- Resignation of Stacey Williams as PreK teacher at Ashe Early Learning effective June 10, 2020
- Employment of Maryam Thorpe as Spanish teacher at Ashe High effective at the beginning of the 2020/21 school year—contingent upon employment screenings (prior approval)
- Employment of Lisa St. John as 6th grade teacher at Westwood effective at the beginning of the 2020/21 school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Savannah Wyatt as PreK teacher at Ashe Early Learning effective at the beginning of the 2020/21 school year—contingent upon employment screenings (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Certified staff to begin 2020/21 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Jim Stephenson as regular route bus driver at Mountain View effective June 8, 2020

Coaches

- Resignation of Adam Elliott as head wrestling coach at Ashe High effective June 2, 2020
- Reassignment of Brandon Dillard from non-faculty assistant wrestling coach at Ashe High to co-head varsity wrestling coach effective the 2020/21 school year
- Reassignment of Daniel Dillard from non-faculty assistant wrestling coach at Ashe High to co-head varsity wrestling coach effective the 2020/21 school year

Custodians

- Resignation of James Yates as custodian at Ashe High effective May 29, 2020

Employee Leaves

- Request from Jim Stephenson, bus driver at Mountain View, for a family medical leave of absence beginning May 11, 2020 and ending on or about May 28, 2020

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Classified staff to begin 2020/21 school year
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Blue Ridge Energies for a revision to the current easement at Ashe County Middle as presented by Maintenance Director Jerry Baker. The purpose of this request was to relocate the power lines so that equipment could safely build a new bridge on NC 194 in Warrensville.

K-3 Curriculum and Student Services Director Jamie Little gave an update on the plans for the 2019/20 Summer Remediation and Jumpstart program. Based upon mid-year data, all students below grade level in math and reading in grades K-4 have been invited to attend. Parents are currently being contacted. The program will be held July 20-31 from 8:30 to 2:30 pm. Transportation and meals will be provided. As of this date, 59 have enrolled at Blue Ridge, 72 at Mountain View and 64 at Westwood.

Mrs. Little then gave an update on the afterschool program for 2020/21. She is working with the director of the Western Youth Network (WYN), Jennifer Warren, who is eager to meet the needs for the children in Ashe County. Although the final format of the program is still in the planning stages, work has begun on the memorandum of agreement between the County of Ashe, Ashe County Schools, Ashe Cooperative Extension and WYN.

The Superintendent shared the response from David Norman, the Chairman and CEO of the Lost Province for Cultural Arts, thanking the Board for its letter of support in restoring the WPA-era schoolhouse and classroom to house programs aimed at restoring Southern Appalachian's cultural arts.

The Superintendent shared the letter of appreciation from Steve Randone, Brunswick County Information Services Director, for the work Technology Director Amy Walker recently performed for the North Carolina Local Government Information Systems Association (NCLGISA) held May 20-22. The annual spring symposium for NCLGISA was cancelled due to COVID-19. As a result of Mrs. Walker's leadership talents and skillsets, the symposium was held virtually and was a huge success.

Endowment Committee Liaison Marcia Elledge shared the following individual 2020/21 Endowment Grant recipients with the Board.

- Mountain View—*G.A.M.E.S. Generations, Achieving, Memories, Education, Support*—Colleen Dixon and Ruth Turnmire—\$1,500
- Westwood—*Stop Being So-So and Start Using Osmo*—Taylor Hinrichs—\$1,500
- Westwood—*Read and Ride*—Martie Latham—\$700
- Westwood—*Winning with Social Skills*—Alex Miller, Annerys Soto, Jessica Miller, Amanda Bloomer, Fran Franca and Lindsey Hagel—\$1,000
- Mountain View—*It Just Makes Sensory*—Cynthia Harless—\$1,300
- Ashe County High—*We Can't See in the Dark*—Benjamin Thomas-Reid—\$1,500
- Mountain View—*It's a STEM . . . It's STEAM . . . No, it's a STREAM!!*—Shera Ashley and 4-6 teachers—\$1,500

Superintendent Yates made the following comments.

- Athletic Director David Koontz was appointed to the North Carolina Athletic Director Association (NCADA) Board of Directors as the Region 7 representative.
- The high school graduation ceremony is scheduled for Saturday, July 25.
- Superintendent Yates welcomed Dr. Eisa Cox to Ashe County.
- Superintendent Yates said her goodbye to the Board of Education, employees and students of Ashe County.

Remarks were heard from the Board of Education regarding the appointment of Dr. Cox of as Superintendent and the legacy of Superintendent Yates.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Summer Remediation/Jumpstart—July 20-31, 8:30-2:30
- Monday, August 3—regular meeting of the Board
- Monday-Friday, August 10-14—required teacher workdays
- Monday, August 17—first day for students
- Wednesday, September 23—District 7 Fall Meeting for School Boards @ McDowell County Schools

There being no further business, Chairman Jones declared the meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm following a motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones.