

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 4, 2010

The January meeting was held at Westwood in the Media Center due to a heating problem at the Board of Education Annex. All members were present except Mr. A.B. Weaver due to the bad weather. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on December 7, 2009.

Superintendent Reeves presented the January *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* to Jerri Vogler, secretary/receptionist at Mountain View.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Beta Club for an overnight trip to attend the State Beta Club Convention in Greensboro, North Carolina on February 12-14, 2010.

A presentation was given by Ashe Middle Assistant Principal and former Literacy Specialist for Ashe High Elaine Cox and Career/Technical Education/Community Relations Director Joallen Lowder on the *Dropout Prevention Grant* that was awarded to Ashe High in the amount of \$149,481. The grant will assist to meet the needs of at risk students and help students become successful. Funding will provide 48 laptop computers, tutoring, reading intervention programs, career planning, and transportation for student as well as incentives for parents. The overall goal of the project is to have a 100% high school graduation rate within four years.

Ashe County Schools Media Coordinators Laura Bowers, Lisa Calhoun, Beth Shelton, and Katina Wilcox gave a presentation on the new media circulation software *Destiny* that is being used. Students may access this program at school or from home on the Ashe County Schools homepage or each individual school website. *Destiny* is a 21st Century media tool for 21st Century learning and provides students and parents with essential resource information. As a result of this new program, the media coordinators reported that a total of 74,518 media books were circulated between August 3 and December 18, 2009.

Superintendent Reeves presented information on phase I of the application process for *Race to the Top*, a federal grant program that will reward states for education innovation. Governor Bev Perdue is asking all North Carolina school systems to sign the *Participating LEA (Local Education Agency) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)*. After much discussion, the Board agreed to sign the MOU with the addition of two stipulations: (1) Ashe County Schools reserves the right to dissolve this MOU

within 90 days after the final North Carolina plan is accepted if Ashe County Schools feels that it cannot fully implement all *Race to the Top* initiatives successfully. (2) The LEA will enter this agreement with the understanding that the funds provided through this grant will be sufficient to implement the State plan (Exhibit I) and LEA plan (Exhibit II) and will not now or in the future result in the LEA being burdened with unfunded mandates that require additional local LEA funds. Superintendent Reeves stated that if North Carolina is awarded the grant, LEAs will be notified after April 2010 and that Ashe County is projected to receive approximately \$110,000 each year of the four-year grant cycle.

Maintenance Director Kenneth Richardson presented information on an *Integrated Pest Management Policy* that is required by state law to be in place by October 11, 2011. “*Integrated Pest Management (IPM)* is a common-sense approach to pest control that has been proven to effectively control pests and minimize health and safety risks to school occupants.” Mr. Richardson stated that ACS is presently meeting these requirements. The Board will consider this new policy at the regular meeting in February.

Superintendent Reeves presented possible revisions to Policy 4150, *School Assignment* and asked for the Board’s input. The Board will consider revisions to this policy at the regular meeting in February.

A motion by Mr. Jones and second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Administrators

- Promotion of Elaine Cox from literacy specialist at Ashe High to assistant principal at Ashe Middle effective January 4, 2010
- Promotion of Callie Grubb from administration assistant at Ashe High to assistant principal at Ashe High effective January 4, 2010

Instructional Support

- Resignation/retirement of Selina Parsons as dropout prevention counselor at Ashe High effective February 1, 2010

Teachers

- Request from Cynthia M. Lewis, 6th grade teacher at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence effective January 12, 2010 through March 2, 2010
- Reassignment of Ricky Goodman to temporary math teacher at Ashe Middle effective January 4, 2010

Prior approval to employ the following vacant position

- Literacy specialist at Ashe High

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver Substitutes

- Addition of Buster Rupard, Jr. and Kenny Mash to the list of approved substitute bus drivers

Coaches

- Addition of Jennifer Wilkinson (paid) to the approved spring sports coaches list at Ashe High as assistant softball coach
- Addition of Kendra Blevins (volunteer) to the approved spring sports coaches list at Ashe High as non-faculty assistant softball coach

Custodian

- Resignation/retirement of James Miller as custodian at Ashe High effective February 1, 2010

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Wende Eller, Erin Hayes, Brandi Tonsor, Emily Lewis, Heather Stafford, and Matthew Burgess to the list of approved substitute teachers

Tutor

- Employment of Jennifer Muniz as ESL part-time tutor (16 hours/week) at Blue Ridge effective January 5, 2010

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Bus driver substitutes
- Cafeteria assistant substitutes
- Substitute teachers as necessary

Information items included *Calendar of Events*; information regarding Ashe County Schools Homeless Education Program as highlighted on the North Carolina Homeless Education website; a letter from Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation regarding potential purchase of property; and a letter from Greene Architecture concerning bids for the Ashe Middle pool renovations. The bids will take place February 4, 2010, at 2:00 pm in the Board of Education Annex.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a short recess at 9:17 pm for the purpose of discussing information that is privileged, confidential or not a public record under [N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(1)].

Upon return to regular session at 9:56 pm, a motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous (4-0) approval supporting the Superintendent's recommendation to allow John Edwards, III to return to school at the beginning of the 2010/11 school year rather than a full 365 day suspension.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:05 pm.