

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION NOVEMBER 26, 2012 AND
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 3, 2012

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, November 26, 2012, in Training Room 203 of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Gene Bell, Chairman, presiding
Peggy Dalman
Precious Folston
Jacquelyn Hallum
Al Whitesides

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the work session to order at 4:03 p.m.

WORKSESSION

Belinda Grant, Executive Director for Mount Zion Community Development and Jasmine Shepard, Outreach Worker presented information regarding, The Project EMPOWER (Education Mean Power) Program, Buncombe County's Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiative.

The program's main objective is to reinforce abstinence and provide teenagers with the Power to say No! The presentation also provided some statistics on the pregnancy rate of teenagers in North Carolina and also other addictive behavioral patterns.

One of the solutions that was mentioned by Ms. Grant was to hold Preventive Initiatives classes in Asheville Middle School and the William Randolph School.

Ms. Grant expressed her gratitude to the Board and Superintendent Johnson for their continued support over the years.

Danny Keaton of Danny's Dumpster presented a Composting Proposal that will provide compost services to all the elementary schools. The Board requested that Mr. Keaton present his proposal at the December 3, 2012 Board Meeting at 6:30 pm for the sake of clarity and transparency. If approved, the composting services will go into effect on February 1, 2013. Ms. Grady informed the Board that the proposal will be on the Board Agenda for December 3, 2012, and it will be presented as an action item for their consideration and approval.

Chief Human Resources Human Resources Officer/Director of Support and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady and Director of Retention & Recruitment, Stephanie Cyrus, presented the 2012-2013 Personnel Report. The report reflected school years 2005-06 through 2012-13:

Researcher, Steve Schleifer reviewed with the Board, the findings from the survey that was conducted on Asheville City Schools' staff concerning Balanced Calendar / Year-Round School.

Superintendent Johnson consulted with the Board regarding any questions or changes they might have to first reading of the policies that will be presented in open session for their approval at the regular Board meeting on Monday, December 3, 2012.

- Policy Code 4325 – Drugs and Alcohol
- Policy Code 4340 – School-Level Investigations
- Policy Code 5020 – Visitors to the Schools
- Policy Code 5120 – Relationship with Law Enforcement

Board members were satisfied with the recommendations and they had no changes.

It was recommended that the results of the survey that was conducted on the staff concerning the balanced calendar be released to all staff. It was also suggested that another survey be conducted for parents. After a brief discussion, there was no decision regarding a parent survey.

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the December 3, 2012 Regular Board Meeting Agenda with the Board members.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:55 p.m., Precious Folston made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1), (3) and (5) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321, and discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Al Whitesides and carried.

The closed session ended at 7:15 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ACS BOE and A-B Tech Board of Trustees – Luncheon on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 12:00 pm
- NSBA Conference – San Diego (April 13-15, 2013)

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:22 p.m., Board member, Chairman Bell announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Isaac Dickson Elementary School, 125 Hill Street, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, December 3, 2012 for lunch and presentations, followed by a closed session at 5:30 p.m. in Training Room 203 of the

Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

On Monday, December 3, 2012 at 12:00 pm., members of the Board of Education, Superintendent Johnson and the Leadership Team were greeted by Isaac Dickson Elementary School fifth graders, Ivah, Kaliyah and Evan. The students served as hosts to the group during the Board's visit.

With everyone assembled in the school's media center for a working lunch that was catered from Early Girl Eatery, Principal Brad Johnson and Assistant Principal, Ruletta Hughes led the group on a data walk that provided a comprehensive look at how the school's 478 students are responding to a number of new initiatives designed to improve achievement for all. Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) were a major part of the plan, as were the careful study of individual data, the use of a variety of assessment tools and differentiated student learning. Not only did the school's achievement increase at almost every grade level, a significant improvement in the achievement gap was reflected.

Next, the group learned how the iPad program for 2nd graders was making a real difference in student engagement and learning. Information Technology Facilitator, Jesse Emry and second grade teacher, Jessica Seim displayed several examples of student work that included actual recordings of a student working through a math problem on the iPad screen, as well as reading exercises that afforded children the chance to hear and assess their own literacy skills. Mr. Emry and Ms. Seim shared that the program is not only popular with the students, but also highly effective.

PE teacher, Penny Lewis presented an overview of the highly successful Bright Ideas Afterschool Program, which now serves 242 students from 2:30 to 5:30 PM, Monday through Friday. Not only is the program self-sustaining through a fee structure that also helps fund scholarships, it also introduces the students to everything from homework help to immersion in the community via activities like the recent Gingerbread House competition at Grove Park Inn.

The group concluded their visit with brief stops at: Ms. Tasha's kindergarten class and Ms. Seim's second grade class with students using their iPads.

The visit to Isaac Dickson Elementary School was enjoyable! It was filled with positives and promise. Dickson certainly lives up to its Experiential Learning theme. As they were preparing to depart the school campus, the group noticed that students were grinding corn that they had grown last summer and preparing a cornbread mix for baking in the school's earth oven.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:35 p.m., Gene Bell announced that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene for a closed session at 5:30 p.m. in Training Room 203, and then a continuation of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:38 p.m., Jacquelyn Hallum made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (5) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Hallum and carried.

The closed session ended at 6:19 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was presented by Isaac Dickson Elementary School second graders: Equavion Collins and Osafa I Leopta.

Jacquelyn Hallum presented information on the visit to Isaac Dickson Elementary School.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Al Whitesides led the reading of the new Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

Al Whitesides made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

- Minutes of the special meetings on October 31, work session October 31, 2012 and regular meeting on November 5, 2012
- Transfer of Students
- Policy Code 4331, Assaults, Threats, Harassment, and Hazing
- Policy Code 6305, Safety and Student Transportation Services
- Consideration and Approval of Federal Sequestration Resolution
- Request to Approve 2013-2014 Calendar Waiver Request
- Budget Amendments

GOOD NEWS

Charlie U. Glazener, Executive Director of Community Relations/Communication announced that Asheville High School student, Tyshaun Johnson was one of the students

selected to attend the **Clinton Global Initiative** in New York with Yes--Youth Empowered Solutions. Pam Pauly, Social Worker for both Asheville High School and SILSA said that "Tyshaun is a great student and an overcomer!" Each year, the Clinton Global Initiative inspires, connects, and empowers a community of global leaders to forge solutions to the world's most pressing challenges. On September 23, 2012, YES---Youth Empowered Solutions----staffers and students including Tyshaun, joined 100 other leaders in New York City at an event entitled, "Tomorrow's Leaders Today: The Role of Youth in Changing Our World." What an experience!

November 10-18, 2012 was **National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week**. Board of Education, Chairman Gene Bell would be the first to say just how important it is that we build awareness within our community - Homelessness affects children! Asheville City Schools is currently serving more than 90 students from our local **Homeless Community**. The district learned that the local **Sam's Club** had donated \$500 to provide basic needs to these homeless students. Kate Perrotta serves as the schools' HomeBase Coordinator and she works diligently every day to serve these special families.

To further support the needs of our community that experiences hunger and homelessness, all schools' participated in a food drive during mid-November to support the efforts of **MANNA FoodBank**. The Food Research and Action Center based in Washington, D.C., named Asheville, in 2011, as the third worst metropolitan area in the country for food hardship. According to the survey, 23.8 percent of local residents said there were times during the past 12 months when they could not afford to buy the food they needed. On behalf of the district, I recognize tonight, the kindness shown by so many of our staff at all our schools and especially, to the Hall Fletcher family where extra barrels were rolled in to

collect the generous donations. Student Services Interim Director, Mary Margaret Sullivan and her assistant, Helen Lewis, Kate Perrotta and our Maintenance Team also deserve recognition for responding so ably on short notice.

Congratulations to Director of Instructional Technology, Matt Whiteside who has earned CeCTO status– **Certified Educational Chief Technology Officer**. The training was offered through a partnership between MCNC, UNC School of Government's Center for Public Technology, and the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. This certification is one of the nation's first technology-centered certification programs for educators. The program features two components – one designed for superintendents and the other for technology directors. Superintendent Johnson participated in the “Leaders for the 21st Century” track – a 20-hour instructional course supplemented with a collaborative sessions with Matt, whose total commitment was 240 hours of instruction over 10 months. The knowledge and skills gained through this certification program will help the district's technology department keep pace with an ever-changing technology so that we can effectively raise the achievement of all students - one child at a time.

On Saturday, November 17, 2012, Hall Fletcher Elementary music teacher, Melody McGarrahan led her stylish and syncopated student musicians through the streets of Asheville during the **Annual Holiday Parade** on the way to earning a **First Place Ribbon** and \$250 prize for best non-profit group. “Here's to the first of many such accolades!” Principal Gordon Grant exclaimed. “We appreciate Ms. McGarrahan, the students, and the staff and parents who made this happen and especially Melody's passion and drive to excel and take her students with her!”

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF DANNY'S DUMPSTER COMPOSTING PROPOSAL

Danny Keaton of Danny's Dumpster presented to the Asheville Board of Education for their consideration and approval, his Composting Proposal that would provide services to all five elementary schools. Composting was first piloted at Hall Fletcher Elementary School last school year. The service would begin February 2013 and continue through June 2014.

After the presentation by Danny Keaton, Chairman Bell asked for a motion to approve Danny's Dumpster Composting Proposal. Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve Danny's Dumpster Composting Proposal. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Board members expressed their satisfaction with proposal, with Ms. Folston extending her appreciation to Donalyn Small, a member of the Green Team. Ms. Small had solicited Danny's Dumpster services to Hall Fletcher Elementary School.

Superintendent Johnson commented on the involvement of teachers and students and made mention to the expected savings that composting will bring to the district. He also recognized Dr. Gordon Grant, Principal of Hall Fletcher Elementary School and his staff on how the school had transferred their excitement to the other schools.

PRESENTATION OF 2012 COMPREHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Donna Watson presented to the Board the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, performed by audit firm Dixon Hughes. Ms. Watson reminded the Board and the audience that Asheville

City Schools is required yearly by the state and federal regulations, to be audited by an independent certified public accountant.

The CAFR featured Asheville City Schools 125 year anniversary as a public school system, the new mission statement and the strategic imperative for the district's new Strategic Plan for 2012-2015. Ms. Watson took a few moments expressing her thanks to the Business Office staff and to recognize Christy Wilson, Director of Financial Data and Services who was present at the meeting.

Brian Broom, Engagement Director of Dixon Hughes Goodman, L.L.P. reviewed the Auditors Response and at the end, asked the Board if they had any questions.

Question:

- Vice-Chairman, Al Whitesides requested to know, giving the condition that the economy is in, should the Board have Fund Balance?

Response:

- Fund Balance said Mr. Broom, is a 'rainy day savings' and it can be considered as a 'best practice' but not a requirement.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction, Kelvin Cyrus presented an update to the Common Core State Standards and the North Carolina Essential Standards, a follow up to his presentation at the start of the 2011-2012 school year.

He enumerated the new initiatives currently facing the district, but assured the Board and the audience that the Common Core and the NC Essential Standards are the most critical pieces, and also noted the action steps that the district has taken over the past two years in preparing for the new curriculum. Mr. Cyrus acknowledged Director for Secondary Education, April Dockery for her role in orchestrating two Professional Development Days in September and October for teachers this school year. The Board was also reminded that

the Calendar Committee had built into the school calendar, three Professional Development Days, and also had Central Services and the schools promoting the ‘big Push’ with College and Career Readiness. The new curriculum has been fully implemented for the 2012-13 school year.

Two educators who attended two-day Professional Development sessions provided feedback from their sessions and on teaching the Common Core curriculum in their classrooms.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4325, Drugs and Alcohol. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Hallum and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4340, School-Level Investigations. The motion was seconded by Al Whitesides and carried.

Al Whitesides made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5020, Visitors to the Schools. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Jacquelyn Hallum made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5120, Relationship with Law Enforcement. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Jacquelyn Hallum made a motion to approve the following personnel recommendations as presented by Superintendent, Allen H. Johnson. The motion was seconded by Al Whitesides and carried.

For Approval by the Board of Education
Recommendation for Administrative Contracts:

Kelvin Cyrus	7/1/12 – 6/30/16	Assistant Superintendent / Curriculum and Instruction Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Charlie Glazener	7/1/12 – 6/30/14	Executive Director Community Relations/ Communications Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Cynthia Grady	7/1/12 – 6/30/16	Chief Human Resource Officer / Support Services /Legal Counsel Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Allen Johnson	7/1/12 – 6/30/16	Superintendent Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Donna Watson	7/1/12 – 6/30/16	Chief Finance Officer Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Recommendation for Temporary Contract:

Anna Seno	11/27/12 – 6/14/13	Interim Social Worker Ira B. Jones Elementary School / Isaac Dickson Elementary School / Vance Elementary School
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Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Louise Salerno	10/29/12 – 6/30/13	Homebound Services (Maximum 3 hours per student)
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Asheville High School

Samantha Stone	10/31/12 – 2/28/13	Swimming Diving Coach
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Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Kirsten Leclerc	11/9/12 – 2/19/13	Extra Substitute Services / Classroom Teacher
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Substitutes:

Carmen Allen
Kimberly Burke
Johannah English
Brian Fuchigami
Tyler Holmes
Rena Lindstrom
Katherine Monjure
Jonathan Santos
Alex Webb

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Board member, Precious Folston informed the audience that Friday, December 7, 2012 will be an early release day for Asheville City Schools' students.
2. Superintendent Johnson made the following announcements:
 - Superintendent recognized all principals and directors who attended the Board Meeting, thanking them for their support.
 - The Board members were reminded about the December 6, 2012 meeting at 12 pm with the Board of Trustees at Asheville Buncombe Board of Trustees
 - Holiday schedule for the school district:
 - Closed December 24, 2012 through January 1, 2013.
 - Parent Meeting at Isaac Dickson with the architects on Thursday, December 6, 2012 at 5:30 – Media Center
3. Board members wished the audience and the public “Happy Holidays!”

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Gene Bell, Chairman

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent