

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 1, 2013

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a regular meeting beginning at 12:00 noon on Monday, April 1, 2013, at William Randolph School, 90 Montford Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson, presiding
Matt Buys
Peggy Dalman
Leah Ferguson
Precious Folston

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent.

At 12:00 p.m., Monday, April 1, 2013, Members of the Board and Superintendent Johnson were greeted at William Randolph School by Robert Grant, Logan Day and Jasmine Flint (student ambassadors). The students directed the group to the school's media center where everyone posed for a few pictures. They then assembled for lunch that was prepared by Jersey Mikes, enjoyed conversations with the students and answered several questions concerning scholarship opportunities and early college.

Assistant Principal and Site Administrator, Dewayne Tillman provided an update on re-branding at the school. He remarked that a parent had voiced that during a recent parent appreciation breakfast and the formation of a parent council. Mr. Tillman also talked about the new uniform dress that he and the school's three ambassadors were modeling and how it is changing perceptions and expectations. He credited the school's partnerships with organizations like LEAF, UNC Asheville, the Asheville Design Lab and Asheville GO with successful engagement strategies for the sixty-seven students the school serves.

The group went on a tour of the hallways where students and twelve staff members have been busy creating refreshing bulletin boards that displayed faces, student art and scientific concepts, to name a few. A Board member asked about the string of numbers along the hallways and its meaning. “They were taking the math term Pi to a very detailed level,” the ambassadors told the group.

The group concluded their visit in two classrooms. Artist, Cleaster Cotton who is a member of the LEAF family and has participated in a number of art offerings in the district over the years, was teaching photography. Teachers Morris Morgan and Kelly Homolka were hosting business women from TD Bank. Bank manager, Judy Bond was engaging the students in an exercise about wants vs. needs.

The group departed with a sense that William Randolph School is in fact, reshaping both its image and its relationships with students, families and community members. The group was also pleased to see a board displaying the photographs of twelve Randolph students who are scheduled to graduate on June 6.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:27 p.m., Superintendent Johnson announced that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene for a work session at 4:00 p.m. in Training Room 203, a closed session at 5:30 p.m. and then a continuation of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Johnson called the work session to order at 4:05 p.m. after which, he welcomed new Board appointees, Leah Ferguson and Matt Buys to their first work session.

Before the presentation by Police Detective Josh Simpson, Mr. Johnson remarked that he invited Principals, Carol Ray, Greg Townsend, Cynthia Sellinger and recently retired Board

chair, Gene Bell who is the Executive Director for the Asheville Housing Authority to come and listen to the presentation.

WORK SESSION

Detective, Josh Simpson provided via a PowerPoint presentation, compelling information concerning the increase of gangs and gang-related issues in Buncombe County and the Asheville City School district. According to the detective, unlike the East and West Coast, North Carolina does not have a Gang Law.

The presentation also addressed:

- How gangs are validated
- How gangs originate in Asheville
- Over 88 documented gangs resides in the city
- Gang-related issues currently facing the school district (Asheville High School)
- What drives gang behavior

Several minutes were dedicated to answering questions covering different areas of concerns. Also addressed, were safety preventions that the Asheville City Police Department is providing, especially to the housing projects. Detective Simpson identified the primary problem with gang members to be that they need role models, individuals who are willing to walk along side and hold them accountable even when they continue to make mistakes. An administrator requested to know what warning signs parents need be on the lookout for with their children and gang involvement.

Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady Chief discussed with the Board, a letter she received from a resident requesting to purchase a portion of property owned by Asheville City Schools. Ms. Cicily Moore stated in her letter that the 10,000 square feet property that she is interested in purchasing is located off Clemmons Street in back of Central Services. The members were informed that it has been the policy of the Board not to sell any property belonging to Asheville City Schools, because our

properties are land-locked and more than likely, will not acquire any additional properties. In addition, the cost to purchase a piece of property is a consideration. After a brief deliberation, the Board resolved that they would respond in writing to Ms. Moore, declining her offer and not sell the property. Ms. Moore will be thanked for informing the Board of Education concerning the unpleasant condition of the property and their plans to maintain it going forward.

Executive Director for Elementary Education, Paul Perrotta, provided the Board with copies of a memo from State Superintendent, June Atkinson, explaining the new legislative requirements to mandate assessments. The mClass/Reading 3D focuses on K-3 literacy. Mr. Perrotta walked the Board through a brief overview of the resources including training and implementation for the upcoming school year.

Executive Director for Public Relations, Charlie Glazener presented the District's Proposed Plan for Marketing Two New Schools for Asheville City Schools. Also included in the presentation was a matrix – outlining 10 specific actions that include an editorial article that was written by the Board. The editorial was featured in the March 31, 2013 edition of the Citizens-Times. Mr. Glazener reviewed the Contact Assignment list that was created at the January Mid-Year Board Retreat which still had former chair and vice-chair as participants. After a review of the list, Leah Ferguson agreed to undertake the contacts that were assigned to Mr. Bell and Matt Buys assumed the contacts for Mr. Whitesides, both sharing the remaining contacts that were not assigned.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services, Kelvin Cyrus informed the Board that he would like to recommend for their approval, two change requests to the 2013-2014 school calendar that he has received from principals:

- Change August 16, 2013 Optional Workday (OWD) to a Required Workday (RWD)

- Change June 12, 2014 Required Workday (RWD) to an Optional Workday (OWD)

Mr. Johnson informed the Board that the amended 2013-2014 school calendar will be listed under the consent items for their approval at the 6:30 regular Board meeting.

Cynthia Grady reviewed the format to be followed when the Board conducts their election for a chair and vice chair of the Asheville Board of Education at the regular Board meeting at 6:30 pm.

Cynthia Grady reviewed with the Board, the outcome from the interviews that were conducted to obtain a Construction Manager at Risk for Isaac Dickson Elementary School. The Board was informed Miles McClellan was the recommended choice. In addition, they were also informed that an amendment to the regular Board meeting agenda will be needed so that Miles McClellan – Construction Manager at Risk for Isaac Dickson Elementary School can be added to the consent items for their approval.

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the April 1, 2013 6:30 pm Board Meeting Agenda with the Board members.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:10 p.m., Precious Folston 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 Peggy Dalman and carried.

OPEN SESSION

Precious Folston handed out information for Board members to new Board appointees, Matt Buys and Leah Ferguson, that she received at the Superintendent's Evaluation training

with Dr. Barbara Chapman of the National School Boards Association (NCSBA) last school year.

Superintendent Johnson briefly reviewed information about the North Carolina 2011-12 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate with the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Webinar: Tuesday, April 2, 2013 from 4:00 pm – 5:00 pm (Financial Oversight Obligations of Board Members)
- New Board Members Orientation on Thursday, April 4, 2013: 11:30 am–4:00 pm
- NSBA Conference – San Diego (April 13-15, 2013)

CALL TO ORDER

Superintendent Allen Johnson called the regular meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Ward Scott, District Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Leah Ferguson and Matt Buys, who were appointed as Board Members by the Asheville City Council.

ELECTION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR OF ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Superintendent Johnson (presiding) opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Chairperson of the Board. Peggy Dalman nominated Jacquelyn Hallum as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried. Jacquelyn Hallum was elected as Chairperson by a unanimous vote.

Chairperson Hallum opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice-Chairperson of the Board. Precious Folston nominated Peggy Dalman as Vice-Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried. Chairman Hallum called for a vote on the nomination for Vice-Chairman, and Peggy Dalman was elected by a unanimous vote.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by William Randolph students Jasmine Flint and Robert Grant.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Leah Ferguson presented information on the visit to William Randolph School.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Matt Buys read the Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

AMENDMENT TO BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Chairperson Hallum asked for a motion to amend the Board meeting agenda and add Miles McClellan – Construction Manager at Risk for Isaac Dickson Elementary School to the consent items. Peggy Dalman made a motion to amend the Board Meeting Agenda to add Miles McClellan – Construction Manager at Risk for Isaac Dickson Elementary School to the consent items. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

CONSENT ITEMS

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

- Minutes of work session on February 25, 2013 and regular meeting on March 4, 2013; special meeting on March 14, 2013
- Transfer of Students
- 2013-2014 School Calendar Adjustment
- Miles McClellan – Construction Manager at Risk – Isaac Dickson Elementary School

GOOD NEWS

Charlie U. Glazener, Executive Director of Community Relations/Communications began his review of the good news by welcoming the new Board members and congratulating the new Board chair and vice-chair.

Mr. Glazener announced that **MATHCOUNTS** is a national program designed to improve math skills among U.S. students. The program focuses on middle school students who are at a crucial stage in developing and sustaining math interest and ability. Asheville Middle MathCOUNTS Team, coached by volunteer Kern Parker and volunteer coordinator, Brian Flickinger took second place at the Regional Competition in February. They then competed in the State MathCOUNTS Competition on March 15. The team consists of Art Schell (6th), Saffie Kaplan (7th), Maxwell Harkness (8th), and Collin Kemper (8th). Collin placed 5th overall in the region. These young scholars have a head start on careers in science, technology, engineering or mathematics. AIG Coordinator Jo Landreth is a key spark in this venture.

Three Asheville High Students have won Honorable Mention in a **C-SPAN Video Contest** which came with a \$250 award: Luke Zeller, Caleb Parkins and Ryan Porter...all 9th Graders. Every year since 2006, C-SPAN has invited middle and high school students to produce a 5-8 minute documentary on a national issue. This year, students used cameras to answer the question, “What is the most important issue the president should consider in 2013?” AHS social studies teacher Jesse Kurtz-Nicholl helped guide this project

Since 1907, school social workers have provided unique services to students, families, faculties and communities in order to help students attain maximum benefits from their school experiences. As the need for student support services increased, so has the need for school social workers employed by the school system. We are blessed to have one of the most talented teams of school social workers in the state and I would like to introduce them now:

Mark Ackerman: Hall Fletcher, Claxton and Dickson; Kim Robinson: Asheville Middle School and Asheville Preschool; Pam Pauly: Asheville High School and SILSA; Melanie Strickler: Jones, Vance and Dickson; Eric Howard: William Randolph School. Director of Student Services Mary Margaret Sullivan oversees the good work of our social workers team.

Seventeen members of the **Asheville High/SILSA Teens Against Tobacco Use (TATU) Club** spent Wednesday, March 20 guiding students from six Asheville Middle PE classes through a variety of stations, promoting the non-use of tobacco products. TATU president Tyler Long, a senior at Asheville High will receive a national award later this month. He led the coordination of the event supported by long-time club advisor, Donna Storrow, Sara Green from the Buncombe County Health Department and Project Assist Coordinator, Karen Caldwell. Project Assist is the district's local tobacco prevention coalition. "Young people are an important component in the fight against smoking," Storrow said prior to the March 16th Kick Butts Walk through Asheville. "They are a great role model for their peers."

AHS and AMS music teacher Ruben Orenco has been selected to attend the **2013 Symposium on Music in Schools** and to receive the **Yale Distinguished Music Educator Award**. From a pool of nearly 300 nominees representing 45 states, Ruben was chosen by a panel of music professionals for his outstanding accomplishments and vision as a public school music teacher. This year's Symposium will begin on Thursday, June 6 with a welcome dinner on the Yale University campus for the 50 selected teachers and their guests. This wonderful experience is provided at no cost by the Yale School of Music through the Yale College Class of 1957 Endowment.

700 elementary school students and their chaperones participated in a form of economic development a few weeks ago by attending the **Southern Conference Basketball Tournament** at two venues in Asheville. And we were very proud of two groups of our

students, the **Jones Chorus** under the direction of Jenni Park performed the national anthem at a Friday game and an **AHS Dance Team**, led by veteran teacher Lee Ulrey, provided half-time entertainment on Saturday.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

UPDATE ON ASHEVILLE MIDDLE SCHOOL/ISAAC DICKSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECTS

Superintendent Johnson presented an update on the Asheville Middle School and Isaac Dickson Elementary School Projects. The presentation which was entitled “Building Two New Schools” was also presented to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on March 5, 2013. The presentation included video clips of the two new facilities that Mr. Johnson stated, would serve the district for the next fifty/sixty years and be part of the district’s heritage.

At the close of his presentation, Superintendent Johnson requested to know if the Board had any questions and informed them that the architects for Isaac Dickson Elementary School and Asheville Middle School were in the audience if they had questions or concerns.

Board members took turns expressing their support for the new projects.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the following recommendations as presented by Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

April 1, 2013
For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Post Retirement Contract

Patricia Griffin	3/12/13 -	Interim Director Asheville City Preschool Until Position Filled Asheville City Preschool
------------------	-----------	--

Recommendation for Temporary Contract

Karen Moriarty	2/25/13 – EOY	Interim Grade 3 Teacher Claxton Elementary School
----------------	---------------	--

Recommendation for Classified Position

Timothy Shelton	3/18/13	Assistant Director of Maintenance & Property Management
-----------------	---------	--

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements

Asheville High School

Keith Pittman	3/1/13 – 6/6/2013	Debate Coach
Mitchell Robertson	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	JV Baseball Coach

Asheville City Preschool

Angela Talford	3/5/13 – 6/30/13	Early Head Start / Preschool Teacher Assistant Duties
----------------	------------------	--

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Celia Melville	2/26/13 – 6/30/13	Homebound Services
----------------	-------------------	--------------------

Claxton Elementary School

Sarah Green	3/18/13 – EOY	Interim Speech Language Pathologist
-------------	---------------	-------------------------------------

Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Joshua Collins 2/28/13 – 6/4/13 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Oliana Luke 2/1/13 – 6/4/13 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Vance Elementary School

Ashley Tetrault 2/22/13 – EOY Substitute Services / Teacher Assistant

Substitutes:

John Anglin
Patricia Baker
Meagan Brown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peggy Dalman announced that the Celebration of Champions will be held on Sunday, April 14, 2013

Superintendent Johnson made the following announcements:

- April 26, 2013 will be a school make up for the March 6, 2013 snow day
- Congratulations to the new Board members, Matt Buys and Leah Ferguson. The new Board chair and vice-chair

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent