

MINUTES  
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 10, 2013

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a special meeting (mid-year retreat) at 8:35 a.m., on Monday, June 13, 2013, in the Alumni Center Conference Room at Asheville High School, 419 McDowell Street, 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the special meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

Superintendent Johnson welcomed the Board and Leadership Team to the retreat. He then dedicated a few minutes, highlighting some of the positive feedback that he received from parents and colleagues regarding the graduation ceremony for Asheville High School, The School of Life Science and Inquiry and the William Randolph School that was held on the UNC-Asheville campus, Kimmel Arena. In his closing remarks, he shared with the members the school district had sent a message to the audience that they are about a college-going culture. Chairperson Hallum and Board Vice-Chair, Peggy Dalman also echoed Mr. Johnson's sentiments and thanked administrators and teachers for their efforts. Ms. Hallum added a suggestion that was to be conveyed to the administrators of the high schools for their consideration, and that was for them to investigate looking into providing a more accessible

means for the elderly in getting them to and from the parking lot of the arena for future graduation ceremonies.

Mr. Johnson reviewed the retreat agenda and directed the Board's attention to the school district's mission statement, its strategic imperatives and guiding principles. After a review of the meeting agenda and the purpose of the meeting, the Board and members of the Leadership Team took turn reading the six guiding principles.

### RETREAT PRESENTATIONS

A synopsis and a presentation of the different workshops and sessions that were attended by the Board at the National School Boards Association Annual Conference that was held April 12 – April 16, 2013 in San Diego, CA were shared by Board Chair, Jacquelyn Hallum, Vice-Chair, Peggy Dalman, member, Precious Folston and Superintendent Johnson who attended.

The Board requested that Ms. Grady's presentation on References and Background Checks be put on hold so that the parents who came to the retreat meeting to hear Ms. Cyrus' presentation on the school district's 2013-2016 AIG Plan would not have to wait since the meeting was already behind on schedule.

Ms. Cyrus presented to the Board for their consideration and approval, the proposed changes to the 2013-2016 Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan Program by the AIG Advisory Council Committee. The Board was reminded that the plan no longer operates under what was called the guiding principles, but has since adopted the State Board Standards for the program. A review of the program's vision and mission were also reviewed along with the proposed changes to the following standards:

Standard 3: Personnel & Professional Development

Standard 1: Identification

Standard 4: Total Comprehensive Programming

In her review of the 3 pathways that are being developed to compliment the changes to Standard I, members of the Board responded favorably to the proposal which will reflect the most changes and challenges to the plan. Also included in the changes to the standard, the committee will spend the 2013-2014 school year developing a Performance Task Plan, using Rubrics to make assessments in helping them to identify those potentially gifted learners who just don't test well. The pathway will be piloted in the 2014-2015 school year.

Superintendent Johnson requested that Ms. Cyrus shared a conversation that was previously held about staff reassignment and equalizing the loads of AIG staff members at the different schools. The plan will also include providing additional staff.

Ms. Cyrus responded to Board member, Precious Folston's question concerning the best approach in reaching out to potential A/P students that are not in the forefront to be seen.

Building Inspector, Mark Cates of the City of Asheville provided a brief overview of the Facility Maintenance Permit process for Asheville City Schools. The permits are developed each year on January 1<sup>st</sup> and they run through December 31<sup>st</sup>, a provision in the North Carolina State Law. The permits are delivered to each school. The Board was made aware that in addition to the routine maintenance of each of the facilities by work orders, sporadic inspections are conducted to ensure compliance and still, the City of Asheville Building Inspector Department performs two inspections twice a year. Mr. Cates expressed his appreciation for the positive working relationship between the school district and the City of Asheville.

Maintenance and Facility Director, Don Sims concurred with Mr. Cates' assessment of the good communication between the two systems and spoke to the outstanding recording

keeping that is in place. The two yearly walk-through inspections under the maintenance permit begins January 1 and ends December 31, for each of the facilities, and are documented and filed.

Superintendent Johnson requested to know if Mr. Cates had any advice for the school leadership concerning compliance with the city during the William Randolph and Isaac Dickson transition that they need to cognizant of.

Don Sims reviewed with the Board, a report from the Fire Marshall about concerns with small appliances in the schools. Cynthia Grady informed the Board concerning the pushback that would be received if the concerns where to be addressed in Board policy.

John Legerton, Architect for the new Isaac Dickson Elementary School, reviewed with the Board, the transition period for relocating the William Randolph School to the modular units that will be situated on the Dr. Wesley Grant Southside Center site and the Isaac Dickson Elementary School move to the William Randolph School facility. In addition, Mr. Legerton walked the Board and administrators for the William School, Dewayne Tillman and Isaac Dickson School principal, Brad Johnson through the proposed timeline for the preparation of both locations for when the school district reopens on August 21<sup>st</sup>.

### RECESSED

At 12:20 p.m., Board Chair Hallum announced that the special meeting (retreat) would recess so the Board could collect their lunches and continue the meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 12:30 p.m., with Board members, John Legerton and administrators were engaged in an open discussion during lunch concerning the different task items for the transition.

Board member, Matt Buys requested to know if the funds for the Randolph move will come from the County budget or the district's local funds.

Board member, Leah Ferguson recommended that the district should not hinge on the 1% possibility unforeseen issues.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 12:45 p.m., Peggy Dalman made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

At 1:35 p.m., the Board took a short recess from the closed session meeting. Superintendent Johnson excused himself from the closed session meeting to attend the funeral service for SILSA English teacher, Theda Rudd who passed away on June 5, 2013.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 1:45 p.m., Matt Buys made a motion to returned to closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1), (3) and (6) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321; to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege, and to hear a complaint, charge, or grievance against one or more public employees. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

The Board returned to open session at 4:39 p.m.

#### CONSENT ITEMS

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

- Minutes of the work session on April 29, 2013 and regular meeting on May 6, 2013
- CTE Plan
- Transfer of Students
- Budget Amendments 2012-2013
- Drivers Ed Contract (2013-2014)

#### FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3210 – Parental Inspection and Objection to Instructional Materials. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3220 – Technology in the Classroom. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3225 – Responsible Use of Technology and Internet Safety. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and Carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4400 – Attendance. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 9201 – Energy Management. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

#### PERSONNEL REPORT

There was no personnel report.

#### BOARD OF EDUCATION OPEN DISCUSSION

- The Board conducted an open meeting on upcoming plans for the district to include:
1. Superintendent Search Process
  2. The new IDES/AMS Schools' projects

ADJOURNMENT

The special meeting (mid-year retreat) was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

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Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

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Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent