

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION FEBRUARY 25, 2013 AND
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 4, 2013

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, February 25, 2013 in Training Room 203 of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Al Whitesides, Vice-Chairman, presiding
Peggy Dalman
Precious Folston
Jacquelyn Hallum

Member absent was:

Gene Bell (February 25, 2013)

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairman Al Whitesides called the work session to order at 4:07 p.m.

WORKSESSION

A Board member suggested that Superintendent Johnson 'table' Item II Legislative update discussion on the work session agenda and move onto Item III Consideration of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2013 for the purpose of having all the members present for the discussion.

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the proposal on the Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2013 that was sent to Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson from Dickson Hughes with the

Board for their consideration. They were informed that the proposal showed a decrease of \$1,000 when compared to the contract for 2012. After the review, the Board expressed their satisfaction with the accounting firm and with the proposal. Mr. Johnson reminded the members that the Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2013 will be listed on the March 4, 2013 regular Board meeting agenda under the consent items for their approval.

Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services, Kelvin Cyrus shared a summarized outline of the District-wide Professional Development Session to be held on Friday, March 1, 2013 from 8:30 to 4:30 at First Baptist Church, Asheville, NC.

- The purpose of the training will be to continue with the efforts of the district to equip teachers and administrators so that they can provide the support for many of our children who are economically disadvantaged environments.
- Mr. Cyrus reviewed the different courses that will be available to: certified staff, teacher assistants and principals, and then informed the Board that Continuing Education credits will be granted to the certified staff for several of the courses.

April Spencer, who is employed with WRESA and a former Asheville City Schools employee, will work with the district's administrators to strategize a plan that will enable them to keep the training alive so that it can be revisited when needed. Mr. Cyrus informed the Board that the training would be conducted by the district's in-house teachers and administrators with the exception of Ms. Spencer and former employee, Dr. Robert McGrattan. Board members were encouraged to drop-in if their schedules allowed.

Mr. Cyrus addressed questions raised by members of the Board regarding (1) what are the recognizable differences with the March 1st Professional Development session in comparison to the other Professional Development sessions that have been conducted in the past, (2) what is the overall cost of the training to the district, and (3) will the training be continuous.

Both Superintendent Johnson and Mr. Cyrus informed the Board that they will report back to them, the results from the survey that they will conduct on the all day training session.

Vice-Chairman Al Whitesides suggested that the work session meeting return to agenda Item II, Legislative update discussion. It was recommended that the meeting should proceed in order to accommodate the schedules of the presenters for items V. Home Base – PowerSchool and VI. Update on Asheville Middle School/Isaac Dickson Elementary School Projects.

Director of Instructional Technology, Matt Whiteside presented an overview of the new statewide Instructional System that will replace NCWISE effective for the 2013-2014 school year. The new system has been defined as “smart use of information”. The Board was made aware that the current status and expectations of the new system has not been written in stone, but the impact will be felt by every student and teacher. The overview highlighted how Home Base will bridge the gap with parents, students and school educators by ways of: staying engaged, collaboration and the availability of tools to support the day-to-day, educational and professional development.

The NCWISE system will be turned off in July of 2013 and Home Base will be implemented in August 2013. However, the NCWISE system will be archived as a precaution.

The architects for the Asheville Middle School and Isaac Dickson Elementary School projects reviewed with the Board, a summary of their presentations for the March 5, 2013 meeting with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners. Executive Director of Public Relations, Charlie Glazener presented a walk-through PowerPoint presentation that called for

participation from the Board. The final version of the presentation will be presented in conjunction with the architects' presentations and will embrace these four themes:

- Conducive
- Connected
- Community-friendly
- Contemporary

At the conclusion of the presentations, the Board further discussed how to best promote support for the March 5, 2013 meeting.

The meeting was directed back to Item II. on the work session agenda where members of the Board shared information from conversations that they had with legislators. Cynthia Grady informed the Board concerning one statewide bill that has been filed to allow calendar flexibility by each local School Board, and that a number of local bills have been filed allowing several school districts to individually set their own calendars. The NCSBA is encouraging other School Boards to have conversations with their local delegations concerning similar bills so that they can set their own school start dates.

Superintendent Johnson shared information from the meeting that was held with the Superintendent and certain members of the Buncombe County Board of Education on Friday, February 22, 2013 at the Asheville Housing Authority. Also in attendance, were Chairman Gene Bell, Vice-Chairman Al Whitesides and Cynthia Grady.

Superintendent Johnson reviewed the March 4, 2013 Board Meeting Agenda with the Board members.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:50 p.m., Peggy Dalman 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 Precious Folston carried.

The closed session ended at 7:00 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- March 5, 2013 Meeting with Buncombe County Board of Commissioners
- Retirement Reception for Gene Bell and Al Whitesides on Tuesday, March 12, 2013 (4:00 pm to 6:00 pm)
- NSBA Conference – San Diego (April 13-15, 2013)

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:05 p.m., Vice-Chairman Al Whitesides announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Hall Fletcher Elementary School, 60 Ridgelawn Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, March 5, 2013 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

At 12:00 pm., Monday, March 5, 2013, Members of the Board and Superintendent Johnson and the Leadership Team received a warm welcome at Hall Fletcher Elementary School. The group assembled in the school's cafeteria where they were served the regular school meal with a couple of healthy choices. They were then joined by a group of the school's parents in the conference room and enjoyed some conversation over lunch.

Principal Gordon Grant and Assistant Principal Ruafika Cobb, commenced the school update with the theme for the school visit in a video: "*Hall Fletcher: Join In! Growing a*

community again.” The video was created by the school to help sell Hall Fletcher to prospective parents and students. After which, they became engaged in conversations with parents that echoed phrases like “the staff cares about the kids,” and “they are reaching into a parent’s heart,” and “communication is excellent,” and “the teachers meet my child where he is.”

The group listened to an excellent update from Chris Joyell, a planner with the Design Center, who is leading a collaborative effort to develop and build an outside garden space that will include an education walk built around math and science. Dr. Grant then shared progress on the new mural that will literally change the face of Hall Fletcher Elementary School. The students have been a big part of that mural’s design and the process is nearing completion.

For the last twenty minutes of the visit, the group visited four classrooms observing: class management styles, remediation and AIG enrichment, TAPAS art lesson, and inquiry science. The Board and the Leadership Team enjoyed observing good teaching in the classrooms of John Pruett, Rebecca Shaw, Carrie Rabuck, Erica Reardon and Katrina Sandford among others.

The visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School concluded with Principal Grant sharing that the school is changing the community’s perception on both the inside and outside of the school. From what they witnessed during the visit, the group can expect that families will join in to help grow this vibrant school.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:35 p.m., Chairman 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 5:40 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 Precious Folston and carried.

The closed session ended at 6:05 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

A Board member had questions concerning the presentation at the 6:30 pm meeting on the Update on Advance Placement Program at Asheville High School and SILSA.

Other topics discussed included:

- Charter Schools
- Precious Folston/Jacquelyn Hallum attending preview of presentation to commissioners at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, March 5, 2013.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Bell called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was lead by Hall Fletcher Elementary School students Zyon Fleming, Kimberly Sorto and Leslie Sorto.

Jacquelyn Hallum presented information on the visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

AI Whitesides read the Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

AI Whitesides made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by Jacquelyn Hallum and carried.

- Minutes of work session on January 28, 2013 and regular meeting on February 4, 2013; special meeting February 15, 2013
- Transfer of Students
- Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2013
- Budget Amendments

GOOD NEWS

Charlie U. Glazener, Executive Director of Community Relations/Communications announced that last month, the third grade class at **Hall Fletcher** presented an incredible play about the life and times of baseball player, **Jackie Robinson**. The students, led by teachers Brian Randall, Katie Shellogg and Nicole Kintz staged three performances for the school's students, parents and community, including special guests from Givens Estates and the Harvard Alumni group. What made this event so special was the fact that the third grade students effectively wrote and produced the play. Congratulations to all and to proud principal, Dr. Gordon Grant!

I had the pleasure to attend the **2013 WNC Regional Scholastic Art Awards Program** at Pack Place in February, where art students from 30 schools were honored. The Asheville Art Museum and the American Institute of Architects hosted the event, which

offers early recognition to creative 7th through 12th graders from twenty counties. More than 700 entries were submitted and 93 AHS works received Gold Key, Silver Key or Honorable Mention. Art/ Ceramics teachers Kristina Shriver and Sheila Showers are two of our very talented AHS arts staff.

Student	Grade	Award	Category	Title	Art Teacher
Morgan Landis	10	HM	Ceramics & Glass	Earth Dragon	Showers
Stella Kimsey-White	11	G G, AV S	Photography Sculpture Photography	Voter Identification Sculpture 1 Red Turban	Shriver
Erin Wilson	11	G HM	Ceramics & Glass Ceramics & Glass	Cat Pretty Intead	Showers
Tess Handy	12	G S	Drawing Photography	Chiaroscuro Double Exposure of Van Gogh	Shriver
Avienne Shriner	12	S	Ceramics & Glass	Breaks in Character	Showers
Logan Spector	12	G G, AV	Drawing Painting	Autumn in Spring Looking Forward	Shriver

Eight Asheville City Schools achieved **PBIS recognition** on February 18 from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction: Asheville City Preschool, Ira B Jones Elementary, Claxton Elementary, Hall Fletcher Elementary, Vance Elementary, Isaac Dickson Elementary and Asheville Middle School were recognized for implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention and Support at a high level of fidelity. Our eight schools were among 390 schools in North Carolina that earned one of three levels of recognition. Asheville City Schools have been a part of this state-wide initiative since 2006. PBIS is an approach comprised of intervention practices and organizational systems for establishing the social culture, learning and teaching environment, and individual behavior supports needed to achieve academic and social success for all students. PBIS Coordinator, Lars Johnson presented banners to PBIS school coordinators.

“Please stand up and give yourself a big pat on the back if you have taught the following seniors over the past four years.” That’s how AHS field Hockey Coach, Lauren Kaye informed the AHS/SILSA staffs about a very special award for nine senior student-athletes. The students were honored in early February as **2012 Gladiators by the SGI / NFHCA** (National Field Hockey Coaches Association) **High School National Academic Squad**: Martine Cartier; Kira Dalman; Leah Everest; Monica Grady; Willow Lanier; Rebecca Lewis; Emily Shaw; Abigail Sigmon; and Mackenzine Smith. The program recognizes high school seniors who have achieved a cumulative, un-weighted GPA of 3.5 out of 4.0 or the equivalent. “Please congratulate these girls if you see them around campus” Coach Kaye wrote. “I will take credit for wins and losses, but the credit for this award goes to all the teachers who made this happen!”

RECOGNITION OF BOARD CHAIR GENE BELL AND VICE-CHAIR AL WHITESIDES

Superintendent Johnson told the audience and the community that the recognition of Board Chair Gene Bell and Vice-Chair Al Whitesides was both a happy and sad time for the district, and that tonight’s meeting will be their last televised meeting.

Included in the recognition portion of the meeting were, Councilman Marc Hunt, Art Teacher for Asheville High, Kristina Shriver and two of her students: Logan Spencer and Liana Murray.

Councilman Hunt spoke on behalf of Mayor Bellamy and City Council. He told the audience that shortly after he was elected to City Council, he knew that within a year or so, he would need to find good replacements for Mr. Bell and Whitesides, because of their critical roles as school Board members and that their commitment to the community went beyond the scope of the school system. The audience and community were made aware that

City Council had received 13 applications – good applicants. Mr. Hunt thanked the gentlemen for their high standards.

Mr. Johnson reviewed a list of accomplishments for the chair and vice chair during their eight years of service on the Board, but also thanked them for their guidance and support of the school district. He mentioned they have been a great friend and mentor and at the close of everything, having a good relationship was what mattered. Mr. Johnson told the audience that Mr. Bell and Mr. Whitesides will leave the school system in a better place than how they found it.

Mr. Shriver shared that Ms. Spencer and Ms. Logan accepted the challenge to draw the portraits of Mr. Bell and Mr. Whitesides when she solicited participation of the entire class after she was asked by Superintendent Johnson for a contribution from the school. After receiving the portraits, both gentlemen thanked the audience and artists. During their ‘thank you’s’ remarks, they received standing ovations for their extraordinary eight years of service to the school system.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Bly addressed the Board – requesting additional time so that could offer congratulatory remarks to Chairman Bell and Vice-Chairman Whitesides.

UPDATE ON ADVANCE PLACEMENT PROGRAM AT ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL AND SILSA

Directory for Secondary Education, April Dockery presented an update on the Advance Placement Program at Asheville High School and the School of Inquiry and Life Science for the 2011-2012 school year.

- A breakdown of the 2011-2012 school showed a significant enrollment increase in:

- AP Art History
 - AP Earth Science
 - AP US
 - AP English III and IV
- Most students took the AP Course Tests in May and exceeded the state and national averages.
 - An increase in AP enrollment by 64.4% for the 2012-2013 school year. Ms. Dockery credited the increase to the fact all the seniors at SILSA are enrolled in AP English IV
 - A master schedule was created for 2012-2013 school year allowing AVID juniors and seniors access to AP and honor courses in their 3rd period.
 - 2013-2014 – there is plan to add another AP course, giving AHS/SILSA a total of 17 AP courses

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 Al Whitesides and carried.

March 4, 2013

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Post Retirement Contract

Debra Preneta	3/11/13 –	Interim Director Asheville City Preschool until Position Filled Asheville City Preschool
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Recommendation for Temporary Contract

Jean-Ann Marshall	1/22/13 – EOY	Interim Grade 2 Teacher Vance Elementary School
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Recommendation for Classified Position

Rosalind Davis	2/1/13	4 Hour Child Nutrition Asheville High School
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Bonniebea Cathers	2/18/13	Laptop Manager / Technology Technician I Asheville High School
Carrie Ivey-Craig	2/22/13	Administrative Assistant/ Central Office Switchboard William Randolph School

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements

Asheville High School

Leslie Carrese	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	Women’s JV Soccer Coach
Saul Chase	3/2/13 – 3/9/13	SAT Boot Camp
Kelly Laughter	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	Assistant Women’s Softball Coach
Randall Luke	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	Men’s Tennis Coach
Jessamyn Weis	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	Assistant Women’s Soccer Coach
Kristal Woods	2/13/13 – 5/17/13	Assistant Women’s Track Coach

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Martha Johnson	2/12/13 – TBD	Interim Occupational Therapist
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Asheville Middle School

Alfreda Martin	2/11/13 – 6/14/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Duties
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Claxton Elementary School

Shelly Powell	1/2/13 – 4/9/13	Tutoring
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Camber Giberson	2/1/13 – 6/14/13	Bright Ideas Afterschool Program
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Substitutes:

Brooke Dickson
Mary Martin
Katrina Lawrence

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Johnson made the following announcements:

1. Special thank you to the staff and the presenters for their involvement in the Professional Development Session that was held on Friday, March 1, 2013 at First Baptist Church.
2. Reminded the audience and the community regarding the meeting with the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 at 4:30 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Gene Bell, Chairman

Allen H. Johnson, Secretary/Superintendent