

MINUTES  
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION OCTOBER 27, 2014 AND  
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 3, 2014

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, October 27, 2014, in Training Room 203 of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson, Presiding  
Matt Buys  
Peggy Dalman  
Leah Ferguson  
Precious Grant

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent  
Board Attorney, Chad Donnahoo

Guest:

Councilwoman, Gwen Wisler

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Hallum called the work session meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Executive Director/EHS Program Director, Dawn Meskil concluded her two-part updates regarding the planning programs for Early Head Start with the Board. An overview of the four Long-Term Goals and their objectives were presented: (1) Facilitate Learning (2) Health and Nutrition (3) Economic Security, and (4) Data Management. The Board was informed that due to the changes that were made to the grant cycle, the program will not be receiving an announced monitoring visit this year due to the volume of different programs being handled; furthermore, they are required to complete a Certification of Health and

Safety Screener. Four individuals conducted the process and found no threatening violations and the Certification of Health and Safety Screener was approved and signed by Board chair Hallum following the overview. The Long-Term Goals will be added as a consent item for approval on the November 3, 2014 regular Board meeting agenda at 6:30 p.m.

Asheville High School Principal Joyce Best provided the Board and Superintendent Baldwin with a progress update on the changes that she has put in place at the school since becoming principal in August. In addition, she shared her areas of concern for the school with the Board. The members encouraged Ms. Best to submit her comments on Dress Code Policy 4315 that is outlined in the Code of Student Conduct Handbook for their review and consideration. At the end of her presentation, the Board thanked Ms. Best for her leadership and for the great job that she is doing at the high school.

Assistant Superintendent Kelvin Cyrus and Testing and Accountability Director, Marsha Lipe reviewed with the Board a presentation from a Parent U session on Testing and Accountability that provided parents with a walk-through on the what, when, how, why and purposes for testing. Board members, Superintendent Baldwin and members of the Leadership Team participated in an exercise about first response on hearing the word 'test'. Furthermore, the different types of testing – formative and summative---were reviewed and discussed.

Cynthia Grady reviewed with the Board the following policies for first reading to be presented for approval at the November 3, 2014 Board meeting:

1. 3460-Graduation Requirements
2. 3470-Alternative Learning Programs/Schools
3. 3515-Religion in the Schools
4. 6127-Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices
5. 6130-Automated External Defibrillators
6. 7260-Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens
7. 7262-Communicable Diseases – Employees
8. 7635-Workers' Compensation/Return to Work

In addition, the following Board Policy Procedures were presented to the Board as information and do not require their approval:

1. 3470-P
  2. 3515-P
  3. 6220-P
- Following the review of policy code 6127, the Board requested that school administrators be proactive and assign a hallway monitor for children that may be in an emergency crisis.
  - The Board was informed that a procedure will be created for policy code 7635.

In addition, she reviewed further changes that were made to Policy Code 7505 Classified Personnel Work Schedules and Reporting of Time Worked since it was approved for first reading. The policy will be a consent item for second reading and approval at the November 3, 2014 regular Board meeting. The Board had no comments.

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the draft November 3, 2014 Board agenda with the members.

Executive Director for Public Relations, Charlie Glazener informed the Board about the possible inclement weather conditions on Wednesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> for the Isaac Dickson Elementary School Groundbreaking Ceremony at 4:45 p.m., and that he would send out a high-priority message at 2:45 p.m. if the ceremony gets canceled.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 6:03 p.m., Matt Buys 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, to discuss the possible acquisition of real property. The motion was seconded by Precious Grant and carried.

At 7:20 p.m., Matt Buys made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

### MEETING RECESSED

At 7:20 p.m., Board member, Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA), 419 McDowell Street, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, November 3, 2014 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 p.m., members of the Board, Superintendent Baldwin, the Leadership Team and Executive Director for K-12, April Dockery assembled on the AHS/SILA campus, classroom 112 where they had lunch. Principal Greg Townsend commenced the presentation by introducing his staff and then reiterating the district's and the school's vision and goals. The school now serves 301 students, including 51 in the graduating class and 113 ninth graders. Only ten of the freshmen came from outside the district; Mr. Townsend pointed out.

The school's academic performance data from the past two years were reviewed. Almost 92% of SILSA students were proficient in English II and 71% proficient in Math I. The school's four-year cohort graduation rate was a commendable 95.7% and achievement gaps were low and in one case reversed.

SILSA's lead teacher and Information Technology Facilitator, Shannon Baggett talked about how Harry Wong's 'Seven Questions' have been adapted, including daily agendas in every classroom. She also highlighted some findings from the Teacher Working Conditions Survey and the current School Improvement Planning Process. "Everything that we are doing is designed to support students academically, physically and emotionally."

The group heard from a number of the SILSA teachers about new strategies, including restructuring the 'survivor' skills/orientation program, flipping classrooms so they are more interactive and Tech Thursdays where SILSA teachers are using engaging activities like researching President Kennedy's Inaugural Address and podcasting their subsequent product.

In conclusion, teacher, Stephanie Reagan shared how a student's work was displayed in the hallway and was developed around inquiry-based learning and collaboration. The group enjoyed their visit to SILSA and learned how a focus on rigor, relevance and relationships is making a positive difference for the school's 301 students.

### MEETING RECESSED

At 1:15 p.m., Vice Chair Dalman 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 5:32 p.m., Peggy Dalman 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, to discuss the possible acquisition of real property. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

The Board returned to open session at 6:05 p.m.

### OPEN SESSION

The Board reviewed and discussed two resolutions that they received from the NCSBA: The A-F Grading System and a sample resolution for school boards to support local school calendar control. It was recommended that Ms. Grady draft the language for the resolutions so that the members and can view them at the work session on November 24, 2014 for consideration.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the Board meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

### REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Matt Buys presented information on the visit to the School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA).

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by SILSA students:

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Precious Grant led the reading of the Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Peggy Dalman led the reading of the Asheville City Schools Guiding Principles.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes of meetings: October 6, 2014 regular Board meeting; September 17, 2014 special Board meeting
- B. Transfer of Students
- C. Policy Code 4125, Homeless Student
- D. Policy Code 4230, Communicable Diseases
- E. Policy Code 6120, Student Health Services
- F. Policy Code 7505, Classified Personnel Work Schedules and Reporting of Time Worked
- G. Early Head Start: Community Assessment and Governance Screener

GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Community Relations/Communication, Charlie Glazener commenced the good news portion by announcing the winner of the **Tracy Lea Calhoun Award for Bus Driving**. The winner this year is Erika Goode from Claxton. This award is presented annually to a driver who exemplifies the traits of a courteous, professional and safe driver. The award was established in 1980 to promote school bus safety. Last school year, Asheville City Schools' buses traveled 1,428 miles a day providing transportation to 2,400 students utilizing 29 buses. Kay Thorpe, sponsor from Asheville Oil Company and Smoky Mountain Heating and Air, members of the NC Petroleum Marketers Association presented the award to Ms. Goode.

**Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT)** results were released on October 7, 2014 and Asheville High School and SILSA saw strong results, bettering both the North Carolina and national averages for the 17th consecutive year. Two hundred and six AHS and SILSA seniors (Class of 2014) took the exam during their high school career, an impressive 71.3% participation rate for the district. Asheville City Schools' overall SAT average score of 1601

on the combined elements and 1082 on math/reading ranks third in the state between 115 school districts, only surpassed by Chapel Hill-Carrboro and Watauga County. Congratulations to the Class of 2014 and to their teachers and families.

Last month, the district honored nine teachers of the year and tonight we are pleased to announce the **Asheville City Schools Principal of the Year** for 2014-15, Kim Dechant. Ms. Dechant is in her fourth year as Claxton's leader and was cited for her outstanding vision and the planning skills and implementation that followed on initiatives like Wilson's Foundations and the brand new 'Daily 5' program. She is a graduate of Pisgah High School in Canton and earned her Bachelor of Science Education in Housing and Interiors from Appalachian State University. She followed that with a BS in English from Western Carolina University and a Master's in School Administration from the same institution.

Principal Dechant and Superintendent Baldwin took a few minutes to hand out plaques to all principals in recognition of Principal Appreciation Month in October.

### CURRICULUM FEATURE

The School of Inquiry Life and Science at Asheville (SILSA) demonstrated in a video featuring teachers and students on the school's E-Portfolio and how it represents the school. Science teacher Polk Deters and Math teacher Laura Parks spoke of the process, followed by three students who shared how the portfolios have helped them.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Bly addressed the Board on various educational concerns that he has with the district. In addition, he notified the Board of his plans to mentor Jennifer Ramming, Co-Founder of Open Doors and provide her with all the information that he has attained over the past 25 years.

### FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3460, Graduation Requirements presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3470, Alternative Learning Programs/Schools presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3515, Religion in the Schools presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

Precious Grant made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 6127, Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 6130, Automated External Defibrillators presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7260, Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Matt Buys made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7262, Communicable Diseases-Employees presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7635, Workers' Compensation/Return to the Work presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the following recommendations



presented by Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel,  
Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

November 3, 2014

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Temporary Teacher Contract:

Leslie Blaich	11/10/14	Kindergarten Teacher Isaac Dickson Elementary School
Monique McCreary	11/3/14	Early Head Start Teacher / Home Visitor Asheville City Preschool
Hannah Palmer	10/15/14	ESL Teacher 80% Asheville High School / 20% School of Inquiry & Life Science

Recommendation for Classified:

Ganelle Burnett	11/3/14	Teacher Assistant Asheville City Preschool
Patricia Burton	10/14/14	5 hour Child Nutrition Assistant Asheville High School

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Mary Farris	10/23/14 - 11/30/14	Occupational Therapist Evaluations / Reports
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Asheville High School

Erin Mosher	8/1/14 - 11/25/14	Women's Tennis Coach
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Asheville Middle School

Kristie Smith	11/1/14 - 2/28/14	Cheerleading Coach
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Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Richard Davis	10/13/14 - 11/15/14	Teacher Assistant Duties
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Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Patricia Griffin	10/14/14 - 6/30/15	Parent Engagement Services
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Catherine Lordi	10/14/14 - 5/30/15	Reading Tutor
Susan Shillcock	9/24/14 - 6/15/15	Mentoring Teacher / Experimental Learning Program

Substitutes:

Danielle Arias  
Emma Berger-Singer  
Kenneth Bruland II  
Julia Dillingham  
Laura Farrell  
Alessia Faverio  
Nelea Gherasim  
Ina Gonzalez  
Brian Kellum  
Kathryn Madsen  
Paul Rifkin  
Cameron Thacker  
Lloyd Weinberg

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Baldwin made the following announcements:

1. Asheville Middle School Groundbreaking Ceremony, on Wednesday, November 5, 2014 at 4:45 p.m.
2. Dr. Baldwin attended the dedication Ceremony for Author Redington Education and Career Center on Saturday, November 1, 2014 at 12-1p.m. Everyone was encouraged to visit the center
3. Upcoming Parent U Sessions for November. The audience was encouraged to contact Erin Hill
4. Minority Mentoring Program is accepting applications and they contact Board Chair Hallum for more details.
  - Peggy Dalman announced the Asheville Tour of Excellence will take place from noon until 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, Board Room.
  - Charlie Glazener reminded the audience that November 4<sup>th</sup> is Election Day. Students will be out of school and the district will hold a Professional Development Day. Everyone was encouraged to go out and vote.

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

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Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

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Dr. Pamela M. Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent

Approved by the Board:  
Tuesday, January 13, 2015

JT