

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION JANUARY 26, 2015 AND
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 9, 2015

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, January 26, 2015 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, Chris Campbell

Guest:

Councilwoman, Gwen Wisler

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Hallum called the work session to order at 4:03 p.m. and requested to have agenda items 4, 5 and 6 moved to precede the Annual Personnel Report presentation to accommodate Kelvin Cyrus, who had a speaking engagement at the middle school. The members were in consensus with these amendments.

Matt Whiteside reviewed a working three-year Instructional Technology Plan with the Board. A recap of the four points emphasized in his presentation to the Board on January 13, 2015 (student engagement, blended learning, professional development and access) helped to support the continuation of his presentation on how technology will enhance the instructional program, resulting in a better student outcome. Because of time, the Board

declined the opportunity to watch a five-minute video, but requested that the video link be shared with them. The Board was made aware that they will be asked to approve the purchase of 400 chrome books. The item will be listed among the consent items on the February 2, 2015 regular board meeting agenda for approval.

Assistant Superintendent, Kelvin Cyrus made the following presentations to the Board.

- In a request from the Board regarding Asheville City Schools Foundation's processes and procedures, and to ensure they are in alignment with those of Asheville City Schools Strategic Plan; Mr. Cyrus informed the Board that he is the school district's liaison for the Foundation, and that he will hold regular meetings with Director, Kate Pett. Mr. Cyrus updated the Board on the data that was presented to them at the November 24, 2014 work session meeting regarding the middle school after-school program, In Real Life (IRL).

- Mr. Cyrus presented the information concerning the school district's traditional and balance calendars for the 2015-2016 school year which will be on the February 2, 2015 agenda for first reading and approval. Mr. Cyrus responded to questions on the 182 school days and the extending of the balanced calendar to the other elementary schools.

Cynthia Grady reviewed the district's 2013-2014 Annual Personnel Report with the Board. A suggestion was made pertaining to the job description by race column of the report. It should include an additional column to show the number of minority teacher assistants. Talking points to the report and items for consideration were also mentioned.

Chair Hallum recessed the meeting for a 7-minute dinner break.

Cynthia Grady provided the Board with an update from one of the companies interviewed for the installation of the solar panels at the new Isaac Dickson Elementary School. Following their review and discussion of the options proposed by Sundance, the

Board was made aware that the information was time-sensitive, but the proposal will first be reviewed by the Board attorney before going forward.

The Board had no questions to the following policies that will also be on the February 2, 2015 regular Board agenda as actions items for first reading.

- Policy Code 4201, Injury and Loss Prevention
- Policy Code 7425, School Administrator Contracts and Positions

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the February 2, 2015 Draft Board agenda with the Board members. An additional consent agenda item was added: Early Head Start and Preschool Program Restructuring.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:30 p.m., Leah Ferguson made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (3) to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321, and to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Precious Grant and carried.

At 6:44 p.m., Leah Ferguson made a motion to return to open session.

OPEN SESSION

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the announcements listed on the Work Session Agenda with the Board.

MEETING RECESSED

At 6:50 p.m., Chairperson Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Hall Fletcher Elementary School, 60 Ridgelawn Road, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, February 2, 2015 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. on Monday, February 9, 2015, members of the Board, Superintendent Baldwin and the Leadership Team assembled at Hall Fletcher Elementary School and were greeted by the cafeteria workers and a cafeteria full of happy kids.

During the working lunch meeting, Principal Dr. Gordon Grant presented a comprehensive look at the school's mid-year scores from MClass for both reading skills and reading comprehension. Initiatives on several fronts to improve reading proficiency, including making parents our allies, the recent racial equity work and building relationships, especially in the neighborhoods that the school serves, were mentioned. He talked about the specialists within the school that are a key part of an intensive intervention program serving the school's most needy children; he also described the "Imagine" program that will soon get underway in four classrooms and provide 28-hours of blended learning during the last 70 days of the school year.

Two brief updates were mentioned: After school Music Works Program that now serves 42 kindergarten students. The second was the proposed outdoor learning space for Hall Fletcher. A plan is in place as you can see from the model, but fundraising efforts continue.

The group stopped by two classrooms: Music teacher, Melody McGarrahan was in the middle of a xylophone lesson and was joined by reluctant student and Board member Matt Buys. Our last stop was in Angie Trantham's first-grade classroom where students were engaged in a math lesson.

The group enjoyed their visit to the district's Balanced Calendar School, Hall Fletcher Elementary and received what seemed to be a transparent assessment about progress at the school and new initiatives to boost academic performance. Our thanks to all who hosted us!

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 5:34 p.m., Peggy Dalman made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to

Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (3) 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. The motion was seconded by Precious Grant and carried.

The Board returned to open session at 6:27 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the Board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Peggy Dalman presented information on the visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Hall Fletcher Elementary School students Jenaya McDaniel and Kamiah McDaniel.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

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

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Leah Ferguson led the reading of the Asheville City Schools Guiding Principles.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes of Meetings
- B. Budget Amendments
- C. Policy Code 4318, Use of Wireless Communication and Personal Electronic Devices
- D. Policy Code 4342, Student Searches
- E. Policy Code, 5120, Relationship With Law Enforcement
- F. Policy Code 6140, Student Wellness
- G. Policy Code 6420, Contracts With The Board
- H. Technology Purchase Approval: BID 148-ITT-025

GOOD NEWS

Charlie Glazener provided progress updates on the district's two new schools: Isaac Dickson Elementary and Asheville Middle School

Asheville High School Exceptional Children Teacher, Lois Ebey received the Golden Apple Award from Channel 4 in Greenville, SC. A great segment aired featuring her and her students on November 24, 2014. The award features educators grades K-12 from SC, NC and GA, teachers whose teaching methods are deemed 'outstanding'. Lois has taught children with exceptional needs for over 25 years, the last 14 here in our system.

Congratulations to Asheville High Child Care Center for scoring a 6.22 out of 7 points on the North Carolina Rated License Assessment Project through UNCG. With this top-rate score, the center retains a 5-Star license. CTE Director, Lana Bradley says, "A huge shout-out to administrators, Laura Westbrook, Gina Woody and to our Early Childhood Education students for taking such great care of our little Cougars!"

To address the challenge of making computing coursework more engaging and accessible to all students, the College Board, with the support of the National Science Foundation (NSF), has developed Advanced Placement (AP) Computer Science Principles. Schools will be able to begin offering the new AP course in the fall of 2016. AHS CTE teacher, John Moody is currently teaching the honors level of that course and recently, returned from a visit to Washington DC with a robot in hand.

The district is pleased to announce that Asheville High School was 1st Place Winner for Public High Schools and Hall Fletcher Elementary, First Place, Public Elementary. The Solar Schools Challenge team visited each school last week to recognize them for their efforts and achievements.

Vance Elementary students want to change the world, one lunch tray at a time! The Vance Elementary 5th grade Student Council wrote and submitted a grant to DonorsChoose.org to begin eliminating styrofoam lunch trays and plastic spoons. Art teacher, Robbie Lipe and several of his 5th grade students took to the podium to share their proposed project "Foam-Free Fridays."

This school year, our region added a second **Jazz band** to the west region jazz clinic. Out of 38 students (both jazz bands combined) Asheville Middle School was most represented with eight students. Three of those students are eligible to audition for the All-State Jazz Band: Jasper Herr 2nd Chair A Band; Cole Copenbarger 5th Chair A Band; Neal Scott 1st Chair A Band; Chloe White 1st Chair B Band; Ethan Revere 3rd Chair B Band; Sam Bruder 2nd Chair B Band; Avery Dunham 4th Chair B Band and Phoebe Propst 1st Chair B band. Band teacher Kevin Young shared that he expects even better results next year since the school has added Jazz Band classes, which afforded the opportunity to "really teach the students how to play jazz!"

Board Chair Jacquelyn Hallum and Vice Chair Peggy Dalman presented the County Commissioners of the Year award to Chairman David Gantt. The award was first presented at the North Carolina School Boards Association last November during their awards ceremony and was accepted by the board chairs and superintendents of Asheville City Schools and Buncombe Schools.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

Asheville High School teacher, Ted Williams engaged the Board and the audience with the use of their smart phones to answer a four-question quiz with a Prezi school lesson.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Joe Bly addressed the Board regarding literacy concerns.

Asheville City Association of Educators (ACAE) president, Jenny Parks addressed the Board on the best use of teacher time.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4201, Injury and Loss Prevention presented by Kelvin Cyrus. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7425, School Administrator Contracts and Positions presented by Kelvin Cyrus. The motion was seconded by Precious Grant and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the following recommendations presented by Assistant Superintendent Kelvin Cyrus. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

February 9, 2015

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Temporary Teacher Contract:

Dena Campbell	1/14/15	Language Arts Teacher Asheville Middle School
Julia Haman	1/30/15	Spanish Teacher Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Raymond Jester, III	1/30/15	Interim Grade 3 Teacher Hall Fletcher Elementary
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Abigail Owolabi	1/20/15	Social Worker
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Recommendation for Classified:

Donald Trizano	2/11/15	Lead Custodian Claxton Elementary School
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Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Lisa Sessions	1/12/15 - 6/9/15	Tutoring/Academic Support for Homeless Students
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Jeanne Tyner	1/5/15 - 6/30/15	Beginning Teacher Coordinator
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Asheville High School

Theda Robinson	7/1/14 - 6/30/15	Clerical Office Duties / CTE Department
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Athena Strong	2/9/15 - 6/12/15	Social Worker Aide
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Asheville Middle School

Donna Galloway	8/13/14 - 6/12/15	CTE School Test Coordinator Services
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Tommy Gassaway	2/17/15 - 5/31/15	Head Baseball Coach
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Claxton Elementary School

Kirstin Barrett	1/29/15 - 6/30/15	Media Assistant
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Rachel Hale	1/12/15 - 6/30/15	Parent Volunteer Coordinator
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Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Betsy Rhodes	1/5/15 - 6/11/15	Leveled Literacy Intervention Classes
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Angela Digiamberardino	8/18/14 - 6/12/15	Bright Ideas Afterschool Program
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Amanda Luebbe	1/20/15 - 3/12/15	Extra Teacher Substitute Services
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William Middleton	1/20/15 - 6/12/15	Bright Ideas Afterschool Program
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Sharon Smith	1/26/15 - 6/15/15	Folk Tales and Story Presentations for Experiential Learning Program
Jeremy White	1/12/15 - 6/12/15	Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Volunteer Coach Stipends:

Asheville High School

Christine McGee	11/1/14 - 3/31/15	Swim Coach
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

1. Asheville City Schools Foundation Celebration of Champions will take place on March 21, 2015 at 6:00 pm. Tickets are now on sale.
2. Reminder of the upcoming Parent U Sessions. Further information can be found on the ACS website or contact Marta Alcala-Williams or Erin Hill. Copies of the Parent U catalog can also be found the website.
3. Magnet School enrollment is still underway. Parents were encouraged to contact the individual schools for personal tours and applications.
4. A Memorandum of Understanding between Asheville City Schools and UNC-Asheville was signed on February 6, 2015. Survey results showed that 143 high-school students are interested in enrolling for the 2015-16 school year.
5. The 2015-2016 traditional and balanced calendars that were presented earlier for first reading will include the extension of elementary school hours. The Leadership will consider, the feedback that was received from teachers and partners.
6. Asheville Middle School will be conducting parent tours for February, every Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9am for rising six graders.
7. Matt Buys applauded Superintendent Baldwin's effort with the partnership with UNC-Asheville. Charlie Glazener and Ms. Alcala-Williams were recognized for their role in the process.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela M. Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent