

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION FEBRUARY 23, 2015 AND
REGULAR MEETING MARCH 2, 2015

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, February 23, 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 Attorneys: Chris Campbell (2/23/15) and Dean Shatley (3/2/15)
Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources Officer, Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

Guests:

Mayor Esther Manheimer
Buncombe County Commissioner, Chairman David Gantt

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Hallum called the work session to order at 4:09 p.m.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to amend the agenda to add a new item, RFP Audit Proposal, which will be the new item IV. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the school district's initial process to restructure the Asheville City Schools Preschool. The three-year transition will commence with the

2015-2016 school year. An overview of the proposed list of changes that will take place at Hall Fletcher Elementary School and the required adjustments that will be made to the Preschool as the transition progresses, were presented and discussed. Preschool director, Dawn Meskil also contributed to the review of the restructuring plans, and responded to questions from the Board. Superintendent Baldwin answered questions raised about providing adequate support to Hall Fletcher Elementary School staff during the transition and meeting the challenge of filling the newly created classrooms, which Ms. Meskil assured the members, will not be a huge effort due in part to the positive feedback that she has already received. A review of the next steps to the restructure process and things to consider was also presented.

Superintendent Baldwin presented the proposed 2015-2016 Elementary School Hours to the Board. A review of the data presented was gathered from surveys conducted on elementary parents of the school district about providing more academic time for their kids on a school day, and with teachers to see if they were in support of the proposal to extend school hours. Superintendent Baldwin explained the rationale behind the proposed time change to the elementary school hours: Conversations from principals and teachers about planning and academic times initiated this process; addressing the needs of our struggling students was another reason. Therefore, the 2015-2016 school calendars will have an additional two days of uninterrupted planning time when they are approved by the Board. The Board shared their views on the agenda item while talking through how the extended time could impact the morale of some teachers.

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson presented the Board an AFP Audit Proposal as a recommendation for an Audit Contract for Fiscal Year ending June, 30, 2015 for their consideration. A brief overview of the proposal included three audit firms: Anderson Smith

& Wike PLLC, Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP and Rives and Associates LLP. Following her overview, a dual recommendation was presented: The external contract should be awarded to the district's current auditor, Dixon Hughes Goodman LLP, but that they should also consider pursuing a relationship with Rives & Associates LLP to conduct some internal auditing. Following their discussion on whether the Board should engage another external audit firm, it was the consensus of the Board to have the audit contract proposal listed as an action item on the March 2, 2015 regular Board meeting agenda for their consideration and approval.

Charlie Glazener provided the Board with an update of the shooting that took place earlier in the afternoon at Biltmore Village that caused a lock down of the AHS/SILSA campus. It was reported that the gunman was still at large and two individuals were seriously wounded.

Work session agenda items V, VI and VII were suspended, and the Board convened for closed session to accommodate the schedule of the Board attorney.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:32 p.m., Peggy Dalman made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege pursuant to G.S. § 115C-319-321. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

At 5:35 p.m. the Board returned to open session.

Assistant Superintendent, Kelvin Cyrus presented and reviewed the adjustments that will be made to the 2014-2015 revised Traditional and Balanced Calendars because of the snow make-up days. The Board opted not to survey the district's parents on how to make up the snow days. The 2014-2015 revised traditional and balanced calendars will be among the

consent items for the Board to approve at the March 2, 2015 regular Board meeting. In addition, it was recommended that the 2015-2016 Traditional and Balanced Calendars be added as action items with a brief overview presentation for final approval from the Board.

Charlie Glazener apprised the Board of his phone conversation with Representative Susan Fisher about the Board's possible interest in a local bill that will provide calendar flexibility. Superintendent Baldwin stated that she would engage Dr. Tony Baldwin, Superintendent for Buncombe County Schools in a conversation regarding the mentioned topic.

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson presented the school district's Surplus Property Sold or Exchanged Report for capital year 2014. A summary of and the disposal methods used were reviewed with the Board. No action was required from the Board.

The following Board members left the work session meeting before it was adjourned:

Precious Grant at 5:55 p.m.

Leah Ferguson at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the March 2, 2015 draft Board agenda then proceeded to discuss the listed announcement items.

Vice chair Dalman reviewed a possible process for the Board member-elects to be able to view the April 6, 2015 regular Board meeting agenda items following their March 24, 2015 appointment to the Board.

The Board scheduled a Board meeting for Friday, March 20, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. to address possible outstanding issues.

The Board revisited the RFP proposal agenda item and agreed that it should be listed among the consent items and not be an action item.

MEETING RECESSED

At 6:15 p.m., Chairperson Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Vance Elementary School, 98 Sulphur Spring Road, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, March 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, March 2, 2015, members of the Board, Superintendent Baldwin and the Leadership Team assembled at Vance Elementary School in the media center for lunch catered by the school's cafeteria. They were greeted by principal, Carrie Allen and then introduced to two members of the 5th grade student council. Jaylen and Willamina provided the group with an update on the 'Foam Free Fridays, a student-led initiative which goes into effect this month, with grant funding and a goal of significantly reducing waste through the use of compostable trays and sporks.

The group spent the better part of an hour listening to a comprehensive review of student performance, grade-by-grade, based on the beginning of year and middle of year assessments. Vance is using a wide range of interventions and special programs that target each and every student with a special emphasis on those that are lagging behind grade level in reading. The school uses reading specialists, data of all kinds, the Read to Succeed program, differentiated instruction, home visits and a host of volunteers to help insure academic progress.

Ms. Allen concluded the presentation with a summary of ten community outreach strategies, ranging from Open Doors, to Girls on the Run, to America Reads, to Let Me Run. Today is Dr. Seuss' birthday, and the group enjoyed special chocolate cupcakes honoring this day. The group gave out bookmarks in classrooms to commemorate the occasion. More than anything, the focus on Dr. Seuss reinforced what Principal Allen had told us earlier: "We must teach every one of our kiddos to read before we send them on to middle school."

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:15 p.m., Board Chair Hallum 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 5:39 p.m., Peggy Dalman made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1)(3) and (6) of the General Statutes of North Carolina, to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321; to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential student information pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232g (FERPA) and G.S. 115C-402(e); and 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 5:50 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

There were no attorney-client, and no privileged or confidential student information discussed.

Board Chair Hallum updated the Board on the meeting with Vice-Mayor, Marc Hunt, the attorney for City Council and Board attorney, Chris Campbell regarding background checks for new Board members. No decision was made at the meeting.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Vance Elementary School students.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Leah Ferguson presented information on the visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School.

Board Chair Hallum led the children who were present at the meeting in singing happy birthday to Dr. Seuss.

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.

Board Chair reviewed the Public Comment Guidelines

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes of Meetings
- B. Transfer of Students
- C. Policy Code 4201, Injury and Loss Prevention
- D. Policy Code, 7425, School Administrator Contracts and Positions
- E. Approval of Revised 2014-2015 Traditional Calendar
- F. Approval of Revised 2014-2015 Balanced Calendar
- G. Approval of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2015
- H. Budget Amendments

GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Communications and Public Relations, Charlie Glazener announced that SILSA student, Robert Wiggins has been selected as a candidate for the prestigious **United States Presidential Scholars Program**. He is vying for a semi-finalist position and ultimately, as one of the 141 students selected nationwide. As you might recall, AHS student, Liana Murray was named a Scholar just last year. The United States Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964, by Executive Order of the President, to recognize and honor some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors.

The **National Merit Scholarship Program** announced their finalists on February 2. Of the 1.5 million entrants, some 50,000 with the highest PSAT/NMSQT® Selection Index scores (critical reading + mathematics + writing skills scores) qualify for recognition in the National Merit® Scholarship Program. And in February that number is whittled down to 15,000! Executive Director, April Dockery presented the following AHS scholars with certificates: Kaya Hedt; Sophie Mills; Kayleigh Rhatigan; and Zachery Vilen. Principal Best was not in attendance.

Claxton Elementary School teacher, Becca Wertheim's class recently made a video about Foundations and Daily 5 to the tune of a Taylor Swift song. The Wilsons, who created and own Foundations, loved the video so much that they shared it at their monthly company meeting and placed it on the Wilson language website.

Congratulations to the extraordinary **Asheville Middle School MathCounts' Team** for their WNC Regional Championship. The team of Art Schell, Max Ungert, Ayla Dunham and Grey Johnson finished first out of 27 schools and over 50 teams. Art finished second overall in the individual competition out of more than 200 students while Max was 5th. Art also won the Countdown Round which earned him a \$50 gift card and a standing ovation from his teammates. Other students who had excellent performances on Saturday included Myles Cyrus in 8th grade, Julianna Accles, Matthew Dustin and William Esmond from 7th grade and Abir Mohsin from 7th grade. A very special thank you to AHS senior, Kaya Hedt, the team's incredible coach who prepared the students for every possible problem and all the math teachers at Asheville Middle School whose outstanding teaching every day gave our team the knowledge and opportunity to be regional champions! And let's not forget volunteer coach Kern Parker, who has contributed so much to the foundation of this outstanding program. Congratulations to all!

A number of talented student musicians at **Asheville Middle School** were recognized recently. 6th, 7th and 8th grade band students auditioned for **All-District**. 24 made the Symphonic Band and 13 qualified for the Concert Band. Those students participated in a 2-day clinic a couple of weeks ago. The parents of these students and band teachers Amy Shaffer and Kevin Young have much to be proud about!

RECOGNITION OF BOARD CHAIR HALLUM AND MEMBER PRECIOUS GRANT

Vice-Chair Dalman led the way for the other members in thanking Board Chair Hallum and member, Precious Grant for their eight years of service to the Asheville City Board of Education and the school district. She mentioned her six years of serving alongside both ladies, and spoke warmly of their individual areas of contribution to the Board.

Leah Ferguson expressed her appreciation for their mentorship, recited a quote used often by Ms. Grant and made mention of Ms. Hallum's passion for children. She alluded to the sacrifices that Board members make when serving on the school Board.

Matt Buys shared his amazement of the retiring members in depth knowledge on school-related issues and their ability to juggle different roles and particular, appreciated how each member was always able to reach an agreement on challenging agenda items.

County Commissioner Chairman, David Gantt recognized the members' individual leadership role. Ms. Grant's passion to change the educational world, the building of the district's two new schools and mentioned that they too, will leave a legacy that will not be forgotten. Two separate letters of appreciation to Ms. Hallum and Ms. Grant signed by the

County Commissioners' were read aloud, and then they were presented with two gifts from the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

City of Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer brought greetings on behalf of City Council and shared that knowing the ladies has been both an honor and a privilege. She saw how they served and contributed to the school system and to the Board. In echoing Chairman Gantt, Mayor Manheimer concurred with the uniqueness of the school system, and how much she appreciated the fruits of their labor. City Council will have two 'big' shoes to fill in their selection of the appointments to the school Board, because of the precedents set by Ms. Hallum and Ms. Grant. The mayor concluded her remarks with gift ideas from City Council for the departing Board members.

Superintendent Baldwin closed the remarks with a thank you to Ms. Hallum and Ms. Grant for their leadership and friendship. Both ladies were presented with a bouquet of flowers by Vice-Chair Dalman.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

Vance Elementary School Chorale contributed to the recognition of the Board members by singing two songs.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

PRESENTATION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOL HOURS AND 2015-2016 CALENDAR

Assistant Superintendent, Kelvin Cyrus presented to the Board for their consideration and approval, the 2015-2016 School Calendars that will carry a change in the Elementary School Hours, a proposal by Superintendent Baldwin (7:50 am – 2:45 pm). In order to meet the legislative mandate of 1025 school hours, the district will increase the elementary school hours by 20 minutes each day. A review of how the district's leadership has prepared for the process included, surveying parents and teachers and conducting a transportation assessment were presented.

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE 2015-2016 TRADITIONAL CALENDAR AND BALANCED CALENDAR.

Following his presentation of the Elementary School Hours by Kelvin Cyrus, Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the 2015-2016 Traditional Calendar and 2015-2016 Balanced Calendar. The Motion was seconded by Precious Grant and carried.

Comment:

Board member, Leah Ferguson shared that the Board has deliberated long and hard on this initiative publicly, among themselves and with faculty members and the Foundation. The role of the Board is to hold faculty accountable, and recess cannot be counted as instructional time and therefore, the leadership had to make the decision on how to best utilize the time. It's not the intention of the Board or the district leadership to imply that our teachers will be required to work more than 8 hours, but they will be able to spend 20 more minutes with their students. She commended Superintendent Baldwin and direct reports for the restructuring of the school day and making the most use of the additional 20 minutes. Ms. Ferguson closed by stating that the Board will be looking forward to receiving feedback on this initiative, and that she is fully on board.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the following recommendations presented by Chief Human Resources Officer, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

March 2, 2015

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Temporary Teacher Contract:

Stephanie Ingle	2/23/15	Interim Grade 5 Teacher Claxton Elementary School
Matthew Mikulski	2/16/15	Grade 8 Math Teacher Asheville Middle School
Morgan Morrow	2/12/15	Interim Grade 5 Teacher Claxton Elementary School

Recommendation for Classified:

Xzavien Cannady	2/2/15	Custodian Isaac Dickson Elementary School
-----------------	--------	--

Catalina DiBiase	2/12/15	Teacher Assistant Asheville City Preschool
Helen Gushue	2/18/15	Teacher Assistant Isaac Dickson Elementary School
Ryan Hausner	3/2/15	Technology Technician I Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Troy Teal	2/23/15	Custodian Asheville Middle School

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Ryan Perry	1/16/15 - 6/19/15	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
------------	-------------------	--

Anne Raybon	2/16/15 - 3/26/15	Extra Substitute Services
-------------	-------------------	---------------------------

Asheville High School

Daniel Chase	2/21/15 - 2/28/15	ACT Tutoring
--------------	-------------------	--------------

Asheville Middle School

Allison Smith	2/3/15 - 3/20/15	Extra Substitute Services
---------------	------------------	---------------------------

Claxton Elementary School

Lani Blakeslee	2/3/15 - 2/20/15	Extra Substitute Services
----------------	------------------	---------------------------

Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Julie Brown	2/23/15 - 6/30/15	Title 1 Math Tutor and Specialist
-------------	-------------------	-----------------------------------

Mitra Hoehne	2/9/15 - 6/30/15	Grade 3 Teacher Assistant Duties
--------------	------------------	----------------------------------

Volunteer Coach Stipends

Richard Gabriel	2/18/15 - 6/30/15	Assistant Softball Coach
-----------------	-------------------	--------------------------

Substitutes:

Shannon Hance
James Trombley

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

1. Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the revised 2014-2015 Traditional and Balanced Calendars due to the snow makeup days:
 - Balanced Calendar - March 16 Bonus Learning Day (regular school day)
 - Memorial Day (May 25) will be a regular school day for both calendars with an early release
 - School year has been extended by two days. Last day of school will be June 11
 - Graduation Day June 12
 - Further inclement will impact Spring Break or attend Saturday school
2. Parent U options are still available on the district's website
3. School Social Workers Week (thank you!)
4. Rising six grade tours every Tuesday and Thursday (March 3-12)
5. All Juniors will be taking the ACT on Tuesday, March 3
6. SILSA out of district application will be accepted on March 12th in the Board Room (8-12 pm)

CLOSING COMMENTS

Precious Grant told of an incident when she was first appointed to the Board, and the lesson that she learned from the experience. One of her goals while serving on the Board was to impact the lives of young African-American females, and years have been great! She remarked on the progress the district has made, but that there is still a ways to go and the district has great leadership to take them there.

Board Chair Hallum remarked on her history with the Asheville City School district and said it nurtured her. Being a Board member has made her thankful and grateful. She reflected on past leadership that was available to her when she needed direction, and the work that was jointly done by past Board members, leadership, principals and directors. She spoke warmly of the members she is leaving behind and their individual assets and talents, and the reality of what it means to be a Board member for Asheville City Schools. She also spoke of her mentors and those who never gave up on her even when they had reasons to. She encouraged parents and the district leadership to keep making deposits into the lives of their children and students because they too, will make a positive withdrawal as she did. She wished the incoming Board members well.

Both ladies received an outstanding ovation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela M. Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent