

MINUTES  
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING  
APRIL 6, 2015

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a regular meeting beginning at 12:00 noon on Monday, April 6, 2015, at Claxton Elementary School, 241 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Peggy Dalman, Vice Chairperson, presiding  
Matt Buys  
Leah Ferguson  
Martha Geitner  
Shaunda Sandford

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent.  
Board Attorney, Chris Campbell  
Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources Officer, Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel

Guest:

John Legerton, of Legerton Architecture

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

At 12:00 p.m., Monday, March 23, 2014, members of the Board, Superintendent Baldwin and the Leadership Team assembled at Claxton Elementary School and were greeted by members of the school's ambassadors. The group gathered in the re-designed media center to receive updates about the school, mostly from students while they enjoyed lunch.

Three members of the school's Racial Equity Team provided a progress report on creating a more inclusive school culture. They have focused on listening in on a series of Family Voices Meetings, via student-created photo voice projects, and heard the terms 'disparities' and 'structural racism' and how they were being addressed during the presentation by committee members.

Second grade student, De-Aijaha Ray shared a portion of the literacy foundation program called Foundations, followed by a demonstration on the use of student gel pad with group participation in phonetics' sounds exercise.

Students Nevaeh (Ava) Demps and Mary Dixon shared how they loved having choices each day to help improve their reading skills with the new Daily 5 Literacy program. Students Asia, Trinity, Angelo and Eva provided the group with specifics about new technology, room layouts, painting and replacement tables that will soon arrive for the media center.

Principal, Kim Dechant shared news about the positive impact of last summers' expanded kindergarten Jump Start program with a chart showing how all 23 participants made significant progress during the summer. "You cannot underestimate the power of early intervention," Principal Dechant stated. An observation on a lesson where students were working in teams to create stop-motion animation videos was well received.

Kindergarten teacher, Christine Jones had her students engaged in viewing a live feed from the Greenville Zoo, which they will visit in a couple of weeks; then to first-grade teacher, Rebecca Gebhard's classroom where a math lesson in progress was observed.

The visit to Claxton Elementary School was both informative and enjoyable, and the group thanked all those who contributed to the visit: The PTO supplied the dessert; Holly Gregg's class made the table decorations, and Candice Wells and Rebecca Wertheim's classes produced arts-based gifts for each attendee.

#### MEETING RECESSED

At 1:25 p.m., the meeting was recessed and would reconvene for a special meeting at 4:00 p.m. in Training Room #203, followed by a work session at 4:15 p.m., closed session at 5:30 p.m., and then a continuation of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

#### SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

At 4:04 p.m., Board Attorney, Chris Campbell called the special called meeting to order pursuant to Board Policy 2200.

#### **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON**

Attorney, Chris Campbell opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Board Chair. Leah Ferguson nominated Peggy Dalman with a second by Matt Buys. Ms. Dalman accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nomination or objection, Mr. Campbell closed the nomination. The Board then voted unanimously to elect Peggy Dalman as Board Chair.

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIRPERSON**

Mr. Campbell opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Martha Geitner nominated Matt Buys as Vice Chair. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried. Hearing no other nomination or objection, Mr. Campbell closed the nomination. The Board then voted unanimously to elect Matt Buys as Vice Chair.

At 4:08 p.m., the special called meeting was adjourned.

Chair Peggy Dalman called the work session meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and welcomed members and guests to the work session meeting. She expressed her appreciation for the support that she received, and welcomed Shaunda Sandford and Martha Geitner as the newly appointed members to the Asheville City School Board.

**WORK SESSION**

Mr. Steve Parsons, Project Manager for Miles McClellan Construction for the Isaac Dickson project reviewed the adjustments that have been made on the Dickson project and the change to the contract amount due to the debris issue for their consideration and approval. The new Board members were provided with a brief summary overview of the debris issue, and the recommendations that were presented to the Board by Miles McClellan at meetings for their approval. In addition, an update on the completion of the Debris Management Plan was shared. The Board and Superintendent Baldwin had no questions for Mr. Parsons. The Debris Management Change Order showing the current contract dollar amount will be on the consent agenda for the Board to approve at the 6:30 p.m. meeting.

Superintendent Baldwin updated the Board on the actions already taken to address the concerns raised by parents and the Montford community about the potential ill effects from electromagnetic fields if and when a substation is installed by Duke Power. The planned substation could be situated on a piece of property adjacent to the new Dickson facility and the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. A statement expressing the district's response is

attached to these minutes. The Board took time to share their feedback on the statement and to discuss the issue at length. A review of the next steps was presented to the Board.

Stephanie Cyrus, Coordinator for Gifted Programming, provided the Board with an update on the interim report that was submitted to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), detailing how all six of the Academically Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Program Standards are being implemented in schools. The Board was reminded that the AIG Plan is in accordance with Article 9B (§115c-150.5-8) and that it operates on a three-year cycle, 2013-2016, and that districts are required to submit an interim report half-way through the plan. Four of the eight AIG specialists who attended the presentation, took turns and reviewed some of the standards and a number of the 44 practices associated with the six standards.

The Board had no questions for Matt Whiteside regarding the bidding process that was conducted for the Chrome Books for Asheville High School.

The following policies and administrative procedures were reviewed with the Board:

- Policy Code 5010, Parent Organizations
- Policy Code 7550, Absences Due to Inclement Weather

Administrative Procedures:

- 7750-P, Weather-Related and Emergency-Related Closings
- 7340-P, Guidelines for Employee Dress and Appearance

A suggestion on conducting teacher-meetings to get a feedback on Administrative Procedure 7350-P before implementation was mentioned. The members were encouraged to forward their questions about the policies and procedures to Ms. Grady.

### CLOSED SESSION

At 5:35 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 discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

The closed session ended at 6:15 p.m.

#### OPEN SESSION

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the 6:30 p.m. regular Board meeting agenda and the announcements on the work session with the Board.

#### OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Ward Scott, District Court Judge, administered the oath of office to Martha L. Geitner and Shaunda L. Sandford, who were appointed as Board Members by the Asheville City Council.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dalman called the Board meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by two students from Claxton Elementary School

#### REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Martha Geitner presented information on the visit to Asheville High School.

#### ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Matt Buys 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

Chair Dalman called for a motion to amend consent agenda item E, Approval of Dickson Debris Management Change Order and change it to Approval of Dickson Debris Management Change Order Conditioned upon the Execution of The Change Order Release

Agreement approved by the Board Attorney. The motion was made by Matt Buys with a second made by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

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

- A. Minutes of meetings: February 27, 2015 work session and March 2, 2015 regular meeting; special meeting on March 20, 2015
- B. Transfer of Students
- C. Budget Amendments
- D. Approval of Bid for Asheville High School Chrome Books
- E. Approval of Dickson Debris Management Change Order Conditioned Upon the Execution of The Change Order Release Agreement Approved by the Board Attorney.

### GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener stated that on behalf of the Asheville High School Exceptional Children Department, we would like to recognize Dave Croom and Roots Foods (Roots Hummus) for their dedication to the AHS **Occupational Course of Study Students and Program**. Dave and his company have provided internship training opportunities for six of our most challenging placements during the last four years. Aside from providing an opportunity for employment and training, they have also been instrumental in mentoring and guiding our young folks toward a more positive life time opportunity,” says EC leader/teacher Gary Barton. Congratulations to Roots Foods, Dave Croom.....your efforts and partnerships are truly appreciated!

Five students have been accepted to **Governor’s School** for the Summer of 2015. All five of the district’s academic selections were accepted reports AIG Specialist, Marti Sullivan!

<b>Selected Student</b>	<b>Selected Area</b>
Milo S Norlin	French
Sarah E Michalets	Natural Science
Stephen C Buys	Social Science
Valentin J Bruder	Social Science
Caleb M Walker-Wilson	Spanish

Eleven AHS students and one SILSA student won regional awards during the **Scholastic Art Competition** last month. The students received their formal awards at a reception at the Asheville Art Museum on February 15, 2015, and their work was also on display. Kristina Shriver is the district’s art teacher.

Mr. Glazener completed the good news portion with highlights from the March 19<sup>th</sup> celebration of the 175<sup>th</sup> birthday of North Carolina Schools, which was held at the Raleigh Convention Center with 1,000 in attendance. It was my honor to produce and direct the two-

hour multimedia to show, via collaboration with a number of my counterparts from both NCSPRA and NCASA. Two highlights (one of which you will see) were the recognition of seven teachers who are still in the classroom after more than a half-century of teaching and a 5-minute tribute to the integration of our state's school, which is narrated by Ira B. Jones 5<sup>th</sup> grader Zion Mosley and features a play about Jackie Robinson. That play was the work of Hall Fletcher's entire third-grade class two years ago.

Superintendent Baldwin announced that Charlie Glazener was named co-recipient of the Raymond Sarbaugh Award by the North Carolina Association of School Administrators (NCASA). Mr. Glazener received a standing ovation.

### CURRICULUM FEATURE

Asheville City Schools Preschool Director, Dawn Meskil showed a video of a recorded session with kindergarten teacher, Pat Henke and her students. She establishes expectations and structure in her classroom using questions instead of directives, and creates a sense of community and caring among her students.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5010, Parent Organizations as 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 7550, Absences Due To Inclement Weather as presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

### EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Leah Ferguson 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 Shaunda Sandford and carried.

April 6, 2015

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Classified:

Donna Flores	3/5/15	Child Nutrition Assistant 4/hour
Christy McFadden	3/19/15	Teacher Assistant Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Chuck Aldridge	3/18/15 - 6/30/15	Exceptional Children Services
Jeanne Tyner	7/1/15 - 6/30/16	Beginning Teacher Coordinator

Asheville City Preschool

Sylvia Bendersky	3/23/15 - 6/30/16	Early Head Start Home Visitor Duties
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Asheville High School

Nancy Oliver	6/12/15 - 6/15/15	Graphics / Adobe Academy Teacher
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Claxton Elementary School

Kathy Lane	4/30/15 - 6/12/15	Tutoring
Allison Smith	2/3/15 - 3/20/15	Extra Substitute Services

Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Darius Harrell	3/11/15 - 3/25/15	Extra Substitute Services
Adriel Reed	4/22/15 - 6/15/15	Interim Grade 4 Teacher

Volunteer Coach Stipends

Thomas Gassaway	2/17/15 - 5/31/15	Head Baseball Coach
Hank Raymer	2/17/15 - 5/31/15	Assistant Baseball Coach

Substitutes:

John Anglin  
Brian Bilich  
Adrienne Chaney  
Lisa Neylan  
Laurie Shields



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Baldwin made the following announcements:

1. Superintendent Baldwin read the statement on the district's position regarding the planned substation by Duke Energy.
2. Strategic Planning Stakeholder information meetings on April 9 and April 16 (6-7pm) at the Administrative Offices, Board Room, focusing on: Literacy, Math, Early Childhood and Digital Learning.
3. Two new programs for Parent U: African Culture (AHS Dance Studio) and Math Magic. Check for information on the district's website about location.
4. A session on ABCs on April 21 at 6:00pm at the Preschool.
5. Healthy Eating and the district's partnership with Whole Foods at Jones Elementary School on Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.
6. Progress updates on the district's restructuring initiatives. Expanding preschool opportunities to add a preschool classroom at Hall Fletcher Elementary School. In addition, add a six grade classroom. Parents were encouraged to contact Ms. Meskil at the preschool and Dr. Grant for the 6<sup>th</sup> grade year-round classroom.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

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Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

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Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent