

MINUTES
 THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 WORK SESSION AND SPECIAL MEETING APRIL 27, 2015 AND
 REGULAR MEETING MAY 4, 2015

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, April 27, 2015 in Training Room 203 of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

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

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

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

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

Guests:

Councilwoman, Gwen Wisler
 Kate Pett, Executive Director for the Asheville City Schools Foundation

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dalman called the work session meeting to order at 4:03 p.m.

WORK SESSION

The Board received updates and presentations from the Asheville City Schools Foundation Fellows. Included was a first-time for a preschool Fellows' team, and they presented their results from a year-long action research on skills. In addition, the Middle

School Fellows presented a conclusion from a two-year study on how to use technology to expand research skills, and reported of the supports that they received from many teachers. Executive Director for the Asheville City Schools Foundation, Kate Pett took a few moments to share that the Teaching Fellows' partnership and the Foundation have been doing this for five years, and it is a cost-effective way to improve teacher professional development and impact students.

The Board dedicated a substantial amount of time reviewing the language to a working draft Duke Power Substation Resolution that they are considering. Council woman Wisler shared her assessment of the document with the Board and Dr. Baldwin after listening to the members' feedback. The Board recessed their review of the draft resolution and concluded that an updated version to include the Board's core absolutes be further reviewed before they consider adding the finished document to the May 4, 2015 regular Board meeting agenda as an action item for presentation and approval.

The Board was informed by Cynthia Grady that the construction team for the new Asheville Middle School project is ready to order the kitchen equipment. The Change Order is required because the dollar amount, already a budget line item, is being moved over to the GMP budget. The Change Order will be on the May 4 consent agenda for approval by the Board.

Ms. Grady shared with the Board that the proposed Greenway Easement area is still in conversation phase with the City and their attorney due in part to valid questions that were raised by members of the Board who visited the site. A decision to place the easement on the May 4 agenda will be determined after the meeting that is scheduled for during the week with the City.

The Board reviewed and made required changes to the 2014-2015 Board of Education Committee Assignments that will be carried over to the 2015-2016 school year.

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Board Chair Dalman called the special budget meeting to order at 5:55 p.m.

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson before her presentation, acknowledged Sarah Banks, Budget Analysis for her dedication and commitment. The Board was reminded that State Statues requires that districts present a local budget plan to their school Boards by May 1 so that the Board can make a request to the County Commissioners for local funding the next year. The General Assembly will not release budget until mid-May, and therefore, the budget presentation that will be presented for their consideration and approval at the end of the presentation will be what the district's request will be for next year to the County Commissioners. In addition, the budget is in working progress due to the Strategic Plan.

After the presentation, Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the Budget Request for 2015-2016 to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners as presented by Mrs. Watson. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

The special meeting adjourned at 6:54 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

6:54 p.m., Matt Buys 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 Leah Ferguson and carried.

The closed session ended at 7:10 p.m.

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:10 p.m., Chairperson Dalman announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Asheville High School, 419 McDowell Street, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, May 4, 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

The Board, Superintendent Baldwin and members of the Leadership Team began their last official board day of the 2014-15 school year with a noon visit to Asheville High School where we were greeted by four seniors who are a part of a team of 15 who provide guests tours of the historic school. The visit included a walk from the rotunda up to what people call ‘the new cafeteria’, which was actually completed nearly nine years ago. While we were enjoying a school lunch, Principal Joyce Best introduced several of the custodians who have done an excellent job this year.

They toured sections of the campus, and Superintendent Baldwin took a short side-trip to meet the firemen who are designated as ‘first responders’ for the high school campus and to see the Cougar logo that is now proudly displayed on Engine 2. The tours included stops to Natalie Davis’ ceramics classroom and Kristina Shriver’s visual arts class, where a student has just finished a work she named “Dogs in Space”.

The group assembled in the newly-remodeled 4th floor conference of the tower, and Principal Best talked extensively about strategies in place to decrease the achievement gap: a focus on cultural behavior and expectations; smaller class sizes via better scheduling; extra support like the redesigned Power Block and Saturday academic sessions; and plans to take many of the AVID principles and expand them across the school. She also talked about the May 16 prom, which has been moved on campus. Students and teacher alike have taken ownership of this special event, and the expected attendance has grown extensively.

The visit concluded with a sense there is a new spirit of pride, cooperation and achievement on the Asheville High campus, and we look forward to great things in the future.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:30 p.m., Board 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.

OPEN SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., the Board unanimously agreed to amend the 6:30 pm regular Board meeting agenda to add action item B: Consideration and Approval of the Duke Energy Substation Resolution.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:37 p.m., Matt Buys made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (3) 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 discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege; The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

The Board returned to open session at 6:25 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dalman called the Board meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Asheville High School students.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Shaunda Sandford 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

Martha Geitner led the reading of the Asheville City Schools Guiding Principles.

CONSENT ITEMS

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
- B. Transfer of Students
- C. Policy Code 5010, Parent Organizations
- D. Policy Code, 7550, Absences Due to Inclement Weather
- E. Budget Amendments
- F. AMS Change Order for Kitchen Equipment

GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Communication and Public Relations, Charlie Glazener recognized the fall and spring (2014) semester Work Keys Platinum and Gold level **National Career Readiness Certificate Students**. . . .10 from AHS and 4 from SILSA! Scoring Platinum means that the student has the skills for 99% of all jobs profiled and scoring gold represents the skills for nine of ten jobs profiled. These students received certificates from the Governor and the right to wear special graduation cords. READ LIST

Claxton teacher Darcy Grimes was selected as one of the 20 educators from the US to attend the **Microsoft Innovative Educator Expert Global Exchange (E2)** on the Microsoft campus in Redmond Washington, held just last week. Their participants honed their professional development skills, provided direct feedback to product groups, and collaborated with other exchange experts from around the world. [Darcy speaks]

Three of our elementary school students were chosen as winners for the **2015 Voices of the River Art and Poetry Contest!** Contest participants and winners received prizes and recognition at a reception on April 18th at AB Tech's Holly Library. 2nd Grade Teacher Greta Ciesla from Vance Elementary had two students win in the PreK-2nd Grade Poetry Division: Second Place: Josie Church, French River, and Third Place: Beau Bianchi, I'm a River, Isaac Dickson Elementary has one student recognized: Third Place in the Pre-K-2nd Grade 2D Art: Ashni Rhodes, Pretty Valley. Congratulations to each of these students and their teachers and parents!

Former superintendent of Buncombe County Schools, Cliff Dotson, presented a special recognition on behalf of the Eblen Foundation and the **Smoky Mountain Toy Run**.

The **AVID** Celebration/Recognition Banquet is tomorrow night, but we'd like to share a bit of the good news this evening. AVID seniors Mariah Lee and Amanda Valdes have been awarded the UNC Asheville Higher Education 4-year scholarship. Additionally, the students will be able to participate in AVID for Higher Education at UNC-Asheville, which is North Carolina's first four-year university to join the AVID for Higher Education Student Success Initiative. AVID seniors Hannah Lail and Shaunessy Lofton have been selected to be Dell Scholars. Dell Scholars receive a \$20,000 scholarship, a laptop and textbook credits, and ongoing support throughout college to address whatever challenges they may face. AVID lead teacher Jerome Hughes recently shared the news with his fellow staff members: "Thank you for all that you have done to help shape Mariah, Amanda, Hannah, and Shaunessy into the scholars they have become. Thank you for all that you do for all students at AHS every day. I celebrate the students' success. I celebrate you."

We met another AVID senior at the Top 20 Banquet last month. Diana Marquez has been awarded the prestigious **Gates Millennium Scholarship**, funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Diana has been in AVID since 6th grade and has taken 10 AP courses. She is an active participant in the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA). Diana plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill next year. Quoting Jerome again, "It takes teamwork to make a dream work"...and college dreams do come true."

SILSA students swept all three awards in the **Junior Achievement Ethics Essay Contest** during the JA's Annual Business Ethics Luncheon at the Crowne Plaza. Todd Newnam, CEO of Encore Technology Group, presented each of the winners with a new laptop. The students and their topics: "Raising the Bar on NC's Dropout Rate" – Elijah Wilde; "The Promise of a Free Education" – Sandy Rizzo-Banks and "Is Tracking in Schools on the Right Track?" – Mira Carlinnia. Congratulations to each of these talented students and to the SILSA teachers and staff.

OpenDoors partnered with **Camp Spring Creek**, and our district to train 10 more teachers at the elementary level in the Orton-Gillingham approach through a 35-hour training session held over two weekends in March. These dedicated teachers went above and beyond to show their commitment to children who struggle with the written language. The program was developed to help students who are dyslexic and has since been shown to be a great tool for non-dyslexic students as well. Orton-Gillingham offers direct and explicit instruction, systematically building an association between sounds and symbols and helps to close that gap between students who gained pre-literacy skills prior to entering Kindergarten and those who did not. This brings the total number of teachers trained through this on-going partnership to 18! Anne Hardy, Elementary Coordinator and Lead Instructional Coach help manage this program.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

A group of 5th graders from Isaac Dickson Elementary School presented scientific explorations on several projects, and had visuals that were viewed by all.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Dalman read aloud the Public Comment Guidelines.

Sandra Friman addressed the Board on support for Global Exchange Program for Africa.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the following recommendations presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

May 4, 2015

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Administrative Contracts:

Lana Bradley	7/1/15 - 6/30/19	Director of Career and Technical Education / Technical Education Instructional Management Coordinator / Career Development Coordinator Asheville High School
Laurie McDanel	7/1/15 - 6/30/19	Executive Director of Exceptional Children and Director of Asheville City Preschool Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Dawn Meskil	7/1/15 - 6/30/19	Assistant Director of Asheville City Preschool and Executive Director of Early Head Start Asheville City Preschool
Gregory Wilson	7/1/15 - 6/30/16	Assistant Principal Asheville High School

Recommendation for Temporary Contract:Asheville High School

Nancy Oliver 3/13/15 - 6/15/15 Graphics / Adobe Academy Teacher

Recommendation for Classified:

Russell Gentry 5/4/15 Technology Technician I

Jamika Monroe 4/22/15 4 Hour Child Nutrition

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Stephanie Duginske 4/6/15 - 6/1/15 Health Education Instruction

Claxton Elementary School

Patricia Griffin 4/24/15 - EOY Assistant Principal Administrative Duties

Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Kristin Marsh Shepard 4/8/15 - 6/15/15 Media Assistant Duties

Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Laura Ball 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Elizabeth Freeman 9/1/14 - 6/30/15 Tutoring

Carol Polsgrove 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Alyssa Scully 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Amanda Silverman 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Shannon Waller 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Tania Wells 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Tracey Whitehouse 4/6/15 - 5/29/15 Bright Ideas Afterschool Program

Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Darius Harrell 4/13/15 - 6/12/15 Tutoring

Vance Elementary School

Linda Cooke 4/6/15 - 6/5/15 Tutoring

Adriel Reed 4/22/15 1/2 day - 6/15/15 Grade 4 Teacher Duties

Stephanie Sharp 5/11/15 - 6/5/15 Tutoring

Volunteer Coach StipendsAsheville High School

Randall Luke 2/23/15 - 5/1/15 Men's Head Tennis Coach

Chris Stroup 2/16/15 - 5/1/15 Men's Track

Substitutes:

Joel Jeffries
Haley Watts

CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE DUKE ENERGY RESOLUTION

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the Duke Energy Substation Resolution that was read to the audience by Board chair Dalman. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

The chair provided the audience and viewers with a brief update on the progress addressing the concerns surrounding the substation, and of a scheduled field trip to visit a similar existing substation with Duke's representatives, members of the Board, Superintendent Baldwin and the district's Maintenance Administrators. Chair Dalman mentioned the lack of official authority the School Board and City Council have over the substation issue, and also the school districts' foremost focuses to be communicated to the community and parents are that of the safety and health of our students and staff.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Superintendent Baldwin made the following announcements:

1. Thanks to all community members, parents and students who participated the Strategic Planning sessions. Good strategies have been created to take the district through to the next five years.
2. Thank you to Principals for National Principal Day
3. May 16 – Teacher Appreciation Week

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela M. Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent