

MINUTES  
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORK SESSION JANUARY 25, 2016, AND  
A SPECIAL WORK SESSION AND REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 1, 2016

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, January 25, 2016, in the Board Room of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

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

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent  
Board Attorney, Chris Campbell

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

Guests:

Parents, staff from Hall Fletcher, Claxton Elementary, Isaac Dickson Elementary School; and Kate Pett Asheville City Schools Foundations Director

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dalman called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m., and thanked everyone for attending to her updates on the restructuring initiative. The audience was reminded that there will be no public comment.

### AMENDED AGENDA

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to amend the work session agenda and remove Item III. Annual Personnel Report, and add Snow Make up Matrix to follow the Restructure presentation. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

### WORK SESSION

Dr. McAllister presented the Memorandum of Understanding between Asheville City Schools and the Asheville Police Department, a prerequisite that the district has to first establish in order to commence with the safety component of the School Improvement Plan for all schools. The safety plan will be conducted and then presented to the superintendent for review, before it is reviewed and approved by the Board of Education. The Safety Plan will be on the March regular meeting agenda for final approval.

Dr. McAllister addressed the comments that were made by the Board chair concerning the MOU prior to his presentation. The Board had no other comments regarding the MOU, and it will be listed under the consent item for approval on February 1, 2016. The executed copy of the MOU will be attached to these minutes.

In her address to the Board and the audience on the restructure, Superintendent Baldwin presented a brief overview on how the district leadership arrived at the point that initiated the process. The Leadership Team took turns and presented a review on the pros and cons of the five options based on feedback received from the forums and community. After eliminating options #3 and #5, because of budget consideration, Option #4 was presented as the most viable option by the leadership team to address the district 's projected enrollment for the 2018-19 school year for the elementary schools and aligned option #4 with the three focus areas of the strategic plan.

Following the presentation, Dr. Baldwin thanked the guests for their questions and feedback.

Dr. Baldwin reviewed the next steps, and echoed the Board's request for the Leadership Team to have conversations with staff and parents at Hall Fletcher Elementary school.

Charlie Glazener reviewed with the Board a matrix for the snow make-up days that would amend the 2015-16 school calendars.

Leah Ferguson left the work session meeting at approximately 5:40 p.m.

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson requested to have a Board member presentation for the 2016-2017 Budget Advisory Committee. Board member, Matt Buys agreed to sit on the committee.

#### CLOSED SESSION

No closed session.

#### MEETING RECESSED

At 6:15 the work session meeting was adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, February 1, 2016 for a special work session at 5:00 p.m. and 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.

#### SPECIAL WORK SESSION

Board Chair Dalman called the special work session to order at 5:00 p.m.

Executive Director for Human Resources, High School and Director, Dr. Mark Division presented the district 2015-2016 Personnel Report of the district's 701 employees.

The special work session meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Shaunda Sandford left at 5:30 p.m.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 5:37 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 Martha Geitner and carried.

At 6:25 p.m., the Board returned to open session.

#### CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Dalman called the Board meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Executive Director for Public Communication, Charlie Glazener.

#### AMENDED AGENDA

Matt Buys made a motion to amend the consent agenda to add Item F. Final Acceptance of Change Order #1 Dickson Debris Management Plan. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

The Board chair informed the audience that board member, Shaunda Sandford had to leave following the closed session; and member, Leah Ferguson apologized to audience that she too will need to leave the meeting because of her two-month old baby.

## CONSENT ITEMS

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

- A. Minutes
  - 1. Closed Session Minutes
  - 2. Open Session
- B. Approval of Memorandum of Understanding between Asheville City Board of Education and Asheville Police Department
- C. Budget Amendments
- D. Fourth Amendment to Chief Finance Officer Contract
- E. Arroyo Research Services
- F. Final Acceptance of Change Order #1 Dickson Debris Management Plan

## SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Baldwin shared the following district information:

- 1. Happy New Year to student and staff
- 2. Thank you to all parents who attended the Magnet Information Sessions on January 12 (Administrative Offices) and January 19 (Preschool)
- 3. Magnet Enrollment School Enrollment Schedule for the Month of February\
- 4. Tea & Talk upcoming sessions at 7:30 am – 9:00 am
- 5. Community Forum #2: Early Childhood (Board Room) February 11
- 6. The audience was informed that the restructure meeting that was scheduled for January 14 at the Board's mid-year retreat was intended to be a conversion only, and the leadership team was to receive direction from the Board on what was presented.
- 7. An update on the district three focus areas of the Strategic Plan and how they align with Teaching and Learning and Student Support Services departments.

Board Chair Dalman echoed Superintendent remarks, and encouraged the audience to provide feedback. She reiterated that no decision had been made, and that the Board and Leadership are focusing on what is going to work best long term for our students. The audience was encouraged to attend the work session meetings, but reminded them that they are no public comments.

## CURRICULUM FEATURE

The School of Inquiry and Life Science at Asheville (SILSA) Teacher of The Year, Polk Deters reviewed a brief information session about common core. Ceramic teacher, Natalie Davis and Math teacher, Vern Lepa demonstrated how common core connects in their classrooms.

## GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communication, Charlie Glazener shared that Asheville Middle School band classrooms sent 16 students to the **West Region Jazz Auditions**. Judges selected 38 students and...drum roll....AMS put 10 into the bands! Four of those students will soon audition for the All-State Jazz Band!! Each year our numbers grow larger. Congratulations to band teachers Kevin Young (Jazz is his baby!) and veteran teacher and mentor, Amy Shaffer.

Preschool Director, Dawn Meskil shared how the recent renewal of the school's **5-Star license**. Achieving that is no easy feat and we are so proud of this wonderful West Asheville-based school that serves some 180 families. by the way the Preschool earned 15 of 15 possible points during the Division of Child Development's rigorous evaluation.

Next we would like the excellent sports programs at **Asheville High School** and the incredible **coaches and student-athletes** who represented us so well during the Fall Semester. Athletic Director and Coach Lance Abernathy joined us this past summer and has done a great job to preserve and enhance the legacy of Cougar Sports. By the way, after fall season Asheville High is tied for 8th in the state in Wells Fargo points

Elijah Wilde, a student at the School of Inquiry & Life Sciences in Asheville, NC, has received a \$1,000 scholarship, sponsored by the TAPO Institute, for his **winning essay** on what today's youth can learn from Malala Yousafzai, 2014 winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. The award was presented late last year at the conclusion of a youth symposium co-hosted by **the National Society of High School Scholars (NSHSS)** and the National Center for Civil and Human Rights. The symposium offers high school and college NSHSS members an exclusive opportunity to gain insight into the meaning of the Nobel Prizes and reflect on the character traits and leadership.

Lana Bradley, Career Technical Education Director presented several students who unveiled the program's marketing campaign. February is **CTE Month**.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Buys thanked April Dockery for her efforts in speaking with parents concerning their question on the restructuring.

The following individuals addressed the Board:

1. Melissa Cate-Essig, spoke on behalf of group of parents and their opposition to out-of-district enrollment. 18% of the children should not be in Asheville City Schools:
  - a. classroom overcrowding
  - b. increased racial inequity, restructure and its effect on Hall Fletcher Elementary School
  - c. Threatening Title 1 Funding
2. Margaret Moncure, representing Hall Fletcher parents regarding their opposition to Option #4. Ms. Moncure also provided the board with her statement in an email.
3. Brian Randall, teacher informed the Board and audience that a group of teachers are in the process on working a plan, and requested that the Board not make a decision, but wait to hear their presentation.

The Board also received public comment from two Isaac Dickson Elementary School students, Cordosia and Eniyah regarding reading buddies.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Laura Davis informed the audience that Donna Watson, Chief Finance Officer will be retiring at the end of the school year, and an extension to her contract until July 31, 2016 is on the personnel list for board approval.

Matt Buys made a motion to approve the following recommendations presented by Ms. Davis. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

February 1, 2016

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Extension of Administrative Contract:Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Donna Watson

7/1/16 - 7/31/16

Chief Finance Officer

Recommendations for Temporary Teacher Contracts:Claxton Elementary School

Sarah Strain	1/19/16	Grade 3 Teacher
Annemarie Webster	1/13/16	Grade 3 Teacher

Recommendations for Classified:Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Robyn Hess	2/1/16	Data Manager 1
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Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Nicholas Hinton	1/19/16 - 5/31/16	Tutoring
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Volunteer Coach Stipends:

William Williams	11/1/15 - 2/28/16	Assistant Girl's Basketball Coach Asheville Middle School
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Substitutes:

Carolyn Williams



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Dalman acknowledged new councilman, Keith Young and then proceeded to make the following announcements:

1. Community Forum on Early Childhood: Thursday, February 11 (5:15pm) Board Room
2. Work Session: Monday February 29, 2016
3. Next regular Board meeting: Monday, March 7, 2016 (6:30 pm) Board Room

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

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Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent /Secretary