

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING / WORK SESSION MARCH 3, 2016 AND
A REGULAR MEETING MARCH 7, 2016

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a special board meeting / work session at 4:00 p.m., on Thursday, March 3, 2016, in the Board Room of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

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

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent
Board Attorney, Chris Campbell (March 7, 2016)

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

Guests:

ACS staff and parents

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dalman called the special board meeting to order at 4:08 p.m., and thanked everyone for attending the meeting to hear the feedback from the School Review Teams that met on February 22, 2016.

Board Chair Dalman enumerated the purposes for the restructure, and she concluded her remarks by stating that the restructure presents an opportunity for the district, families and students, and they are the common bond that has brought everyone together.

The audience was encouraged to allow their passion and commitment for the students to guide their response.

The School Review Teams consist of the district's nine schools. They each received directives by the Board to pattern their presentations using the following guidelines:

- 1) The seven key points that the Board adopted at the February 16, 2016 special meeting;
- 2) Gather feedback on concerns, ideas and suggestions from their respective communities; and
- 3) The four issues that the Leadership Team needed answers to so they can prepare for the 2016-17 school year

The Board members had no questions prior to the presentations. Copies of the schools' presentation will be filed with the meeting minutes.

Following the presentations by the schools, Superintendent Baldwin addressed the audience on behalf of the Leadership Team, and shared the reasons why Option #4 was chosen and pursued as a viable option for the district:

- It met all the objectives and requirements, including the achievement gap.
- It will create space at the elementary level
- Smaller school options
- It meets all the objectives and requirements for the Asheville City Schools district

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Dalman reviewed the public comment guidelines prior to the public comment portion of the special meeting agenda.

1. Libby Kyles, teacher at Isaac Dickson, addressed the Board on school community and the need to remove the climate of fear.
2. Pepi Acebo, an Isaac Dickson parent, addressed about slowing down the process and alluded to Title Funding scarcity for Hall Fletcher.

3. Polly Bolding with ACS Preschool, Enrollment and Engagement Coordinator, clarified the number of students served in public program and transportation challenges design for Satellite classes
4. Kate White, clarified the statement she made during her presentation concerning Title I Funding, and stated it is based on the number of students who receives free and reduce lunch.
5. Angel Howell, Co-PTO president at Hall Fletcher, expressed her appreciation to the staff of Hall Fletcher and requested that the Board slow the restructuring process down.

NEXT STEPS

1. Board Chair Dalman informed the audience that the next step will require an action by the Board regarding the following issues that will have an impact on the budget for the 2016-17 school year. The four items will be on the March 7, 2016 regular Board meeting agenda for the Board to take action.
 - a. What to do about 6th and 7th grade at Hall Fletcher?
 - b. What to do about kindergarten and 1st grade at the Preschool campus?
 - c. Montford? Big /little kids?
 - d. Pre-K at Jones and IDES
2. Bring School Review Teams back together on April 4
3. The 2016-2017 will be used as a planning year
4. The schools that will be most impacted by the restructure, the leadership will work closely with those individuals.

The Board Chair thanked the review teams and said that they took their tasks passionately! Other members of the Board expressed their appreciation to the teams and the leadership team.

ADJOURNED

At 6:20 the special board meeting adjourned.

CALL TO ORDER

Board chair Dalman called the work session to order 6:30 p.m.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to amend the work session agenda to have Item 11. A-First reading of Board Policy 9500, Capital Improvements removed from the special board meeting/work session agenda. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried. The Board expressed that they had read the policy and had no questions for Laura Davis. The policy will be placed on the March 7, 2016 regular Board meeting agenda as an action item for first reading approval.

WORK SESSION

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson presented the school district's Surplus Property Sold or Exchanged Report for capital year 2015. A summary of and the disposal methods used were reviewed with the Board. No action was required from the Board.

RECESSED

At 6:34 p.m., Chairperson Dalman announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene on Monday, March 7, 2016 for 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.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:33 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 6:05 p.m., Martha Geitner made a motion to return to open session.

Matt Buys provided the Board with an update on the solar panels for the new Isaac Dickson Elementary School.

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 Isaac Dickson Elementary School second grader, Livea Somerville.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Open Session Minutes: work session on November 30, 2015; and regular meeting on December 7, 2015; special meeting (retreat) on January 14, 2016
- B. Closed Session Minutes: February 1, 2016
- C. Approval of Audit Contract for Fiscal Year 2016
- D. Budget Amendments
- E. Consideration and Approval of Asheville City Schools Summer Retesting Plan for the End of Grade and End of Course

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Baldwin shared the following district information:

1. Thank you to parents for their participation in the Tea & Talk with Superintendent sessions at their child's school, and for the volunteers of the Parent Advisory Council to Superintendent
2. Magnet Enrollment at the Housing Communities (11:30 am – 1:00 pm)
Tuesday, March 8: Livingston & Erksin-Walter at the Edington Center
Thursday, March 10: Lee Walker Heights
3. Community Forum #3: Academic Achievement
Thursday, March 10 (5:00-6:30 pm) Board Room

CURRICULUM FEATURE

2014-2015 Asheville Middle School Teacher of the Year and Special Education Teacher, Kathryn Szumski, provided an overview on special education services in the district, Asheville Middle School and her classroom and the perception that comes with being a special education educator. Following her presentation, a video of her classroom was showed.

GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Public Relations, Charlie Glazener stated that Asheville Middle School has earned too very impressive **championships** this year: boy's football and recently, boys' basketball. **Football:** Coach Holton, Coach Watkins, Coach White, Coach Williams **Basketball:** Coach Holton, Coach Williams, advisor Coach Watkins

Asheville High School band hosted the **Western Region Jazz Band Clinic** here at Asheville High including two of our students who were selected to participate in this clinic: Luke Haaksma (senior) and Jasper Herr (freshman). In late January, the **AHS Winterguard** competed at Dorman High School where they performed for the first time in a higher class than they've ever entered in previous years. And 21 students were selected to participate in the WNC All-District Band, with eight eligible for the NC All-State Band. Congratulations to: Emmie Kendrick, 9-10 Flute, 5th chair; Chloe Hawes, 9-10 Flute, 6th chair; Grace Miller, 9-10 Flute, 7th chair; Emily Hamel, 11-12 Flute, 7th chair; Melody Shaffer, 9-10 Oboe, 1st chair, All-State eligible; Emily Frye, 9-10 Clarinet, 2nd chair, All-State eligible; Naima Sutton, 9-10 Clarinet, 4th chair, All-State eligible; Ayla Dunham, 9-10 Clarinet, 14th chair; John Norlin, 11-12 Clarinet, 1st chair, All-State eligible; Katie Kayser, 11-12 Clarinet, 11th chair; Give Holden, 11-12 Clarinet, 18th chair; Addie Hinson-Pitts, 11-12 Clarinet, 20th chair; Matthew Roebke, 9-10 Bass Clarinet, 3rd chair; Raleigh Cury, 11-12 Bass Clarinet, 4th chair; Ben Haden, 9-10 Trumpet, 7th chair; Audrey Kayser, 9-10 French Horn, 3rd chair, All-State eligible; Nick Konz, 11-12 French Horn, 2nd chair, All-State eligible; Sarah Frye, 11-12 French Horn, 4th chair Sam Bruder, 9-10 Trombone, 5th chair; Sam Wiggins, 9-10 Baritone, 2nd chair, All-State eligible; Sam Wiggins, 9-10 Tuba, 2nd chair, All-State eligible; Willie Burke, 11-12 Snare, 2nd chair and 11-12 Timpani, 1st chair, All-State eligible. Congratulations Emily Talley, Band Director

Last month, the great Fall Season for Cougar sports and our 8th place rank in the Wells Fargo Cup. Tonight we are proud to share some numbers that are even more impressive. This academic summary is based on Fall Semester final grades for 276 varsity student athletes (2 sports seasons). **Weighted GPA Average: 3.895; Un-weighted GPA: 3.24.** Additionally, **176 students had a 3.5 or higher GPA**, which qualifies them for the Scholar Athlete Award sponsored by the NCHSAA and National Guard. **Nine varsity teams qualified for Team Recognition with a 3.1 or higher GPA.** Our Field Hockey team and

many of its players would also qualify if that sport was sanctioned by the NCHSSA. AD Lance Abernathy, who spoke to use last month, has shared this data with all our coaches and emphasized the continued focus on academics.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Dalman reviewed the public comment guidelines prior to hearing the following comments:

1. John Brigman addressed the Board regarding Asheville High School, SILSA & AHA. And stated that labeling does not contribute to society. The solution is to have people mixed together.
2. Molly Peeples (group) Parent Leaders PTO addressed the Board about the restructure process and mentioned talks about administrative moves that should be based on data and not hear-says from a few parents.
3. Priscilla Ndiaye addressed the Board about change and requested that the students remain the district's main focus, more importantly, early childhood, the whole child.
4. Pepi Acebo – to please make certain that the restructure process is slow.
5. Cassandra Wells addressed the Board about putting the right coach in place at Asheville High School.
6. Five students from the after-school program, My Daddy Taught Me That, addressed the Board about school lunch and disciplinary methods at Asheville Middle School. They were introduced by the program's director, Keynon.

Board member, Leah Ferguson addressed the audience briefly about the restructure and the issues that have been expressed regarding transparency of the process. “Change is never easy,” and reminded them of the leadership change that the district went through a few years back. The audience was encouraged to not be reactive but to be responsive and come together. Ms. Ferguson said that she appreciated the passion of the community's engagement in the process and thanked the leadership. There were reminded that the district's leadership is complying with the strategic plan to address the three focus areas of the school system.

“The Board and leadership care about the faculty and staff.” Board Chair Dalman echoed Ms. Ferguson’s remarks.

PHASE I RESTRUCTURE PLANNING FOR 2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR

Superintendent Baldwin presented the Phase I Restructure Planning for 2016-2017 school year for the Board to consider and approve.

A. Montford Campus – big kids or little kids?

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to approve the Montford Campus to be used for middle or high school students in the future with planning and renovations for the 2016-2017 school year. Martha Geitner seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Pre-K Configuration in elementary schools

Martha Geitner made a motion to expand preschool offering to Isaac Dickson Elementary School and Ira B. Jones Elementary School campuses for the 2016-2017 school year. Matt Buys seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Hall Fletcher grades 6 and 7

Leah Ferguson made a motion to offer families the option for 6 and 7 grades at Hall Fletcher Elementary School for the 2016-2017 school year. Martha Geitner seconded. The motion passed with Ms. Sandford voting against the motion.

D. Preschool campus – decision on grade assignments

Matt Buys made a motion to offer families the option to maintain a kindergarten class and add a first grade at the preschool campus. Shaunda Sandford seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 9500, Capital Improvements by Laura Davis. The motion was seconded by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Matt Buys made a motion to approve the following recommendations

presented by Laura Davis, Executive Director for Human Resources/High School. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

March 7, 2016

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendations for Temporary Teacher Contracts:

Asheville City Preschool

Mary Aldridge	2/29/16	Preschool / Early Learning Teacher
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Asheville Middle School

Sara Kern	3/14/16	Science / Social Studies Teacher
Lauren Powell	2/24/16	PE / Health Teacher

Recommendations for Classified:

Asheville City Preschool

Katherine Monjure	2/24/16	Teacher Assistant
Mark Radford	2/24/16	ISS / Teacher Assistant

Claxton Elementary School

Kandace Baker	3/2/16 - EOY	Focus School Support Teacher Assistant
Daniel Black	3/2/16 - EOY	Title 1 Teacher Assistant
Xzavian Cannady	3/6/16	Head Custodian
Nicole Salzbach	3/2/16 - EOY	Title 1 Teacher Assistant

Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Megan Ransmeier	2/26/16	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant
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Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Whitley Albury	2/15/16	Media Assistant
Taylor Douglas	2/24/16	Teacher Assistant

Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Angel Redmond	3/4/16	Teacher Assistant
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Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:
Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Pat Henke	1/25/16 - 6/30/16	Exceptional Children Services
Pat Henke	2/15/16 - 3/25/16	Classroom Management Technical Assistance

Megan Ransmeier	2/15/16 - 2/26/16 1/2 day	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
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Asheville High School

Anastasia Fink	1/20/16 - EOY	Extra Substitute Pay (2 classes/day)
Verita Woods	2/24/16 - EOY	Asheville High Accelerate Coordinator

Asheville Middle School

Danielle Davis	1/20/16 -	Extra Substitute Services
Robin Pulsifer	1/4/16 -	Extra Substitute Services until position filled

Claxton Elementary School

Pat Griffin	4/14/16 - 6/9/16	Tutoring Support
Susan Hensley	1/6/16 - 5/1/16	Music at the "Nifty 50's" Play
Jan Thomas	1/25/16 -	Secretarial / Treasurer Duties until employee returns

Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Joreka Bradley	3/14/16 - 3/18/16	Bonus Learning Time Session
Martha Cobbett	3/14/16 - 3/18/16	Bonus Learning Time Session
Lynn Millar	3/14/16 - 3/18/16	Bonus Learning Time Session
Betsy Rhodes	3/14/16 - 3/18/16	Bonus Learning Time Session

Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Christine Eide	2/1/16 - 6/30/16	Reading Tutor
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Racine Hunter	1/15/16 - 6/10/16	Bright IDEAS/Recreation Leader
Elizabeth Sea	2/15/16 - 6/10/16	Bright IDEAS/Recreation Assistant Leaver

Volunteer Coach Stipends:

Phillip Duncan	2/29/16 - 5/28/16	Head JV Baseball Coach Asheville High School
Carol Smith-Hill	2/29/16 - 5/28/16	Assistant Varsity Women's Track Coach Asheville High School
Chris Stroup	2/29/16 - 5/28/16	Head Women's Track Coach
Maria Young	11/16/15 - 2/27/15	JV Women's Basketball Coach

Substitutes:

Levette Campbell
Dana Cates
Sandra Molina
Juliana Proctor
Sandy Smith
Tiffani Tilton
Maria Young

NEXT BOARD MEETING

- Monday, April 4, 2016 at 6:30 will be a work session (4:00 pm) and the regular Board meeting at 6:30 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Dalman made the following announcements:

1. Community Forum on Thursday, March 10 (5:00-6:30 pm)
2. Optional workday: Friday, March 25 – no school
3. Easter Holiday: Monday, March 28
4. Spring Break: March 29 – April 1

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent /Secretary