

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING JUNE 6, 2016

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a special meeting at 5:00 p.m., on Monday, June 6, 2016, 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
Dean Shatley, Board Attorney

Administration present:

Dr. Terrence McAllister, Assistant Superintendent
Dr. Mark Dickerson, H/R Director
Jackie Taylor, Clerk to the Board and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Media present at the special board meeting:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

Guest:

Gene Bell, Former Asheville City Schools Board Chair

CALL TO ORDER

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

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:00 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 Matt Buys and carried.

At 5:27 p.m., Martha Geither made a motion to return to open. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

At 5:27 p.m., the special meeting recessed and reconvened for a continuation at 5:30 p.m. in the Board Room of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dalman called the special meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes
- B. Budget Amendments
- C. Student Transfers: Discretionary Admissions / Releases

CONSIDERATION AND ADOPTION OF NAMING SIDEWALK AT NEW HALL FLETCHER OUTDOOR LEARNING ENVIRONMENT, DR. GORDON GRANT WAY-ONWARD

Matt Buys made a motion to adopt the naming of Sidewalk at the New Hall Fletcher Outdoor Learning Environment, Dr. Gordon Way-Onward. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

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

June 6, 2016

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendations for Administrative Contracts:

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Carrie Allen	7/1/16 - 6/30/18	Elementary School Director
Melissa Hedt	7/1/16 - 6/30/18	K-12 Teaching and Learning Coordinator
Kim Dechant	7/1/16 - 6/30/18	Human Resource Coordinator
Ian Nelson	7/1/16 - 6/30/18	Secondary Curriculum Coordinator

Hall Fletcher Elementary

Cynthia Sellinger	7/1/16 - 6/30/20	Principal
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Claxton Elementary

Derek Edwards	7/1/16 - 6/30/20	Principal
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Vance Elementary

Ruletta Hughes	7/1/16 - 6/30/20	Principal
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Recommendations for Classified:Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Tamera Dendy	5/9/16	Child Nutrition Assistant
Tonya Edgerton	5/2/16	Child Nutrition Assistant
Eric Pelto	6/1/16	Custodian

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Chelsea Curtis	5/16/16 - 6/9/16	Sign Language Interpreter Services
Solomon House	6/13/16 - 6/30/16	Technical Support
Solomon House	7/1/16 - 8/19/16	Technical Support
Elisha Lewis	6/13/16 - 6/30/16	Technical Support
Elisha Lewis	7/1/16 - 8/19/16	Technical Support
Reid Yanek	6/13/16 - 6/30/16	Technical Support
Reid Yanek	7/1/16 - 8/19/16	Technical Support

Asheville High School

Rhonda Alamour	5/19/16 - EOY	Extra Substitute Services
Byron Browne	5/13/16 - EOY	Extra Substitute Services 50%
Clarence McAfee	5/9/16 - 6/9/16	Extra Substitute Duties
Bryan Pittman	7/1/16 - 6/30/17	Debate Coach

Asheville Middle School

Marcelle Hunter	5/25/16 - EOY	Clerical Duties for Assistant Principal
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Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Bambi Fiore	5/9/16 - EOY	Teacher Assistant Duties
Lynn Millar	6/10/16 - 6/30/16	Summer Reading Camp Teacher Duties

Jessy Wilkins	5/3/16 - EOY	Extra Substitute Duties
<u>Vance Elementary School</u>		
Katrina Lawrence	4/4/16 - 5/9/16	Media Assistant Duties

Substitutes:

Zakiya Bell-Rogers
Emily Bonner
Byron Browne
Marion deLaubenfels
William Hamilton
Rebecca Hutchison
Melissa Henry
Marcelle Hunter
Ebony Reece
Roger Tweed

Recommendations for 2016-17 1 Year Teacher Contracts:Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Victoria Bricker	Exceptional Children Hearing Impaired Teacher
Margaret Clayton	Psychologist
Brenda Little	Elementary / Preschool Exceptional Children Program Coordinator
Teresa Queen	Exceptional Children Instructional Facilitator
Candrice Thul	Psychologist

Asheville High School

Kathryn Prochilo	Counselor
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CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF THE ACADEMICALLY OR INTELLECTUALLY GIFTED (AIG) PLAN FOR 2016-2019

AIG Specialists from all the schools took turns and presented the Academically Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan for 2016-2019 developed under Jeremy Spielman's leadership. The comprehensiveness of the plan can be credited to the responses received from stakeholder feedback.

The presenters' review of the AIG Plan, highlighted the plan's developing process, and that it will focus on at all students, using four pathways to determine qualification, one of them being a non-traditional approach. In addition, the pathway for the identification process will include non-traditional assessments. The presenter was careful to mention that the students that were identified under the 2013-2016 AIG Plan will remain in the program, but as part of the new plan, the specialists conducted screening at the six grade level so that they could gather new data. Furthermore, the six changes to the identification process of the plan, is the criteria percentile increase from 85 to 90. The presenters wind down the presentation, reviewing the services that the new plan will offer, the staffing for the program, and two professional development sessions with the hope of recruiting two teachers to enroll for AIG

Licensure. The specialists will communicate the new plan at the new school year:

- Staff presentations & (Table at PD 8/23)
- Parent Information Events with multiple options
- Updated ACS AIG Website
- Newsletters to parents of AIG students

Mr. Spielman informed the Board of the additional websites mentioned in the packets that were handed out to them. The Board had no questions for Mr. Spielman and the specialists. The following comments were expressed by members of the Board and Superintendent Baldwin.

Comments:

- *Leah Ferguson expressed her appreciation for how precise and informative the presentation was and remarked that she enjoyed hearing from all the specialists.*
- *Vice-Chair Matt Buys thanked the group for putting together an incredible plan for the district.*
- *Board Chair Dalman praised the group, and stated that the AIG and Advisory Teams did a great job!*
- *Superintendent Baldwin thanked Mr. Spielman for his leadership, and stated that the plan reflects all what is being done with the strategic plan, and with a great direction for the district. She further stated that the specialists put in countless hours to make sure that the plan meets the needs of all our students.*

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the 2016-2019 Academically or Intellectually Gifted (AIG) Plan to be presented to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for review and approval. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

1. Ms. Jane Hansel addressed the Board on behalf of the North Carolina Retired School Personnel of Asheville-Buncombe Unit. Ms. Hansel expressed her appreciation for educational leadership, specifically, Asheville City Schools on their great job with the district. She went on to state that she is and has been a defender of public education, and praised Superintendent Baldwin for being a visionary that has produced results that are evident.
2. Mr. Roy Harris shared with the Board his apologies for being away from the school system for over 10 years, but he is back! He spoke of an encounter he experienced while attending a graduation ceremony at Isaac Dickson, which was by coincident, and it made him realized how much he needed to be a part of the school system as much as the schools need him. Mr. Harris vowed to have copies of the strategic plan in visible places in at his home.

PRESENTATIONS

Superintendent Baldwin presented her State of Asheville City Schools District, and it included a walk-through overview of her 2014-15 Entry Plan; the continuation of the needs she identified, and stated what the Student Support Services and Teaching and Learning have been able to accomplish through identifying the needs, the framework that aligns with Excellence with Equity. The presentation also highlighted the next steps that will provide support for the district's new leaders and will address courses at the middle school level.

Ms. Melissa Hedt, K-12 Director for Teaching and Learning, continued the presentation by providing an overview of the teacher-team that will be put in place for Pre-K 12 Literacy and Math Plan for the district. Ms. Hedt and her staff presented the outline of the plan's goals and parameters, including the next steps which will commence with a Professional Development session on June 20-22.

Jeremy Spielman shared the good news of the Fusion Campus to be implemented at the Montford Campus for the 2017-2018 school year. Mr. Spielman has moved to the new site, said the campus will be to blend ideas. The Board and audience were encouraged to visit the site for updates.

Board member, Martha Geitner expressed her excitement of the prospective of the Fusion Campus, and Leah Ferguson remarked that this special meeting has been the Board's best meeting for the school year.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Board Chair Dalman announced that the Asheville City Board of Education is pleased to extend the contract of Superintendent, Dr. Pamela Baldwin for two years, and that she will receive a salary increase of three percent (3%). One of her major initiatives is our Strategic Plan which is our guide for how we will achieve our goals. We are excited about the progression of the plan and its focus on Excellence with Equity. Through the hard and dedicated work of Dr. Baldwin, the administrative team, our teachers and staff, our foundation, our supportive parent community and our community partners, we look forward to seeing more positive results over the coming school year.

Working towards meeting the needs and goals of every student, Dr. Baldwin and her staff of highly-trained professional educators continue to provide sound leadership through research-based decision making and adherence to best practices. As a result, in this next year we plan to focus on:

- Opening our two new state-of-the-art schools: Isaac Dickson and Asheville Middle School
- Expanding our pre-school offerings at Ira B. Jones and Isaac Dickson
- Additional funding for expansion of our AIG staff
- Development of a math and literacy district plan for PK-12 by a team of 34 teachers representing every school in the city system
- Continued focus on professional development for all staff
- Expanding high school level course offerings at Asheville Middle School

- Continued strengthening of our CTE program at the secondary level
- Creation of teams to work on plans for the Montford campus as a new secondary level offering for students, as well as a team to look at elementary level options for our expanding enrollment

This last bullet point is a continuation of the restructuring process we started this school year. No additional decisions are planned until these teams make recommendations. In the coming school year, the Montford campus will be having some upgrades so it can be ready for students in the Fall of 2017.

With all of these exciting initiatives, we want to thank Dr. Baldwin for her dedicated work over the past two years. She has provided leadership in the development of our strategic plan with three focus areas: Early Childhood, Academics and The Whole Child. During her tenure this past year, she also:

- Supported a focus on professional development for staff
- Created the Parent, Student and Teacher Advisory Committees
- Reorganized the Central Office for greater efficiencies and focus
- Developed stronger relationships with both UNCA and AB-Tech in order to expand access to college level classes for our students
- Oversaw the construction of two new schools

Congratulations to all for moving us closer to our goal of *Excellence With Equity* and a city school system that provides an enriching learning environment for every student.

SUPERINTENDENT BALDWIN ACCEPTS CONTRACT EXTENSION

Superintendent Dr. Pamela Baldwin states, “It is her honor to serve as Asheville City Schools Superintendent. I enthusiastically accept the contract extension, and I intend to use the funds to increase my pledge to United Way to support the middle school initiative at Asheville Middle School.”

Superintendent Baldwin expressed her appreciation on the duration of the strategic plan. She would like to see the great initiatives through to the end. She conveyed her gratitude to the staff, faculties and the engagement of all the stakeholder groups for their hard work as the district continues to address the needs of the students, teachers, staff and the community; and said it is her hope that the students will strive, find their purpose, hope and trust under the system’s leadership. Dr. Baldwin became emotionally as she told the audience that it is the leadership’s responsibility to make certain that every child reaches their North Star, and her responsibility is to develop structure and support among the staff so that they can be successful as they continue to be involved throughout the process. To the community, her goal is for everyone to band together so that the district can meet their mission to empower every student, and then thanked everyone for their role, and she looks forward to ensuring engagement and transparency for the school district. Dr. Baldwin closed with saying that she was honored to be the Superintendent for Asheville City Schools.

ADJOURNMENT

The special Board meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent /Secretary