

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
MARCH 24, 2014

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a regular meeting beginning at 12:00 noon on Monday, March 24, 2014, at Claxton Elementary School, 241 Merrimon Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson, presiding
Peggy Dalman
Leah Ferguson
Precious Folston

Member absent was
Matt Buys

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Bobbie Short, Interim Superintendent.
Board Attorney, Chris Campbell

LUNCH AND PRESENTATION

At 12:00 p.m., Monday, March 24, 2014, members of the Board and the Leadership Team were greeted at Claxton Elementary School by Assistant Principal Travis Hannah and several students who escorted them to the media center. The group took note of the beautiful centerpieces that were provided by the school's kindergarten students while enjoying a delicious lunch which was coordinated by Claxton's PTO co-presidents Christy Ramm and Julie Porter Shirley. By the way, the PTO recently raised more than \$20,000 for the school.

Principal Kim Dechant provided a number of interesting updates, beginning with an introduction to the school's new Bear Pack, a new group of Claxton dads who make

themselves available, whenever and wherever needed...for example, they recently painted the school's crosswalks and helped managed MANNA's Friday Food in Backpacks program.

Next, the group met two pairs of students who participated in a service day to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. Lilith and Phoenix and Hailey and Marshall described the experiences they had in helping clean up a greenway. Other classes worked at the Humane Society and at MANNA Food Bank.

The Board was honored by the presentation of a quilt-like banner, a kindergarten art project led by an instructional assistant, Daniel Polich.

Mrs. Dechant then shared a list of 15 initiatives the school has undertaken or strengthened to help close the achievement gap. Those included everything from student notebooks to promote organizational skills to community outreach programs to our new literacy program, Foundations to the use of Professional Learning Communities.

As they departed to visit classrooms, the group was presented with necklaces as a gift by Ms. Adam's second grade class. They made a quick stop at what Claxton calls their 'Mini Museum of Multimedia' and the school's TV studio after which, they met artist Ian Wilkinson who is overseeing a beautiful new mural on Claxton's second floor. Several students are participating in the project. The next stop was a visit to Instructional Technology Facilitator, Kimberly Eggett's Lunch Coding Club, a group of fourth graders who devote 45 minutes each day to developing computer programming skills.

The group finished their busy day in Mrs. Dechant's office where she showed them a very useful data board with about 150 students who are behind grade level and are receiving personal attention, care and interventions. It was a fitting close to a Board visit that reassured them that each and every Claxton student is being challenged to grow and prosper.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:25 p.m., Board Chair Hallum announced that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene for a work session at 4:00 p.m., in Training Room 203, a closed session at 5:30 p.m.; and then a continuation of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the work session to order at 4:04 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Executive Director/EHS Program Director, Dawn Meskil presented to the Board for their review and consideration for approval, part one of the eight (8) program plans with their updates for the Early Head Start (EHS) that has been approved by the Policy Council. In addition to Ms. Meskil, Mary Crawford, Co- Chair to the Policy Council also attended the meeting.

1. Updated Child Selection Criteria
2. Annual Report (September 1, 2012-August 31, 2013). A copy of the revised Federal Monitoring visits which had one finding is attached to these minutes.
3. Self Assessment
4. Program Improvement Plan (Long and Short Team Goals)

Ms. Meskil reviewed the Information of Memorandum from the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) with the Board that highlighted how federal oversight will change for the grant, and that they will be shifting to a five (5) year competitive cycle. A set start date was not yet known. Board Chair Hallum reminded Ms. Meskil to communicate any concerns or issues relating to the EHS program to Leah Ferguson, the Board's liaison to the EHS program. The four plans are listed under the consent items for Board approval at the 6:30 p.m. meeting. Ms. Meskil will present the other four program plans at the next scheduled work session on Monday, April 28, 2014.

Executive Director for Elementary Education, Paul Perrotta presented to the Board for their review and consideration, the Alternate Assessment for 3rd Grade Reading for the 2013-14 school year. The approved document will be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) for their approval. Following the presentation, Board Attorney, Chris Campbell informed the Board that the agenda will be amended to include the Alternate Assessment for 3rd Grade Reading as consent item #P for their approval at the 6:30 p.m. meeting. A copy of the document will be attached to these minutes once it has been executed.

John Legerton of Legerton Architecture apprised the Board concerning the huge amount of unsuitable soil that they have encountered on the Dickson site. In addition to an update of the new school design, an aerial overview of the site was reviewed with the Board and Construction Manager at Risk for the new school project, Miles-McClellan briefed the Board on the steps that they are currently undergoing to address the new development with the project. John Legerton informed the Board that no action was required, because they will need to return for another meeting to review cost considerations.

Ms. Grady informed the Board that the contract with Kessel Engineering Group that is on the consent agenda is just a formality because the firm was selected at the start of the project. Also, there will be no firm cost but just a unit price for the special testing services that is related to the soil findings.

Director for Nutrition, Beth Palien presented to the Board for their review and consideration, the lunch price increase of .10 cents. Ms. Palien also shared information about the language in the budget amendments that came from Congress concerning giving Child Nutrition a waiver which take place during the 2014-2015 school year. It was not clear how the waiver will be administered which will be a cost of about \$50,000 lost if the waiver is not

obtained. The Board chair recommended that the Board revisit the information on the waiver at another session.

Cynthia Grady requested to know if the Board had any questions on the policies below that will be presented for first reading at the 6:30 pm regular Board meeting. The Board had no questions.

Cynthia Grady reviewed the proposal from AT&T about an easement at Vance Elementary School at the intersection of Sulphur Springs Road and Clinton Avenue. The Board requested to know if the easement will cause any interference with school operations. She also reminded them that the proposal is on the consent agenda for their approval.

- 7130 – Licensure
- 7250 – Smoking and Tobacco Products
- 7560 – Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Exempt Employees
- 7800 – Professional Staff Development

Dr. Short reviewed the 6:30 p.m. amended Board meeting agenda.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:00 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 discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

The closed session ended at 6:26 p.m.

OPEN SESSION

The Board made an additional change to the 6:30 pm amended agenda to include consent item #S-Lunch Price Increases that was mistakenly left off the agenda.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the Board meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by the students at Claxton Elementary School.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Peggy Dalman presented information on the visit to Claxton Elementary School.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to amend the 6:30 Board Meeting agenda to include two consent items R-Alternate Assessment for 3rd Grade Reading and S-Lunch Price Increases

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Precious Folston 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.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Vice-Chair, Peggy Dalman led the reading of the Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes of meetings: January 27, 2014 work session and February 3, 2014 regular meeting; special meetings on January 16, 2014 and March 7 and 8
- B. Policy Code 2030-Board Appointment of Trustees to Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College

- C. Policy Code 3300-School Calendar and Time for Learning
- D. Policy Code 6140, Student Wellness
- E. Policy Code 6430, State Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials and Supplies
- F. Policy Code 6440, Local Purchasing Requirements for Equipment, Materials and Supplies
- G. 9000-Planning to Address Facility Needs
- H. 9010-Site Selection
- I. 9020-Facility Design
- J. 9110-Selection and use of Architects and Engineers
- K. 9120-Bidding for Construction Work
- L. 9125-Participation by Women and Minority-Owned Businesses
- M. Budget Amendments
- N. Asheville High School – Trip to China (June 19-29, 2014)
- O. Contract with Kessel Engineering Group for Construction Materials
- P. Early Head Start (items 1-4) on the March 24, 2014 work session agenda
- Q. Option for Acquisition of Easement to AT&T North Carolina
- R. Alternate Assessment for 3rd Grade Reading
- S. Lunch Price Increase

GOOD NEWS

We are pleased to announce that AHS senior Grace Buie has been selected as a **Morehead-Cain Scholar**. Approximately three and a half percent of this year's nominees were selected for this unique opportunity. Established in 1945, the Morehead-Cain is the oldest, most prestigious merit scholarship program in the United States. Our purpose is to identify and invest in promising leaders, challenging them to have a profound impact on the people and pursuits that define their lives.

On March 1st the AHS World Quest team of Anne Worth, Rebecca Fagan, Naomi Cartier, and Caleb Sowers edged out North Buncombe in an overtime round to win the **World Affairs Council of Western North Carolina's annual World Quest Competition**. The team will now compete at the National Competition on April 26th in Washington DC. Academic WorldQuest was invented by the World Affairs Council of Charlotte and is now widely played at the adult and high school levels around the country. It is a team competition testing competitors' knowledge of international affairs, geography, history, and culture FX coordinator and social studies teacher Bart Murphy leads our efforts.

Last month we told you about our **TATU or Teens Against Tobacco Use** organization and their **Kick Butts Day Walk** on Saturday, March 15. Led by Advisor Donna Storrow, the students were joined by Representative Susan Fisher and City Councilman Marc Hunt and several community members. Here are some photos from the march.

Fourteen teams from six Asheville City schools recently participated in **Big Brothers Big Sisters of WNC's Annual Bowlathon**. The non-profit exceeded its \$47,500

goal and our staff members played a big role: \$4,182 or nearly 10% of the goal!! ACS teams came up with very creative costumes as you will see in these photos as I acknowledge our teams: Ira B Jones: 2 teams; Hall-Fletcher: 2 teams; Isaac-Dickson: 2 teams; Vance: 2 teams; Claxton: 3 teams; and Asheville High: 3 teams. Big Brothers Big Sisters' theme was celebrating the everyday Super Heroes in kids' lives, such as mentors, teachers, and coaches.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

Interim Superintendent Dr. Short welcomed SILSA Principal, Greg Townsend who introduced two groups of students who have participated in Project Based Learning.

Senior Group: How can we build a healthier and more sustainable community?
Composting.

Freshman Group: How should Biotechnology shape our future? Coronary Artery Disease (CAD)

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Bly addressed the Board with information on three superintendent candidates' academic record at their respective schools.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7130, Licensure as presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7250, Smoking and Tobacco Products as presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7650, Permitted Salary Deductions for Absences and Discipline of Exempt Employees as presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7800, Professional and Staff Development as presented by Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Peggy Dalman 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 Leah Ferguson and carried.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

March 24, 2014

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for Temporary Contract:

Nicole Chamberlin	3/31/14 - EOY	Speech Language Pathologist Vance Elementary School
Molly Peeples	3/17/14 - EOY	Title 1 Interventionist Claxton Elementary School
Amy Powchak	3/10/14 - EOY	Exceptional Children Teacher Vance Elementary School

Recommendation for Classified:

Sarah Robertson	3/17/14	Teacher Assistant Asheville City Preschool
Angela Talford	3/17/14	50% Early Head Start Teacher Assistant /50% Office Assistant Asheville City Preschool
Lucas Veale	3/17/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Asheville Middle School

Recommendation for Contractual Agreements:Asheville City Preschool

Bobby Hall	3/10/14 - 3/14/14	Substitute Custodian
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Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Melissa Cook	3/11/14 - 6/12/14	Health Education Instruction
Crystal Dover	3/3/14 - 4/15/14	Speech Language Pathologist Services
Elise Jones	2/25/14 - 6/15/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Duties
Savannah Murray	3/17/14 - 6/30/14	Clerical / Testing Assistant
Kathleen Scarborough	3/14/14 - 6/15/14	Occupational Therapist Duties

Asheville High School

Saul Chase	2/20/14 - 4/7/14	ACT Tutoring
Saul Chase	2/26/14 - 3/4/14	SAT Tutoring
William Creighton	2/10/14 - 5/30/14	Men's J.V. Baseball Coach
Randall Luke	2/10/14 - 5/2/14	Men's Tennis Coach
Joe Skinner	2/3/14 - 3/31/14	Teacher Assistant Duties
Chris Stroup	2/10/14 - 5/30/14	Men's Head Track Coach

Asheville Middle School

Demeseh Cobb	2/17/14 - 5/31/14	Head Boy's Track Coach
Thomas D. Gassaway	2/17/14 - 5/31/14	Head Baseball Coach
Katie Miller	3/5/14 - 5/31/14	Assistant Track Coach
Tamara Simmons	10/1/13 - 2/28/14	Cheerleading Coach (\$1,101.00/season)

Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Paul Holt 2/24/14 - 6/12/14 Bright Ideas Program

Shannon Waller 2/24/14 - 6/12/14 Bright Ideas Program

Vance Elementary School

Mary-Ann Bolton 2/25/14 - 6/15/14 Teacher Asst Duties

Substitutes:

Kortney Connor
Michelle Detweiler
GanelleDjarlo
Shannon Donnelly
Sophie Ferguson
Rachel Hollis
Susan Horihan
Laura King
Margot Dale
Summer Welden

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Hallum invited the principals to come to the podium if they had announcements they wanted to share then she proceeded to make the following announcements:

1. A reminder about the three-day superintendent finalists visits: Monday-Wednesday (March 31 – April 2, 2014). A copy of the schedule is attached to these minutes. One change was made to the schedule. The Board will not be making a decision on their top superintendent choice at the April 3 meeting.

Dr. Short reminded the audience and viewers that Spring Break will be Monday, April 14 through Friday, April 18

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent

Approved by the Board
Monday, May 5, 2014