

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION JANUARY 27, 2014 AND
REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 3, 2014

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, January 27, 2014, in Training Room 203 of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson, Presiding
Peggy Dalman
Matt Buys
Leah Ferguson
Precious Folston

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Bobbie Short, Interim Superintendent

Guest:

Councilwoman Gwen Wisler

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Hallum called the work session meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

WORKSESSION

Executive Director for Community Relations, Charlie Glazener reviewed with the Board, the many features and capabilities of the Parent Portal, a component of HomeBase. The online tool will provide training and learning for educators, parents and students. The parent portal will allow parents to understand their child's specific expectations so that they can better participate in their classroom progress; teachers will be able to interact with

parents concerning grades, and students will be able to see their assignments, were just some of the features.

The district will have its own Uniform Resource Locator (URL) or web address, and parents will be provided with login information so that they can create their accounts. A review of the three points for accessing the parent portal was shared with the Board, and there was a brief discussion regarding disadvantaged families without internet access which posed some concerns for the district leadership.

A letter explaining the step-by-step guide for families to create their HomeBase accounts will be mailed home with the district's student report cards the first week in February.

The Board deviated from the work session agenda to receive a brief background update on Read to Achieve by Dr. Short. The legislation was passed requiring all 3rd graders who do not pass the EOG test to attend summer school. Dr. Short told the Board that they will have a full report at the February 27, 2014 work session with Executive Director for Elementary Education, Paul Perrotta.

A demonstration on the multiple features of the parent portal was presented and its icon will grace the district's new website when it goes live on Monday, March 17, 2014. In addition, the Board was made aware that Claxton Elementary School is being featured as the pilot school for the Parent Portal.

Director for Retention and Recruitment, Stephanie Cyrus presented the 2014 Recruitment Plan for Asheville Schools; a look at the district's university recruitment fairs that ACS representatives will attend. The mission statement and several of the guiding principles from the district's 2012-2015 strategic plan, as they relate to the Human Resources

Department, were also reviewed in addition to the department's current reality and desired smart-goals for the fall of 2015. The presentation concluded with the three R'S of Recruitment and Retention: Relations, Reach and Relevance and the recruitment calendar of events.

The Board became involved in a discussion regarding teacher retention and recruitment and its impact on the school system over the years. In addition, a suggestion was mentioned on utilizing in-house staff to assist with position promotions. Recommendations to aid the district on retention included maintaining partnerships that would assist in providing affordable housing for new teachers.

Donny Luke of Architectural Design Studio presented the findings from the Comprehensive Long Range Facilities Study that was conducted on Central Services and all the schools with the exception of Isaac Dickson Elementary School and Asheville Middle School. The last facilities study was performed in 1998 and it covered a ten year period. A walk through of the steps for the study was reviewed with the Board. The 2014 Comprehensive Facilities Study report will override the 1998 report and it will be used as a reference tool.

Following the walk through of the presentation, a review of the findings and their priorities were reviewed and discussed with the Board.

Chief Finance Officer, Donna Watson presented the Surplus Property Sold or Exchanged Report for capital year 2013. A summary and the disposal methods used were reviewed with the Board. No action was required from the Board.

Cynthia Grady reviewed the following policies that will be presented for first reading at the February 3, 2014 6:30 pm Board meeting. She then directed the Board's attention to

Policy Code 6140, Student Wellness and informed them that the extensive changes are recommendations for consideration from the SHAC committee. Following the discussion on the language used in the policy, Ms. Grady requested to know if the Board would prefer to have the policy removed from the February 3, 2014 agenda for first reading and have SHAC make a formal presentation to the Board, or keep on the policy on the agenda and hold further discussions. Board Chair Hallum requested that the policy be removed from the agenda and agreed that the SHAC Committee should be invited to make presentation to Board at the February 24, 2014 work session. The Board had no other changes to the other policies slated for first reading.

1. Policy Code 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability
2. Policy Code 5000, Schools and the Community
3. Policy Code 5070, Public Records
4. Policy Code 6140, Student Wellness
5. Policy Code 3405, Student at Risk of Academic Failure

Dr. Short reviewed the draft Board Agenda for February 3, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. In addition, she reviewed the items for the upcoming Joint BOE/City Council Meeting on Monday, February 10, 2014 at 5:00 pm at Isaac Dickson Elementary School. Councilwoman Wisler also shared that the agenda should include some of the needs of the district and how city council can assist.

CLOSED SESSION

There was no closed session.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Monday, February 3, 2014 (School Board Visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School)
- Monday, February 10, 2014 at 5:00 pm – Joint BOE/City Council Meeting at Isaac Dickson Elementary School
- Monday, February 24, 2014:

- Work Session
- HYA Seminar (4pm – 6pm)
- April 5-7, 2014 – NSBA Conference, New Orleans, LA

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:30 p.m., Board member, Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Hall Fletcher Elementary School, 60 Ridgelawn, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, February 3, 2014 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

At 12:00 pm., Monday, February 3, 2014, Members of the Board, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short and the Leadership Team arrived at Hall Fletcher Elementary School and received a warm welcome in the school's lobby from principal, Dr. Gordon Grant. The group assembled in the cafeteria to pick up a school lunch that included a vegetable, fruit and a whole-wheat bun.

Dr. Grant spent the first forty minutes of the meeting talking about what he called 'a bright future and cold truths – where we're going and where we are.' He shared about the dawn-to-dusk positive culture the school is building to support all children in developing the attributes that predict success in life. Enrollment is up 20% at Hall Fletcher, participation in the schools PTO has mushroomed and a wide variety of community organizations are now engaged in student support. There is also great excitement about the upcoming conversion to a balanced calendar.

Dr. Grant pointed out that the low reading and math scores from last year's testing are being met squarely with a focused campaign on K-2 language instruction. At the same time, he said, the school will continue its efforts to transform the campus so that the effects of change remain visible.

The group spent the last thirty minutes of their visit in several classrooms. Kindergarten teacher, Shelly Haney was working with a small group of students on basic math principles. First grade teacher, Yetta Williams was integrating math and technology to help students understand the concept of 'tens'. Third grade teacher Brian Randall was also teaching math, which is emphasized across the school at the mid-day time period.

It's easy to see why Hall Fletcher Elementary School is on the move. Dr. Grant and his staff are focused on fostering academic growth and the students are learning seven key attributes: grit, gratitude, social intelligence, curiosity, self-control, optimism and zest.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:30 p.m., Chairperson Hallum 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.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:35 p.m., Leah Ferguson made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1), (3) and (5) 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 Precious Folston and carried.

The closed session ended at 6:22 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Board Chair Hallum asked for a motion to approve the amended consent agenda items. Item H- Approval of Resolution to join NCSBA Voucher Lawsuit as an additional plaintiff was added to the consent items. Matt Buys made a motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda items to include item H – Approval of Resolution to join NCSBA Voucher Lawsuit as an additional plaintiff. The motion was seconded Peggy Dalman and carried.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Precious Folston presented information on the visit to Hall Fletcher Elementary School.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Leah Ferguson led the reading of the Mission Statement for Asheville City Schools.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Peggy Dalman led the reading of the Asheville City Schools Guiding Principles

CONSENT ITEMS

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

- A. Minutes of the Meetings
- B. Transfer of Students
- C. Budget Amendments

- D. Resolution Approving School Treasure for Isaac Dickson Elementary School
- E. Approval of Resolution Requesting Buncombe County to Acquire Asheville Middle School and Authorization of Such Conveyance
- F. Approval of Documents in Connection with Buncombe County's Installment Financing of the Construction of Asheville Middle School and Isaac Dickson Elementary School
- G. Acceptance of Donation of Stock Gift
- H. Approval of Resolution to join NCSBA Voucher Lawsuit as an additional plaintiff

GOOD NEWS

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener congratulated the following high school students who have recently won **Scholastic Art Awards for the Western Region of North Carolina!** Their work will be displayed as part of awards on February 23rd at 2pm at the Asheville Art Museum and everyone was invited. Kristina Shriver, Visual Art Teacher -- Art I, II, III Honors, IV Honors and AP Studio at Asheville High School does an amazing job!

Asheville Middle School teacher Tori Angelotti is a semi-finalist for the **2014 Teaching Tolerance Award for Excellence in Teaching**. She submitted an application and is moving forward in the process!! Tori's involvement with events like Mix It Up is helping to promote a positive school climate where everyone feels safe, respected and engaged; preparing children for life in a diverse and democratic society. Good luck in the finals!

The district learned two weeks ago that four band students from AMS were selected from 19 students who auditioned for the **West Region Jazz Band**. That's the most out of any school that auditioned! Taylor Buchanan made first chair bass guitar, Sam Wiggins made 4th Chair trombone, Ben Haden 4th chair trumpet and Ben Cavagnaro got 5th chair trumpet. Two other students are first alternates. This is a first for AMS musicians and they are proudly being led by our new band teacher, Kevin Young.

This year marks the **Centennial Celebration of the NCHSAA**, and the organization that oversees high school athletics has chosen the top 100 administrators, the top 100 coaches, the top 100 male athletes, and the top 100 female athletes from the state of NC over the past 100 years, a list that includes people like Michael Jordan. Rex Wells, AHS athletic Director, Coach and National Wrestling Hall of Fame member, was chosen as one of the top 100 administrators over the past 100 years for his service in the NCHSAA in several different capacities. Rex has been a leader in NCHSAA including being president of the NCHSAA Athletic Directors Association. “Coach Wells has made some impressive contributions to high school athletics in NC”, Danny Wilkins said last week. “He has represented our school and athletes very well in those capacities and I ask you to join me in congratulating him for such a distinguished honor.”

CURRICULUM FEATURE

Six 2nd grade students from Isaac Dickson Elementary School with the support of three teachers shared an exercise on Informational Writing, Art of the Common Core. The activity also included collaboration with the Board and Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Bly addressed the Board regarding report cards.

PARENT PORTAL PRESENTATION

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener presented the functions of the Parent Portal, the new system that the State of North Carolina has implemented to provide educators, teachers, parents and students access to online resource tools. It will empower teachers to learn, track, share and teach more effectively. Parents will

clearly understand their child's specific expectations so that they can better participate in their progress, and students will be able to see their assignments. The presentation which was parent-focused provided a brief overview to see how can create their individual accounts with the URL that is specific to the district. In addition, information about how the new system will gradually rollout will be detailed in a letter that will be sent to families the first week in February with report cards.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5000, Schools and the Community as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5070, Public Records as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Precious Folston made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3405, Students at Risk of Academic Failure as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson 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 Matt Buys and carried.

February 3, 2014

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for temporary contract:

Kyle Birdsong	1/22/14 - EOY	Exceptional Children Resource Teacher Asheville High School
Natalie Fitzgerald	2/3/14 - EOY	Early Head Start Teacher
Andrew Pond	1/17/14 - EOY	Exceptional Children Teacher Asheville Middle School
Candrice Thul	2/3/14 - EOY	School Psychologist William Randolph School
Scott Weider	1/27/14 - EOY	Math Teacher William Randolph School

Recommendation for classified position:

Angela Arrington	1/21/14	Bookkeeper /Treasurer Isaac Dickson Elementary School
LeVette Campbell	2/17/14	ISS/Teacher Assistant Asheville Middle School
Nicholas Hinton	1/15/14	Teacher Assistant Hall Fletcher Elementary School
Lauren Holte	1/23/14	Child Nutrition Assistant Claxton Elementary School
Aaron Ostwald	1/27/14	Teacher Assistant Ira B. Jones Elementary School
John Michael Thompson	2/3/14	Custodian Asheville High School

Recommendation for contractual agreements:Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Joreka Bradley	1/2/14 - 2/15/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
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Asheville City Preschool

Jennifer Morgan	2/3/14 - 2/28/14	Teacher Assistant Duties
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Asheville High School

Daniel Chase	2/15/14 - 3/1/14	ACT Boot Camp
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Saul Chase	2/15/14 - 3/1/14	ACT Boot Camp
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Claxton Elementary School

Cassady Burke	1/28/14 - 3/31/14	Teacher Assistant Duties
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Angela DiGiamberardino	1/14/14 - 6/13/14	Bright Ideas Program
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Neal Myers Perry	1/14/14 - 6/13/14	Bright Ideas Program
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Elizabeth McClure	12/2/13 - 6/1/14	Title 1 Tutor
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William Randolph School

Patricia Griffin	1/2/14 - 6/15/14	Administrator Duties
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Substitutes:

Charles Keller
LaVette McDaniels
Darrell Melton
Maria Mesimer
Dan Musser
Katelyn Schueler
Shana Steckler - Bushman

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Hallum welcomed Councilwoman, Gwen Wisler to the Board meeting and asked that she say a few words. She thanked the Board and shared that she looks forward to working with them and anticipates hearing about the needs of the school district and what council can do to assist when they meet on Monday, February 10th at 5:00 pm at Isaac Dickson Elementary School for their Joint BOE/City Council Meeting.

1. Board Vice-Chair Peggy Dalman provided a brief update on the status of the Superintendent search process:
 - Thursday, January 16 (2:00 pm) Executive Search Firm, Hazard, Young, Attea, and Associates consultant, Dr. Diana McCauley presented the Superintendent Profile Report. The presentation was televised
 - Monday, February 24th – Consultants Dr. Alan Leis and Dr. Diana McCauley will meet with the Board for the purpose of preparing them for the interview phase of the search process. The Board will also be presented with a slate of candidates for their consideration
 - March 7 and 8 – the Board will conduct interviews in the hope of selecting the right candidate.
2. Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener informed the Board, the audience and the viewers that the education channel has moved from channel 60 to channel 188.
3. Interim Superintendent Dr. Short made the following announcements:
 - Report cards will be sent on February 5th for elementary schools and the week of February 10th for middle and high schools
 - The district will be conducting a phone survey during the week requesting participation from families and staff on how they would like leadership to handle any additional snow days
4. AMS will host a Parent Portal Information Night on Tuesday, February 18th in the media center at 6:00 pm. Principal Sellinger will follow up with a phone message to all families.
5. Ira B. Jones Elementary School will hold their annual Martin Luther King Breakfast at Asbury Methodist Church on Friday, February 7th from 8:30 am-10:00am.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent