

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORKSESSION NOVEMBER 25, 2013 AND
REGULAR MEETING DECEMBER 2, 2013

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, November 25, 2013, 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
Chris Campbell, Board Attorney

CALL TO ORDER

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

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short requested approval from the Board to amend the work session agenda with the following changes and her request was granted.

- Item III. – changed time to 4:20 pm
- Item IV. – changed time to 4:35 pm
- Item V. – move item to Board Mid-Year Retreat on January 16, 2014
- Item XI. - #3 – item was deleted and replaced with a funeral service announcement for former ACS Board Chair, Gene Bell's daughter

WORKSESSION

Dawn Meskil, Assistant Director for Asheville City Schools Preschool conducted the annual training with the Asheville City Board of Education, a training that is mandated for

Governing Boards of an Early Head Start program. Board members were provided with notebooks, and a substantial amount of time was devoted to reviewing the contents of the notebooks and answering questions raised by the Board. At the conclusion of the training, the Board was asked if they wanted to receive changes and updates for the EHS program electronically or to receive the updates through the EHS website directly. Board chair Hallum told Ms. Meskil that once they have decided, they would communicate their preference to Ms. Taylor, the clerk for the Board. The chair encouraged the other Board members to contact Leah Ferguson who is the Board's liaison to the Preschool if they ever have any questions.

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener presented an update on the Parent University Program – the district's attempt on establishing lasting relationships with parents in the ACS community, and to provide sustainable practices that will endeavor to keep parents engaged. In addition to himself, the presentation to the Board was presented in part by:

- Hartley Brown – Vista Program for ACS Foundation
- Chris Lenderman - PTO President for AHS
- Marta Alcala-William – Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator for ACS

The Parent U programs' strategic imperative – Empowering and engaging all parents – one family at a time – to become partners in a successful school environment for their student(s).

The four core elements of the Parent U are:

1. Transition Support
2. Existing Programs
3. New-Improved Connection/Programs
4. Communications/Coordination

In addition, the program offers courses to address social issues, academic support and health and wellness concerns.

Director for Instructional Technology and Media Services, Matt Whiteside updated the Board on the services that the Instructional Technical Facilitators (ITF), the 21st century teachers provide to the school system. But before his presentation, Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services, Kelvin Cyrus provided the basis for the presentation by reminding the Board that the Race to the Top Funds will end when the fiscal school year ends, and that 4 of the ITF positions are paid from those funds. Dr. Short's comment to the Board and CFO, Donna Watson was that the information on the 4 ITF positions needs to be looked at when preparing the new budget for the school. Continuing with his presentation, Mr. Whiteside shared some status on the positive impact that technology has on students and the classrooms, and also several remarks from principals.

A Board member raised the question on whether classroom teachers are being trained to become proficient with the use of technology in the schools. The Board asked that a future meeting date be set aside for them to focus some more on technology and on classrooms so that they can effectively communicate, prioritizing the educational needs for the school system.

Cynthia Grady addressed the Board chair with an offer to move work session agenda item VI – 2012-2013 Personnel Report to the Mid-Year Board Retreat Agenda on January 16, 2014 because of time constraints. However, the consensus of the Board was to allow Ms. Grady to present a brief overview of the 2012-2013 Personnel Report, because they had already reviewed the presentation posted to Board's secure site. In addition, the Board chair

asked that work session agenda item VII – 2013 NCSBA Annual Conference (11/18-11/20) also be moved to the mid-year retreat agenda on January 16, 2014.

Following the brief overview of the 2012-2013 Personnel Review, Ms. Grady asked if the Board had any questions. The Board chair requested to know how the H/R Department handles the hundreds of contacts that they encounter at the recruiting job fairs.

Cynthia Grady reviewed the following policies that will be presented for first reading at the December 2, 2013 6:30 pm Board meeting with the exception of Policy Code 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability.

1. Policy Code 1310, Parent Involvement
2. Policy Code 3420, Student Promotion and Accountability
3. Policy Code 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program
4. Policy Code 3560, Title I Parent Involvement
5. Policy Code 7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel

Dr. Short reviewed the draft Board Agenda for December 2, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

At 6:00 p.m., Precious Folston 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 Board returned to open session at 6:50 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Thanksgiving Holiday – November 28-29, 2013
2. December 9th and 10th - HYA: Focus Group Meetings – All Day
3. Meeting with Commissioner David Gantt on December 10th at 11:00 am (Chairman Gantt's office)
4. December 10th at 5:00 pm – AMS Project presentation to City Council
5. April 5 – 7, 2014 – NSBA Conference, New Orleans, LA

6. Funeral Arrangements for Angela Bailey, Gene Bell's daughter on Saturday, November 30, 2013, 2:30 pm - Grier Funeral Services, 2310 Statesville Avenue, Charlotte, NC

MEETING RECESSED

At 7:00 p.m., Board member, Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Ira B. Jones Elementary School, 544 Kimberly Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, December 2, 2013 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, December 2, 2013, Members of the Board, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short and the Leadership Team were greeted by students at Ira B. Jones Elementary School where they were escorted to the school's media center. The group enjoyed a nutritious lunch provided by Jones cafeteria staff. Healthy eating just happens to be one of many initiatives underway at the Global Scholars magnet school.

Principal, Sarah Cain introduced the program with a quote from the Professional Learning Community that says "The very essence of a learning community is a focus on and a commitment to the learning of each student." She presented the school's schedule for serving every student with a core curriculum built around reading, math, intervention and enrichment.

Assistant Principal, Ted Duncan talked about how data is used to keep a sharp focus on academics. "What does the data show? Who got it? Who did not?" Literacy Coach,

Molly Bivins then outlined how Foundations, Words Their Way, interactive read-alouds and other strategies are strengthening the fundamentals of each and every child.

Math Leaders, Elizabeth Smith and Jasperina Whiteside schooled us on Math Investigations, which teaches students to think about the operations they are conducting and why. The leaders passed around math notebooks that students had built throughout the school year.

Math/Science Literacy Content Specialist, Amani Duncan presented the group with worksheets to illustrate how experiments are conducted, tracked and evaluated by student groups. Six students were introduced, and they demonstrated how to test the soil from three different locations in Sandy Mush. Students are taught to make predictions, to ask new questions, to collect data and to share their discoveries.

After the students departed, a candid discussion on the challenges the school's teachers face each and every day and how board members and senior staff can support their needs.

The last item on the program was to visit several classrooms in the first and second grade wing, where students were engaged in a variety of activities, including an energizer physical exercise.

The group departed feeling that Ira B. Jones is indeed focusing on meaningful learning for all of the school's 470 students.

MEETING RECESSED

At 1:35 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 5:38 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 Peggy Dalman and carried.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Hallum called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by the students at Ira B. Jones Elementary School.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Precious Folston presented information on the visit to Ira B. Jones 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

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

- Minutes of the Meetings (closed session minutes)
- Resolution Approving School Treasurer for Asheville Middle School

- Policy Code 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices
- Policy Code 4200, School Safety
- Policy Code 4240, Child Abuse – Reports and Investigations
- Policy Code 4335, Criminal Behavior
- Policy Code 4340, School-Level Investigations
- Policy Code 4342, Student Searches
- Policy Code 5120, Relationship with Law Enforcement
- 2014-2015 School Calendar
- 2014-2015 Balanced Calendar

GOOD NEWS

Charlie Glazener, Executive Director of Community Relations/Communications announced that AHS senior, Liana Murray recently won one of the biggest art competitions in the nation...2014 Young Arts Finalist! Ms. Murray will be flown to Miami Florida in January for Young Arts in which, she will stay for a week to celebrate with celebrities. Tony award winner, Bill T. Jones will be the host, and Ms. Murray will have the opportunity to learn from some of the best artists in the world. Liana Murray submitted 10 pieces from the AP portfolio she completed last year and is now in the running for a \$10,000 scholarship. Ms. Murray was also flown up to Chicago a month ago for an artist talk where she was the guest of honor. AHS art teacher, Kristina Shriver said “Very wonderful things are happening for such an amazingly talented and well-rounded student!!!” The School district would like to say the same for Kristina, who in her role as Visual Art Teacher, serves dozens of AHS/SILSA students in Art I, II, III Honors, IV Honors and AP Studio.

National Hunger and Homeless Awareness Week was observed just before Thanksgiving. Homelessness is something our district is greatly invested in. Last school year, ACS served 173 homeless students and as of late November, we are providing assistance and resources to 114 students and their families. Hunger is a major issue many of our students and families face on a daily basis. Mr. Glazener welcomed Student Services Director Mary Margaret Sullivan and Kate Perrotta, Asheville City Schools HomeBase Coordinator to share how the district pitched in

The First Lego League Tournament was held in November at Blue Ridge Community College, and the district is pleased to report on several of our school teams. The AMS Cougarcanes finished in the top seven and will advance to the state tournament at NC A&T in January. Those team members: Tadj Scott, Art Schell, Tristan Bozulich, Jacob Luzum, Blake Allison, Carlos Cavallaro, Henry Lehlbach, Ethan Billingsley, Austin Lowe and Ian-Andre McKeon. AMS AIG teacher Mary Taylor Elston says “I am so proud of these guys and all of their hard work!” Two Claxton teams.....the Hotshots and the Hurricane Hunters have also advanced to the state tourney in January. Two additional teams participated at Blue Ridge Community College- the Vance Victors and Girl Power. Claxton’s team is led by parent, Jenny Manner; the Girl Power team by AMS math teacher Betsy Ray and the Vance Victors by AIG teacher- Kristin Doe.

Asheville City Schools has been awarded a \$15,000 grant from the Z Smith Reynolds Foundation to pilot recent public school messaging as developed by the highly regarded Neimand Collaborative. The Asheville City Schools Foundation and the district will add \$5,000 each so that they can successfully inform and engage parents to build the public to support public education. Core messaging will include (1) the needs of parents and children; (2) quality teaching; and (3) competitive advantages for each child. Thanks to ACSF Director, Kate Pett who is a key contributor to this project and to our team who met with Z Smith during a site visit.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

The Asheville High School Band delighted the audience with several holiday tunes led by Band Director, Will Talley and Band teacher, Emily Talley.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

2013 COMPRESHENSIVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Chief Financial Officer Donna Watson presented to the Board the Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, performed by audit firm, Dixon Hughes Goodman. Ms. Watson reminded the Board and the audience that Asheville City Schools is required yearly by the state and federal regulations, to be audited by an independent certified public accountant. 2013 CAFR cover page featured the 2013 Cougar Marching Band, a tribute to band's performance at the Presidential Inaugural Parade last January.

Following the review of the CAFR, Ms. Watson took a few moments to thank members of her Business Office staff and to acknowledge Christy Wilson, Director of Financial Data and Services who was not present at the meeting and also Executive Director

for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener. In addition, the following groups were also acknowledged by Ms. Watson:

- Asheville Chamber of Commerce
- Buncombe County Tax Department & Finance Department
- Auditors (new team)

Brian Broom, Engagement Director of Dixon Hughes Goodman, L.L.P. presented for review, the Compliance Report and at the end his presentation, requested to know if the Board had any questions. The Board's vice-chair thanked Mr. Broom for his outstanding service to Asheville City Schools.

FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 1310, Parent Involvement as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Precious Folston and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 3540, Comprehensive Health Education Program 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 3560, Title I Parent Involvement as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 7100, Recruitment and Selection of Personnel as presented by Cynthia Grady, Chief Human

Resources/Director of Support Services and Legal Counsel. The motion was seconded by Peggy Dalman and carried.

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Leah Ferguson 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 Peggy Dalman and carried.

December 2, 2013

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for temporary contract:

Mandy Anderson	11/12/13 - EOY	Media Coordinator Asheville Middle School
Charlene Rumfelt	11/20/13 - EOY	Social Worker 50% Vance Elementary School/ 50% Hall Fletcher Elementary
Lauren Wingler	12/16/13 - EOY	Interim Grade 3 Teacher Claxton Elementary School

Recommendation for classified:

Shannon Casson	11/15/13	Teacher Assistant Claxton Elementary School
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Recommendation for classified continued:

John Adam Herbert	11/15/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Hall Fletcher Elementary School
Timothy Holcombe	12/16/13	Assistant Director of Maintenance Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Danetta Juarez	11/18/13	Teacher Assistant Claxton Elementary School

Carmen Mangum	11/14/13	Teacher Assistant Isaac Dickson Elementary School
Jennifer Pearson	11/4/13	Teacher Assistant Ira B. Jones Elementary School
Taylor Starline	11/6/13	Media Assistant Claxton Elementary School

Disciplinary Suspension:

Mary Elizabeth "Betsy" Ray	11/18/13 (only)	Grade 6 Science / Social Studies Teacher Asheville Middle School
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Recommendation for contractual agreements:

Asheville City Preschool

Eric Chad Canupp	1/2/14 - 6/30/14	Teacher Assistant Duties
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Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Margie Arrowood	11/19/13 - 6/30/14	Administrative Assistant Duties and Training Services
Joreka Bradley	11/21/13 - 12/20/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
John Adam Herbert	11/1/13 - 11/14/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
Joe Skinner	11/25/13 - 1/31/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
Lucas Veale	12/1/13 - 1/14/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
Gerald Wolf	11/19/13 - 12/6/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties

Asheville High School

Keith Corbeil	11/1/13 - 3/31/14	Head Wrestling Coach
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Margot Dale	11/20/13 - 1/31/14	Exceptional Children Teacher Duties
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Chris Stroup	11/1/13 - 3/31/14	Indoor Track Coach
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Claxton Elementary School

Molly Peebles	11/25/13 - 5/30/14	Tutoring Services
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Crystal San Juan	12/30/13 -	Extra Substitute Services as Classroom Teacher Until Teacher Returns
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Elizabeth Freeman	12/2/13 - 6/1/14	Title 1 Tutoring
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Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Catherine Lordi	10/29/13 - 5/30/14	Tutoring Services
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Substitutes:

Susan Ubakanma
Gerald Wolf

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short made the following announcements:

1. December 9th & 10th – (Open Forum Meetings) for new superintendent search
2. December 20th – last school day before winter break
3. January 2, 2014 – Back to school
4. A great and happy holiday to all!

Board Chair Hallum reminded the audience and our listeners to take a few minutes to visit the Board webpage and take the superintendent search survey and to also contact Mr. Glazener's office if they had any questions.

Vice-chair Dalman reminded principals to encourage their staff to fill out the on-line survey.

Precious Folston congratulated the AHS Football Team

ADJOURNMENT

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

Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent