

MINUTES  
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
WORKSESSION OCTOBER 28, 2013 AND  
REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 4, 2013

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, October 28, 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  
Matt Buys  
Leah Ferguson (absent on 11/04)

Members absent were:

Peggy Dalman (10/28) via phone  
Precious Folston

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

WORKSESSION

Director for Testing and Accountability, Marsha Lipe reviewed the North Carolina Cut Scores with the Board, and presented as an example, an at-a-glance comparison look at the NC State Average for 2011-12 and 2012-13 EOC/EOG tests scores for Math, English and Social Studies. The marked differences in the test scores align to stricter and tighter performance standards, and an increase in rigor. The focus of K-12 curriculum in the past was on the basics students need to know and now, the focus is on what students need in order

to be ready for college and career. In addition, the review was to inform the Board of the district's plan to communicate to the public about the reasons for the changes in tests scores before the State release date on November 7, 2013.

Via the phone, Board member Peggy Dalman requested that the Leadership Team investigate to see if charter schools are held to the same testing standards.

Charlie Glazener, Executive Director for Community Relations, reviewed a draft copy of the Talking Points that will be released to families about the NC Cut Scores.

Following the discussion and review, recommendations from the Board were also added to the talking points.

Assistant Superintendent for Instruction & Curriculum, Kelvin Cyrus reviewed draft copies of the 2014-2015 Balanced Calendar for Hall Fletcher Elementary School and the district's Traditional 2014-2015 School Calendar. Both calendars will be presented for first reading at the regular Board meeting on November 4, 2013 at 6:30 pm.

Both calendars:

- Last day of school – June 9, 2015
- Easter & Spring breaks – March 30<sup>th</sup> through April 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Christmas and Winter breaks – December 22<sup>nd</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup>

First Day:

- Balanced Calendar – July 17, 2014
- Regular Calendar – August 15, 2014

Board member, Leah Ferguson commented on the good work that was conducted throughout the balanced calendar process, and anticipates that the other schools will also want to follow in the footsteps of Hall Fletcher Elementary School. In addition, Mr. Cyrus informed the Board that the dates for the required Professional Development Days have not been factored into either of the calendars, and requested that the Board consider approving the 2014-2015 Draft Balanced and Tradition Calendars without the professional development

dates when he presents both calendars for first reading at the November 4, 2013 regular Board Meeting at 6:30 pm.

Board Chair Hallum requested that a data plan be put in place to measure how the students at Hall Fletcher Elementary are achieving.

Dr. Short thanked Mr. Cyrus and his team for their great work with the one and a half day Professional Development sessions that were recently held at AHS.

Cynthia Grady reviewed with the Board, the updates that have been made to the following policies that were impacted as a result of the new protocol that was adopted by the school district to comply with law enforcement and DSS recommendations. The Board had no questions or changes to the policies prior to them being presented for first reading at the November 4, 2013 regular Board Meeting at 6:30 pm. In addition, the Board was made aware that the protocol for the district is now outlined in Administrative Procedure 5120-P, Protocol for Reporting and Cooperating with Law Enforcement and DSS, and that it will not require their approval because it is a procedure.

- 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

The Board chair requested to know if the school district had completed the protocol training for all required staff, and the response was almost all, with the exception of the Central Office staff. In response to a question that was raised, Ms. Grady assured the members that all updated policies approved by the Board pertaining to the welfare of students

will also get updated in the Student Code of Conduct Booklet prior to the start of the next school year.

Dr. Short reviewed the draft Board Agenda for November 4, 2013. In addition to adding the Budget Amendments to the draft consent items, Ms. Grady informed the Board that she had two additional consent items that she would like to include for their approval, and also that she was requesting the signature of the Board chair on the FEMA Claim as noted below at the close of the work session meeting.

1. Budget Amendments
2. Appointment of Representative for FEMA Claim
3. Approval of Contractual Agreement with Miles-McClellan Construction Company, Inc.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 5:26 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 Matt Buys and carried.

The Board returned to open session at 6:10 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Monday, November 11<sup>th</sup> – Veteran's Day – ACS closed
- Leah Ferguson announced that she will be out of the country on November 4, 2013 and will not be present at the Board meeting.
- Annual NCSBA Conference (November 18 – November 20)

#### MEETING RECESSED

At 6:20 p.m., Board member, Jacquelyn Hallum announced in open session that the meeting was recessed and would reconvene at Asheville Middle School, 197 South French Broad Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina, 12:00 noon on Monday, November 4, 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, November 4, 2013, Members of the Board, Interim Superintendent, Dr. Short and the Leadership Team were greeted by Principal, Cynthia Sellinger and then headed off to what the school calls, “Seventh Heaven” to observe 7<sup>th</sup> grade classrooms.

Teacher, Katy Dalton was preparing to divide her language arts students into three stations: writing portfolio, vocabulary and small group-work with the teacher. As groups, the students were working to improve two writing projects, one titled “Spooky Poetry,” and the other, their memoir project. EC teacher, Kristalyn Bunyan was assisting in this inclusion classroom.

The second classroom visit was to a blended social studies/science class taught by Elizabeth Post. There, students were matching quotes to the individuals that they have recently been studying: Christopher Columbus, Chief Pontiac and Pope Alexander, to name a few. “Who said it, and why,” Ms. Post instructed her seventh graders.

They then headed two floors down through some of the 3,000 linear feet of middle school corridor to the media center, where the school provided a delicious and healthy lunch catered by Clingman Café. While eating, Principal Sellinger introduced the Comprehension Toolkit that the school is now using to develop both an ability to read and a positive attitude about reading. “When you read, you have to think,” Ms. Sellinger pointed out.

Teacher Rebecca Cobbledick, who manages the school's Response to Instruction program talked of how data analysis has become so important in targeting instruction to each and every student. The group was presented with data that showed how the middle school students are performing well on a nationally-normed test given to each and every student.

Literacy Coach, Melissa Hedt then wrapped up the meeting with an update on the schools PAIDEIA program, which gives students the opportunity to practice intellectual discourse using evidence and then to write about that experience. "Our students are getting much better at writing essays," she told us.

The group left Asheville Middle School today with a better understanding about how targeted interventions are improving student performance across the board.

#### 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 closed session continuation of the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

#### CLOSED SESSION

At 5:40 p.m., Matt Buys made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to General Statute 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 6:18 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 Asheville Middle School.

REPORT ON BOARD OF EDUCATION SCHOOL VISIT

Peggy Dalman presented information on the visit to Asheville High School.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS MISSION STATEMENT

Matt Buys 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

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

- Minutes of the special meetings on July 25, 2013; August 7, 2013; August 14, 2013
- Transfer of Students
- Policy Code 7430 – Substitute Teachers
- Appointment of Representative for FEMA Claim
- Budget Amendments
- Approval of Contractual Agreement with Miles-McClellan Construction Co.
- Approval of Letter of Agreement with Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA)

GOOD NEWS

Last month, the district honored nine teachers of the year and tonight we are pleased to announce the **Asheville City Schools Principal of the Year** for 2013-14, Carrie Allen. Carrie is in her second year as principal at Vance Elementary School, the district's Diversity and Ecology magnet school. She has 12 years of experience in public education, five as a classroom teacher and seven as an administrator. Ms. Allen was chosen by the District

Leadership Team from finalists named by Central Office directors. Under her leadership, Vance Elementary has continued to grow and flourish as a great asset anchored in West Asheville.

We have learned of a new book, **Common Core CPR**, which is getting great reviews! The foreword is written by one of AMS's literacy coach Melissa Hedt's personal favorites, Richard Allington!! What makes this book even more special: Chapter 5 highlights the work of Asheville Middle's Paideia work and that chapter is the sample chapter you can preview online! Teacher, Amanda Swartzlander and her class are featured, by the way. Congratulations AMS for this recognition of your good work.

November 11 through the 15<sup>th</sup> is **School Psychology Week**, a time designed to advocate for this critical profession, not so much celebrate our district specialists. The theme for 2013 School Psychology Awareness Week is We're All In! Teams Work! Here to tell us more about the profession and to introduce her associates is ACS lead psychologist, Jennifer Griffin.

At the October 7 Good News portion of the of Board meeting, you were introduced to Asheville High School students: Daisy Homolka, Zoe Kaplan, Laura Lane, Mira McMahon and Emma Tax, who were named Commended Students in the **2014 National Merit Scholarship Program**. Now we would like for you to meet our two semi-finalists for this prestigious scholarship, Gregory Hanich and Nathan Sears. They are two of 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers who have been designated on a state representational basis.

The National Forensic League has named our **AHS/SILSA Debate Team** to the prestigious 100 Club, among the top 10% in the nation. Our team earned 100+ degrees last



year, which means our students were awarded everything ranging from Degrees of Merit (25 points) to Degrees of Premier Distinction (1,500 points). Translation: a lot of hard work and participation from our talented students and coach, Keith Pittman.

Finally a ‘shout out’ to two of our former teachers, Kathy Byers, who taught kindergarten at Ira B Jones and who still tutors at Hall Fletcher and Judy Garrison from AMS who taught AIG. Both, as board member Peggy Dalman has noted, send personal notes to all their former students when they graduated.

### CURRICULUM FEATURE

Ira B. Jones Elementary School 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher, Travis Roland presented the school’s new phonics program – Wilson Foundations for (K through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) and Works their Way for (grades 3 through grade 5). The audience had the opportunity to see what the students are doing on a daily basis with the new programs.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

Joe Bly addressed the Board concerning explicit phonics.

### SPECIAL PRESENTATION – NORTH CAROLINA CUT SCORES

Director for Testing and Accountability, Marsha Lipe, provided an update on Understanding the New Academic Standards (Cut Scores) that will be released by the State on November 7, 2013. She provided a brief review of North Carolina’s first Accountability Model on how to measure and improve student and school performance:

- 1996 –the ABC’s of Public Education
- 2008 – State Board of Education undertook a comprehensive review of the entire course of study
- 2012 – A new standard course of study was implemented – the Common Core (Reading and Math) and the Essential Standards (all other courses)

Ms. Lipe Told the Board and the audience that new assessments were implemented to match the new standards and it raised expectations in the 2012-2013 school year. Parents can expect to see a significant decline in their kids' tests scores due to stricter and tighter performance standards, and an increase in rigor.

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener presented talking points to assist parents to better understand what they should expect with the North Carolina Cut Scores:

1. Expect lower scores on November 7 – but don't be alarmed
2. Tougher evaluation standards may conceal your child's academic progress last year
3. We must continue to challenge our children to a higher level for their own success
4. Both the curriculum and the way we teach has undergone a transformation

A New Standard Course of Study - New Student Assessment - A New Measure

Mr. Glazener ended his presentation with several EOG sample test questions in Math, English and Science with the new standards.

#### FIRST READING OF THE 2014-2014 (DRAFT) TRADITIONAL SCHOOL CALENDAR

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2014-2015 (Draft) Traditional School Calendar as presented by Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services, Kelvin Cyrus. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

#### FIRST READING OF 2014-2015 (DRAFT) BALANCED CALENDAR FOR HALL FLETCHER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of the 2014-2015 (Draft) Balanced Calendar for Hall Fletcher Elementary School as presented by Assistant

Superintendent for Curriculum and Instructional Services, Kelvin Cyrus. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

#### FIRST READING OF POLICIES

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 5120, Relationship with Law Enforcement as presented by Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4200, School Safety as presented Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4240, Child Abuse-Reports and Investigations as presented Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4335, Criminal Behavior as presented Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4340, School-Level Investigations as presented Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4342, Student Searches as presented Chief Human Resources Officer/Director of Support Services, and Legal Counsel, Cynthia Grady. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

Peggy Dalman made a motion to approve the first reading of Policy Code 4318, Use of Wireless Communication Devices. The motion was seconded by Matt Buys and carried.

#### EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Matt Buys made a motion to approve the following personnel 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.

November 4, 2013

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendation for administrative contract:

Michele Lemell	10/14/13 - 6/14/14	Safe/Drug Free Schools Coordinator Asheville City Schools Systemwide
Susan Caroline Lovette	10/14/13 - 6/30/15	Assistant Principal Asheville High School

Recommendation for temporary contract:

John Davis	10/14/13 - EOY	Health Teacher Asheville Middle School
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Recommendation for classified:

Karen Brown-Thompson	10/9/13	Teacher Assistant Hall Fletcher Elementary School
Sara Burton	10/18/13	Teacher Assistant Vance Elementary School
Timothy Buttitta	10/9/13	Teacher Assistant Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Michael Dunham	10/7/13	Technology Assistant Asheville Middle School
JoHannah English	10/16/13	Teacher Assistant William Randolph School
Cody Frady	10/16/13	Teacher Assistant Vance Elementary School
Kimberly Graham	10/22/13	Teacher Assistant Vance Elementary School
Donna Macon	10/16/13	Teacher Assistant Asheville City Preschool
Shannon Nelson	10/8/13	Teacher Assistant Isaac Dickson Elementary School
Anne Nutter	10/8/13	Teacher Assistant Hall Fletcher Elementary
Karyn Simpson	10/16/13	Media Assistant Asheville High School
Don Sims	11/1/13	Director of Maintenance & Property Management Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Recommendation for contractual agreements:

Asheville City Preschool

Jennifer Morgan	10/3/13 - 12/31/13	Teacher Assistant Duties
Grace Ragaller	10/8/13 - 6/30/14	Play and Learn Duties
Carlisle Rankin	10/30/13 - 12/20/13	Preschool Teacher Assistant Duties

Asheville City Schools Systemwide

Adrian Dunham	10/8/13 - 10/11/13	Technical Support
Lucas Veale	10/21/13 - 11/30/13	Exceptional Children Teacher

## Assistant Duties

Asheville High School

Nate Barton	8/1/13 - 12/10/13	Assistant Field Hockey Coach
Hayden Clark	8/19/13 - 11/10/13	Soccer J. V. Head Coach
Carol Montoya	10/15/13 - open	Extra Substitute Services / Classroom Teacher

Asheville Middle School

Monica Murillo	10/23/13 - 12/31/13	Exceptional Children Teacher Assistant Duties
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

William Gehling	9/25/13 - 6/9/14	Bright Ideas Afterschool
Deb Venable	9/1/13 - 6/30/14	Parent Volunteer Coordinator

Substitutes:

Jeff Anders  
Cherrith Coaner  
Mona Hegarty  
Paul Kendrick  
Ryan Kijanke  
Billy Porter  
Suzanne Roberts  
Linda Rocheleau  
Michele Rosero  
Sandy Smith

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dr. Short made the following announcements:

- Reports Cards will be sent home November 6, 2013
- Test Scores will be released by the State on November 7, 2013
- Parents will receive the scores on November 18, 2013
- Parents were encouraged to talk with teachers about their child's report card and tests results
- ACS will be closed on Monday, November 11 – due to Veteran's Day
- Thanksgiving Holiday (November 27th – November 29th)
- Teacher Awareness Week (November 4th – November 8th)

Dr. Short shared that administrators are looking forward to the test results, because they are anxious to see how have done and what improvements will be needed. A special thank you was extended to the entire staff.

Board Chair, Jacquelyn Hallum provided an update on the Superintendent Search Process for Asheville City Schools:

- A signed agreement between the Asheville City Board of Education and the Superintendent Search Firm, Hazard, Young, Attea & Associates (HYA) is expected later this week
- HYA will create an on-line survey and it will be made available to all stakeholder groups and ACS staff on Wednesday, November 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>
- Superintendent Profile interviews with staff, stakeholder groups and open forums. The interviews will be held December 9 and 10 at Central Services between, 8am and 8pm
- The proposed timeline for the new superintendent will also be available on the school district's webpage on November 6<sup>th</sup>

## ADJOURNMENT

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

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Jacquelyn Hallum, Chairperson

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Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent