

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
WORK SESSION SEPTEMBER 26, 2016, AND
REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2016

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, September 26, 2016, in the Little Theatre at Hall Fletcher Elementary School, 60 Ridgelawn Road, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson, presiding
Matt Buys, Vice Chairperson
Martha Geitner
Leah Ferguson
Shaunda Sandford

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Secretary/Superintendent
Board Attorney, Chad Donnahoo

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Dalman called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m., and thanked principal Sellinger for hosting the meeting at her school. She remarked that the rotation of the work sessions to the different schools will make the Board more accessible to the schools' parents and community. Vice Chair Buys thanked Ms. Sandford and Ms. Ferguson for initiating the change.

WORK SESSION

Jeremy Spielman provided the Board with updates to the Montford School project and shared some key decisions that were proposed made by the different committee groups for the implementation of the district's small-choice secondary school scheduled to open for the 2017-18 school year.

- *A Flexible and Adaptive Pedagogy* - an approach that will be centered on establishing connections between core curriculum and essential "soft" or life skills. The administration is cognizant that complying with Board policies when interviewing students for enrollment must align with Board policies.
- *Individualized Blended Instruction* – will focus on the needs of students, and determine the best pathways for them. Ensuring that there will be supports with partnerships from universities, workforce organizations, and government agencies.

- *Mentoring/Servicing Component* – students will be connected with someone to assist and support them in finding their North Star, eliminate barriers and foster entrepreneurial skills.

A draft version of the Vision, Mission and Principal Beliefs for the new school will be presented first to the district leadership and then to the Board in October. In addition, student surveys are being planned, winter and spring Community Connectors meetings, scheduled visits to one or two schools sites that offer a similar focus and or programs, and host community events at the Montford site. Planned committee meetings will take place November through December. A final presentation about the project will be shared February 2017, and Ms. Shannon Baggett, who serves on the committee, affirmed the remarks and voiced her excitement over the project.

Carrie Allen, Executive Director for Elementary thanked the Elementary Growth Committee members before sharing with the Board, the committee's three-fold intent for the remainder of the 2016-17 school year: (1) Balanced Calendar (2) Growth of Asheville City Schools, and (3) Expansion of the Haywood Campus which, the committee will be concentrating on for the remainder of the school year:

Updates and next steps to the Balanced Calendar at Hall Fletcher Elementary School:

- Surveys were created for Hall Fletcher staff and community. Notifications were sent out to the community about the survey, with paper copies attainable when the school returned from intercession on October 17. The survey was also printed in Spanish to ensure community involvement, with a response deadline of October 23. Ms. Allen stressed the importance that the decision regarding the balanced calendar is a district initiative that needs to be addressed.
- On-going meetings with were conducted with both staff and community to address the survey results and discussed those non-negotiable areas that have been determined by federal and state laws.
- The committee continues to address issues such as individuals who expressed their preference for the balanced calendar and the data that was used by the district's previous leadership to propose the balanced calendar pilot at Hall Fletcher.
- A review of the proposed district implementations included: student achievement, enrollment at all elementary schools, transportation, bonus learning time cost, and the hardship on teachers, the professional development and instructional support among the staff.
- The next steps are to hold conversations with staff and community and to bring the information to the district and present a final recommendation from the committee to the Board at their mid-year retreat in January.

Ms. Allen mentioned that the growth of the district is interwoven with the balanced calendar, and it is impacting Hall Fletcher. Conversations are taking place to expand Hall Fletcher due to the K-1 classes at other elementary schools that are also tied to Hall Fletcher.

Leah Ferguson expressed her appreciation for being on the Elementary Growth Committee, because she did not have a full sense of how the different district calendars impacted the schools. Having that knowledge will be helpful in determining if the pilot at

Hall Fletcher should become a permanent status for the school. Furthermore, there were some importance issues to unpack regarding the balance calendar, and she is looking forward to having those conversations with the committee.

Dr. Baldwin reminded the Board that the district's previous leadership foresaw the challenges for the other schools if Hall Fletcher was to remain in pilot mode or consider making the entire K-5 schools a balanced calendar or not, and suggested that the committee might need to include talking through that process as an option.

Ms. Allen expressed a concern she had about not being able to place an influx of students from the traditional calendar at Hall Fletcher at the start of the school year because they would have missed four weeks of instructional time, and therefore, it created larger classroom sizes at the other elementary schools. In addition, a new state law to decrease K-3 classroom sizes will have a direct impact on the elementary schools for the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Baldwin stated that the changes in classroom size will become a funding issue and a physical space issue, and the leadership will need to be proactive in that regard.

The Board tabled the agenda item IV. Discussion on naming Asheville Middle School Media Center – The Stephen-Lee Media Center, and requested that the leadership provided more information about the proposal. In addition, they should invite the group that made the request to attend the meeting. Board Chair Dalman wants to make certain that the district honors the history of the Stephen-Lee School.

The Board acknowledged the complaint of two Hall Fletcher parents who expressed their disapproval on why the work session was scheduled at Hall Fletcher Elementary School during intercession with parents out of town. Ms. Ferguson assured parent, Melissa Essig that the conversation on the balanced calendar is on-going. Ms. Essig also stated that parents were not informed of the work session meeting scheduled at Hall Fletcher.

Ms. Allen concluded her presentation and stated that having two calendars for a small district poses an issue, and even though Hall Fletcher has the balanced calendar, the decision is a district issue.

Chad Donnahoo informed the Board that he had three policies from the School Boards Association to present for their consideration that were not on the agenda. Policy Code 6420, Contracts with the Board, and two brand new policies, 9120, Bidding for Construction Work and 9130, Supervision of Construction Work. In addition, they were made aware of the additional updates to Policy Code 9030, Facility Construction, which will replace the version they previously viewed. State law now requires that all school districts adopt this policy to address change orders for construction or repair contracts. The policy must apply to contracts awarded, extended or renewed on or after October 1, 2016.

Leah Ferguson made a motion to amend agenda item VI. First Reading of Board Policies to add the North Carolina School Boards Association revised policy 6420, Contracts with the Board, and new policies, 9120, Bidding for Construction Work and 9130, Supervision of Construction Work. The motion was seconded by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

The policies will authorize the superintendent to enter into a contract, approve change orders or bid for a contract up to \$90,000. Any amount higher would require the attorney's review and approval from the Board. The NCSBA recommended dollar amount is \$30,000, and was considered too low. Policy 9120 which cross references with 6420 and 9030 provides a process on how to handle disputes pertaining to construction and repair projects.

1. Policy Code 6420-Contracts with the Board
2. Policy Code 9030-Facility Construction
3. Policy Code 9120-Bidding for Construction
4. Policy Code 9130-Supervision of Construction Contracts

The Board had no changes to the policies, and they will be updated to reflect the recommended changes as presented by Mr. Donnahoo for approval at the regular meeting on October 3, 2016 for first reading.

The Board requested to have Policy Code 4137-Admission of Foreign-Exchange Students removed from the agenda pending clarification on why the current policy states under Section-other regulations and requirements, only five (5) full-time exchange students can be accepted at the high school (Asheville High or SILSA) per school year. Concerns were raised about the space capacity at Asheville High School. Mr. Donnahoo will review the policy and inform Superintendent Baldwin of his comments.

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the 6:30 p.m. draft regular board meeting agenda for October 3, 2016. The following items will be taken of the agenda.

- Action Item #1: Consideration and Approval of Naming Asheville Middle School Media Center –The Stephen Lee Media Center
- Policy Code 4137-Admission of Foreign-Exchange Students

Superintendent Baldwin reviewed the following announcements:

- Tea & Talk with Superintendent at SILSA - October 3 (7:30-8:45 am)
- Intercession at Hall Fletcher (September 26-October 7)
- Regular Board Meeting October 3, 2016 at the Administrative Offices at 6:30 pm

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:25 p.m., Leah Ferguson made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) of the General Statutes of North Carolina to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant G.S. 115C-319. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

At 5:55 p.m., Leah Ferguson made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Martha Geitner and carried.

MEETING RECESSED

At 5:55 p.m., Board Chair Dalman announced in open session that the work session was recessed and would reconvene at the Administrative Offices of Asheville City Schools in Training Room #203, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, NC at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October

3, 2016 for a closed session, followed by the regular meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room.

CLOSED SESSION

At 5:30 p.m., Martha Geitner made a motion to go into closed session, pursuant to Section 143-318.11 (a)(1) and (3) of the General Statutes of North Carolina to prevent the disclosure of privileged or confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. §115C-319; and to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

At 5:52 p.m., the Board returned to open session. The closed session recessed and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Executive Director for Public Relations/Communications, Charlie Glazener led the pledge of allegiance.

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
 - 1. Open Session
 - 2. Closed Session
- B. Resolution Approving a New Treasurer for Isaac Dickson Elementary School

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Superintendent Baldwin shared the following district updates and announcements:

- Upcoming Tea & Talks with the Superintendent (7:30-8:45 am)
 - October 20-Isaac Dickson Elementary School
 - October 21-Asheville City Schools Preschool
- October 6-Anti-Bullying Rally at Pack Square (5:30-7:30 pm)
- October 10-Parent-Teacher Conference Day. No school for students
- October 19-Parent Advisory Council to Superintendent Meeting (8:30-10am) at the Administrative Offices – Training Room #203
- October 24-Board Work Session (4-6pm) Vance Elementary School
- October 25-Community Forum-Early Childhood
- Parent U Sessions:
 - October 4-How to Help Boys Become Great Men (6-7:15 pm) AMS
 - October 4-Raising Resilient Children (6-7:15 pm) Jones Elementary

- October 6-Junto Community Workshop (5:30-8pm) AHS Media Center

CURRICULUM FEATURE/GOOD NEWS

- The curriculum feature captured the district Teacher of the Year, Ariel Robinson in a short video clip while in her classroom. Ms. Robinson teaches Language Arts and English at The School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA) and is competing in the regional for Teacher of the Year.
- Charlie Glazener, Executive Director for Community presented the Good News on the district's 2016 Report Card that will be made available to the public. The eleven-page slide report features the district's Mission and Vision statement and three highlights for each of the focus areas of the strategic plan: Early Childhood, Academic Achievement and the Whole Child. In addition, the 2016-17 school year enrollment numbers for Day 10 = 4,494, an increase of 83 students from 2015. The district's budget of \$55,371,389; the data results for EOY/EOG testing, the graduation rate, and areas that are on the horizon for the district, including the new Montford School.

Superintendent Baldwin remarked on the perspective of the Student Advisory Council, and said they are the most important stakeholders for the school system. They have brought solutions to the table that the district leadership thought they had answers to.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Dalman reviewed the guidelines for public comment prior to receiving any comments from the audience.

- Melissa Essig addressed the Board and stated that she wanted to go on record saying that the new school year has been off to a great start. The prior school year was tumultuous. The Board expressed their appreciation for Ms. Essig's encouraging remark.

Board Chair Dalman reminded the audience that the monthly work session meetings held at the different schools allows for public comment and it is an agenda item.

FIRST READING OF BOARD POLICIES

Chris Campbell presented four policies for the Board to consider and approve for first reading. State law requires that local school boards adopt a policy to address change orders for construction or repair contracts. The recommended policies work together to establish the construction change order and provide a consistent theme, giving the superintendent authorization to execute up to \$90,000 to enter contracts, approves change orders, enters a bid for construction work, and is qualified to manage the supervision of change orders as stipulated in the facility construction policy. The policies were not required at the completion of the district's two new schools.

Board Chair Dalman asked for a single motion to approve the following policies as presented by Mr. Campbell. Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the policies as presented. The motion was seconded by Leah Ferguson and carried.

Ms. Ferguson remarked that the four policies were presented, reviewed and discussed at the September 26, 2016 work session. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Policy Code 6420 – Contracts with the Board
2. Policy Code 9030 – Facility Construction
3. Policy Code 9120 – Bidding for Construction Work
4. Policy Code 9130 – Supervision of Construction Contracts

EMPLOYMENT OF PERSONNEL

Matt Buys made a motion to approve the following personnel recommendations as presented by Executive Director of Human Resources, Joyce Graves. The motion was seconded by Shaunda Sandford and carried.

October 3, 2016

For Approval by the Board of Education

Recommendations for 1 Year Teacher Contracts:

Asheville High School

Rodrigo Rodriguz	9/26/16	Spanish Teacher
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Asheville Middle School

Marni Cartiff	9/26/16	AIG Teacher
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Recommendations for Temporary Teacher Contracts:

Hall Fletcher Elementary School

Kelley Lackey	9/12/16	Literacy Interventionist
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Recommendations for Classified:

Asheville City Preschool

Miriam Keeter	9/19/16	Teacher Assistant
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Ira B. Jones Elementary School

Megan Venhuizen	9/21/16	Teacher Assitant
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Maria Young	10/3/16	Media Assistant
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Isaac Dickson Elementary School

Phyllis Blackwell	10/10/16	Bookkeeper / Treasurer
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Substitutes:

Jennifer Huffstetler
 Mitchell Rick
 Henrietta Mae King
 Erin Schmidt
 Marguel Wells

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

- Monday, October 24 – Work Session at Vance Elementary School (4-6 pm)
- Monday, November 7 – Regular Board Meeting at the Administrative Offices-Board Room at 6:30 pm
- Board Chair Dalman announced 3 opened position for the City of Asheville. Deadline to apply was Wednesday, October 5 at 5 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Peggy Dalman, Chairperson

Dr. Pamela Baldwin, Superintendent /Secretary

Approved by the Board on November 7, 2016