

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING
APRIL 3, 2017

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a special called meeting, a work session and a regular meeting beginning at 3:45 p.m. on Monday, April 3, 2017, at the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, Training Room #203, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair
Martha Geitner, Vice-Chair
Joyce Brown
Patricia Griffin
James E. Lee III

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent.
Dean Shatley, Board Attorney

Staff:

Charlie Glazener, Executive Director of Communications and Public Relations; Charlotte Sullivan, Executive Director of Finance
Melissa Hedt, Executive Director for Teaching & Learning

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

CALL TO ORDER

Dean Shatley called to order the special called meeting at 3:52 p.m.

OATH OF OFFICE

Paula Lovitt, Paralegal at Campbell Shatley, administered the oath of office to Joyce Brown, James E. Lee III and Patricia Griffin, who were appointed as Board Members by the Asheville City Council. (A formal swearing ceremony will be conducted at the regular Board meeting at 6:30 pm).

ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Attorney, Dean Shatley opened the floor for nominations for the Office of Board Chair. Martha Geitner nominated Shaunda Sandford. Ms. Sandford accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nomination or objection, Mr. Shatley closed the nomination. The Board then voted unanimously to elect Shaunda Sandford as Board Chair.

Mr. Shatley opened the floor for nominations for the office of Vice Chair. Shaunda Sandford nominated Martha Geitner as Vice Chair. Ms. Geitner accepted the nomination. Hearing no other nomination or objection, Mr. Shatley closed the nomination. The Board then voted unanimously to elect Martha Geitner as Vice Chair.

Board Chair Sandford adjourned the special called meeting at 4:02 p.m.

WORK SESSION

Board Chair Sandford called the work session to order at 4:02 p.m., and welcomed the new Board members to their first work session meeting.

- Board Attorney, Dean Shatley in a PowerPoint presentation, provided the new Board members with training regarding Judicial Functions, Board Governance, Public Records, and their relationship with the Superintendent.

- Mr. Shatley informed the Board that a representative from the Marine Corps Military Recruitment Office will attend the 6:30 pm regular meeting to address the Board during public comment regarding parents of Asheville High and SILSA exercising their rights to opt out of schools providing students' directory information to the military or institutions of higher education. The Board was informed that the district is and has been handling the situation correctly. The Military Recruiters believes that parents should be allowed to opt out of both and not one or the other.

- The Board briefly discussed the reappointment of Dr. John Parham Jr. to the Asheville-Buncombe Community College Board of Trustees for an additional four-year term. The new members mentioned their unfamiliarity about the appointment but understood that Dr. Parham has already served a full four-year term, and the reappointment is for an additional four years.

- Melissa Hedt provided a brief update on the Asheville City Schools' work with Integrated Comprehensive Systems (ICS) for Equity. An overview of ICS four cornerstones, mainly Cornerstone I: Focus on Equity, is where the district will spend most of 2017-18 school year. The Board was reminded that the work with ICS is a framework, and it will be a three-year process, looking at structural changes within the system. A review of the work to date and next steps were shared with the Board. The Board will have access to the updated plans and timelines for each school.

Board members expressed their appreciation about incorporating the history of Asheville into the process and the plan to give students a voice. Ms. Hedt concluded her

presentation with a reminder that the goal is to ensure that the district meets the needs of every student.

- Charlie Glazener and Charlotte Sullivan tagged-teamed in providing the Board with changes that could affect the 2017-2018 Supplemental Tax for the district. A brief overview of the history of school supplemental tax was also shared.

- Dr. Short reviewed the 6:30 pm regular Board Meeting agenda with the Board and no changes were made.

- Dr. Short reminded the Board of the upcoming events:

- Academic Awards Banquet, April 19 (6:30 pm) at the Crest Center
- New Board Member Orientation, April 20 (9 am-12:00 pm) Training Room #203

- The Board discussed changing their April 19 Board closed session meeting and agreed to meet on April 17 at 12:00 pm as the new meeting date and time at the Asheville Housing Authority.

At 5:58 p.m., the work session meeting was adjourned.

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The pledge of allegiance was led by Executive Director for Public Relations, Charlie Glazener.

OATH OF OFFICE

The Honorable Alan Thornburg, Senior Resident Superior Court Judge administered the oath of office to James E. Lee III, Patricia Griffin and Joyce Brown, who were appointed as Board Members by the Asheville City Council.

CONSENT ITEMS

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by James Lee and carried:

- A. Open Session Minutes for March 6, 2017
- B. Policy Code 4140, Appeals of Final Admission and Assignment Decision
- C. Policy Code 9500, Capital Improvement
- D. Budget Amendments

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Dr. Bobbie Short shared with the Board, the current School Capital Fund Commission Projects that were approved by the County Commissioners on March 21, 2017. The projects were approved in three phases.

Phase I: (2017) \$26,900,250

- Renovations to Asheville High School, North Star Academy (Montford). Both projects will begin May 2017

Phase II: (2018) \$4,125,609

- LED Retrofit Project (start June 201), North Star Academy to begin Spring 2018, and Asheville City Schools Preschool Paving/Parking to begin July 2017

Phase III: (2019) \$2,966,609

- LED Retrofit Project Completion (Winter 2017), North Star Academy to complete two Science Classrooms; and Ira B. Jones Elementary School (Spring 2018) total roof replacement

The School Capital Commission Fund is comprised of five appointed members:

- Donna Watson, Retired CFO for Asheville City Schools
- Pat Bryant (Vice Chair) Buncombe County Board of Education
- Gene Bell, Chief Executive Officer, Asheville Housing Authority who was appointed by the School Capital Commission Fund
- Ellen Frost, Board Member for Buncombe County Commissioner
- Brownie New, Vice Chair Buncombe County Commissioner

Following a review of the committee's responsibilities, Donna Watson, Executive Director of Finance, Charlotte Sullivan and Maintenance Director, Don Sims were recognized for their hard work.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

Executive Director of Public Relations and Communications, Charlie Glazener welcomed the new Board members and congratulated new Board Chair, Shaunda Sandford and Vice-Chair Martha Geitner. He also welcomed back Interim Superintendent, Dr. Bobbie Short.

The Curriculum Feature highlighted Teacher of the Year, Norma Hawes and her first-grade classroom as the students were engaged in Foundations, a Literacy Program that has been used in the elementary schools for several years with great results. The video presentation closed with students sharing the reasons why they like Foundations.

GOOD NEWS

Erin Hill, Student Engagement/Digital Communications presented the following new updates for the district:

- **The Dr. Bob's Annual SoundSchool** is the hallmark educational project of the Bob Moog Foundation. It involves an innovative, experiential 10-week curriculum that teaches second-grade students the physics of sound using both acoustic and electronic musical instruments. The information taught through the musical instruments is supplemented by custom educational materials developed by the Bob Moog Foundation educational team. On March 21, twenty second-grade classrooms came together at the

Orange Peel to celebrate all they had learned about sound. Carrie Allen, ACS Director of Elementary Education was the head organizer.

- Congratulations to AHS juniors Anna Fiore (East) and Noa Meiri (West) on being selected for **2017 NC Governor's School!** The five-and-a-half week summer residential program provides intellectually gifted high school students the opportunity to explore new ideas and concepts in their chosen discipline as well as take unique, integrative courses focusing on contemporary ways of thinking and the links between theory and practice.
- Congratulations to Asheville Middle School 8th Grade Band for their superior rating at **MPA (Music Performance Adjudication)**. Not only did they receive an exceptional rating, but the judges were unanimous in their ratings. The band is led by teachers Amy Shaffer and Kevin Young.
- Congratulations to Gillian Maurer! Her work, 'What Remains', not only won a National medal for one of the most prestigious and oldest art competitions, but also won the **Herblock Foundation Scholarship Award**. The award has been only given to three students across the nation. Gillian is a senior at SILSA.
- March 23 through 25, twenty-three AHS Thespians enjoyed workshops, Individual Events competition, one-act plays, and networking with 31 other troupes at the **NC Thespian Festival** in Greensboro.
- Adjudicators chose the troupe's production of *Spoon River*, adapted from the work of Edgar Lee Masters by troupe director CJ Breland, as the top play in the One-Act Showcase. The play will represent North Carolina at the International Thespian Festival in Lincoln, Nebraska, in June.
- Breland, who served as NC Thespian Director from 2005 to 2014, and Beth Woodard, Theatre Director at South Caldwell High School, were inducted into the North Carolina Educational Theatre Association Hall of Fame as its inaugural members.
- Seventh grader, Seven Martha Plaehn won the **AMS National Geographic Geography Bee** and went on to take the Qualifying Test to see if she was eligible to compete in the State Geo Bee.
- Masao Alterman and Frankie Bester-Sproul, also seventh graders, qualified at the **Regional Forensics Competition** to move on to the next level of competition. They competed in public forum debate at the NCASA Forensics Tournament State Final this past weekend.
- **N.C. High School Mathematics Competition**, which was held at Western Carolina last week produced several winners from Asheville City Schools; The Asheville High School Math III team placed third overall; Alexander White, a seventh-grade student, placed third in Level I math; Julianna Accles, a ninth grade student, placed first in Level III. In

May, both will compete at UNCA in the state finals. Thank you AHS math teacher Bill Ross and AMS seventh grade math teachers, Jeff Dewhirst, Celia Melville, Joanne Robert and Chuck Larrick for guiding these talented students.

- We have talked in recent months about the strong academic performance of our AHS and SILSA student-athletes and also told you about the four teams who have won conference titles this school year, but tonight we would like to highlight an elite performance. The **Cougar 4x800 Men's Team** won that event at the State Meet in Indoor Track in mid-February, their second state championship in a row in the 4 x 800 relay. This year's team: Kodi Coddington, Santez Booze, Davis Turner, and Haven Honeycutt won with a time of 8:08.14. That's the second best time among ALL classifications in the state this season.
- **The 2016-17 Fall/Winter Sports Team GPA Summary** which is based on the 1st semester has been released. The Average GPA, based on 276 varsity student-athletes for both fall and winter was 3.937. In addition, every single sport offered during fall and winter posted a 3.0 or higher average. Nine of our teams posted an average of over 4.0. Congratulations to our student-athletes as well as the entire athletic program.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Sandford read the guidelines for public comment.

1. Linda Wilkerson addressed the Board regarding Holistic Life Foundation. They are committed to nurturing children and adults and under-served communities. They will be conducting a workshop on Thursday, April 20 (4:30-6:00 pm) and a talk with Asheville High-School students (7:00-8:30 pm). Both events will take place at the high school.
2. Captain Kristin Hanna of the Marine Corps and the Executive Officer of the Recruiting Station in Columbia, SC., addressed the Board about the school system's Opt-Out Form for 9 through 12 graders. The form allows parents the option not to provide the military with their child's directory information but can do so with institutions of higher education if they so choose. The Military Recruiters states that parents should be allowed to opt out of giving schools students' directory information to both the military and institutions of higher learning and not one or the other.

SUPERINENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

- The application acceptance for the superintendent position was closed on March 13, 2017
- Fifty-three applications were received with one withdrawal.
- The Community Advisory Team (CAT) started reviewing redacted application on March 30 and will continue through April 6.
- The CAT will convene for a closed session from 5:30-7:30 pm on April 6 to select their top five to seven candidates to recommend to the Board for first-round of interviews. The Board will join the CAT at 7:00 pm.

FUTURE BOARD METINGS

- April 24, 2017 Work Session at 4pm, Asheville City Schools Preschool
- May 1, 2017 Regular Board Meeting, Administrative Offices, Board Room

ADJOURNMENT

The Board meeting was adjourned at 7:08 p.m.

Shaunda Sandford, Chairperson

Dr. Bobbie Short, Secretary/Interim Superintendent

Approved by the Board on May 1, 2017