

MINUTES
 THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
 WORK SESSION APRIL 24, 2017, A SPECIAL CALLED BUDGET MEETING AND
 REGULAR MEETING MAY 1, 2017

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a work session at 4:00 p.m., on Monday, April 24, 2017, in the Media Center of the Asheville City Schools Preschool, 441 Haywood Road, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Shaunda Sandford, Vice Chairperson, presiding
 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
 Chris Campbell, Board Attorney (April 24, 2017)

Staff:

Dr. Pam Cocke, Interim Assistant Superintendent; Charlotte Sullivan, Executive Director of Finance; Charlie Glazener, Executive Director for Public Relations/Communication; Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Teaching & Learning; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Director of Human Resources; Carrie Allen, Director of Elementary Education; Dr. Dawn Meskil, Director for Asheville Primary School/Preschool; and Jackie Taylor, Administrative Assistant/Clerk to the Board.

Media present:

Julie Ball, Asheville Citizen-Times

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Sandford called the work session to order at 4:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Martha Geitner made a motion to amend and approve the work session agenda for the reasons below. The motion was seconded by Joyce Brown and carried.

1. Move Item X11-Closed Session to Item II
2. Add July 20 Board Summer Retreat to the announcements
3. Remove Item V. Academically and Intellectually Gifted Plan for (2016-2019) from the agenda and add Public Comment Discussion as item V.

CLOSED SESSION

At approximately 4:04 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-319-321; and to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. The motion was seconded by James Lee III and carried. The closed session convened in Room #210.

At approximately 4:39 p.m., James E. Lee III made a motion to return to open session. The motion was seconded by Joyce Brown and carried.

Mr. Campbell left after the closed session.

WORK SESSION PRESENTATIONS

1. Dr. Short provided an update on the Magnet School Enrollment count for the 2017-18 school year, and shared the following information with the Board:
 - 285 Kindergarteners has been enrolled compared to 293 in May of 2016
 - Letters will go out to parents of the elementary schools on May 5 informing them of their child's school assignment for the new school year.
 - Vance and Dickson Elementary Schools are closed with no more space available.

The Board had no questions for Dr. Short on the information she provided.

2. Student Success Coordinator for Student Services, Tanya Presha provided the Board with the answers they had requested at the February 27 Work Session meeting on the Resolution in Support of Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program. In addition, she responded to questions asked by the new board members who were not at the work session meeting. Dr. Short informed the Board that the resolution will be on the May 1, 2017, regular meeting agenda for their approval after they indicated they had no additional questions.
3. Director for Instructional Technology and Media, Matt Whiteside reviewed with the Board a bid for 620 Chromebooks, and recommended that Bid #143-IT-032 be awarded to Trinity3. The Chromebooks will be distributed to high and middle school students as well as teachers at the elementary schools: Hall Fletcher, Claxton, and Jones. They will be distributed in the fall of 2017 as part of the district's 1 to 1 program. The Bid is on the May 1, 2017 regular Board meeting consent agenda for approval.

Vice Chair, Martha Geitner took a few moments to welcome and introduced Dr. Pam Cocke, Interim Assistant Superintendent.

4. The Board conducted a discussion on whether to keep public comment as an item on work session agendas. Vice Chair Geitner shared that when the Board agreed to conduct their work session meetings at the different schools at the start of the 2016-17 school year, they were encouraging participation from parents but that was not the case. Dr. Short shared that her former district only allowed public participation at their regular monthly board meetings. Board members provided feedback on the topic and agreed to

revisit the subject at a future work session meeting. A copy of Board Policy 2310-Public Participation at Board Meetings was made available to the members during the discussion. The Board took no action to have public comment omitted from future work session agendas.

4. Dr. Short presented two proposed recommendations for the Board to consider and approve at the May 1, 2017 regular Board meeting.
 - **Elementary Schools Bell Schedule for 2017-18** - Dr. Short presented to the Board changing the bell schedule at the elementary schools to start at 8:00 am and end at 2:30 pm. The 2017-18 school year will be three years since the bell schedule was changed to 8:00 am – 2:55 pm from 7:55 am 2:30 pm to give more instructional time at the elementary level due to recess time not counted as instructional time. However, the change has created unintentional consequences at the secondary level with buses arriving at 4:20 pm and at times later, when students are dismissed at 3:30 pm, creating a challenging situation at the high school.
 - The State Board of Education (SBE) requires that schools have 1,025 hours of instructional time, and the district will have 1,050 hours, including playtime. Additionally, they have given local school boards the right to count playtime as instructional time, and a portion of P/E requirements was read from the SBE policy which was revised on June 5, 2014.
 - Dr. Short informed the Board that she has talked with all faculties at the elementary level, some PTOs, and will have conversations the others when their meetings are scheduled. Carrie Allen, Director for Elementary Education also attended the meetings. Dr. Short shared that principals requested to have the start time at 8:00 am and not 7:55 am because of tardiness. The Board had no questions for Dr. Short on her presentation.
5. **Sixth Grade Participation in Athletic Sports** – Dr. Short in her presentation informed the Board that she will be recommending that Asheville City School not include sixth-grade participation at the middle school level for Afterschool Organized Competitive Sports mainly due to safety concerns. Board members, Shaunda Sandford and James Lee along with Principal Dockery, Athletic Director, Mike Holton and Dr. Cocke, attended a meeting with committee members of five fifth-grade parents to explore other sports options for sixth-grade participation in sports, which Dr. Cocke will lead. The Board chair shared her perspective on the meeting. The Board had no questions for Dr. Short.
6. Director of Human Resources, Dr. Mark Dickerson provided an update on the Williams-Baldwin Teacher Campus and took a few moments to express his appreciation to all the partnerships: SECU, Eblen Charities, Buncombe County Commissioners, Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools. The campus has 24 units --18 for BCS and ACS 6. A logo for the complex was introduced, and the district was encouraged to promote it. The rent will be \$915 not including utilities, security deposit \$500 and a pet deposit of \$500. The pet must weigh less than 20lbs. The SMART housing offering will be used as

one of the recruiting efforts by the district for new teachers, but will also be presented to current staff. Dr. Dickerson shared the different ways in which he has been promoting the Teacher Campus. A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony is scheduled for May 31, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. on Erwin Hill Road.

Dr. Dickerson requested the approval of the Board to (1) waive the \$500 security deposit for the teachers and have the school system cover the cost; and (2) allow for automatic payroll deduction for monthly rent payments. Questions about the district losing their security deposits because of damages to the apartments were raised. The Board recommended that Dr. Dickerson drew up agreements with stipulations regarding his two proposed requests for their approval at the May 1, 2017, regular Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Board Chair Sandford read the guidelines for public comment. Pepi Acebo addressed the Board regarding the retention of public comment during work sessions.

Board Chair Sandford reviewed the May 1, 2017 agenda items.

MEETING RECESSED

At 5:31 p.m., the work session adjourned and will reconvene on Monday, May 1, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. for a special called budget meeting 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.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Sandford called the special called budget meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Executive Director for Finance, Charlotte Sullivan and Sarah Banks presented the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget. Following the presentation, Martha Geitner made a motion to the approve the Budget Request for the 2017-2108 to the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners as presented by Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Banks. The motion was seconded by James Lee and carried. The motion was unanimous.

At approximately 5:47 p.m. the special budget meeting adjourned.

Break (40 minutes)

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

CONSENT ITEMS

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the consent items listed below. The motion was seconded by Joyce Brown and carried.

- A. Minutes of regular meeting on April 3, 2017, and special meeting on March 27, 2017
- B. Approval of Bid #148-ITT-032 for 620 Chrome Books
- C. Approval of Equity Plan Three-Year Partnership with Integrated Comprehensive Systems
- D. Approval of Reappointment for Asheville-Buncombe Technical Community College Board of Trustees for an additional four-year term
- E. Approval of Resolution in Support of the Juvenile Misdemeanor Diversion Program
- F. Personnel Report
- G. Approval of Recommendation/Opportunities and Support for Williams-Baldwin Teacher Campus

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

- Dr. Short announced the updates on the new version of House Bill 13, which will give school districts flexibility for the 2017-18 school year for K-3 Class Sizes. It was signed into law by the Governor – Session Law 2017-9
- Dr. Short announced that there will be a Career Fair from 9 am to 6 pm on Saturday, May 6 at Claxton Elementary School.

CURRICULUM FEATURE

The curriculum feature highlighted the district's 2016-17 Teacher of the Year for Hall Fletcher Elementary School, Sarah Gillespie. A video clip of the teacher interacting with her students who were reading through the National Geographic Magazine on Astronauts to Mars so that they could practice their comprehension skills to determine what is important.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Board Chair Sandford announced the retirement of Charlie Glazener and his Administrative Assistant, Elaine Carter at the end of the school year. They have worked together for fifteen years and have been the face of Asheville City. They have assisted with 145 board meetings, and Mr. Glazener has been the front-man, historian and public relations person of Asheville City Schools.

Mrs. Carter was presented with flowers, and Mr. Glazener shared that it has been a pleasure working with the school district. The pair received a standing ovation for their outstanding service to the district.

GOOD NEWS

- School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA) named a top-10 high school in North Carolina by US News and World Report. The school earned a gold medal, and ranked seven in the state and 159 in the nation ranking. 90% who took one or more AP tests, scored 91 proficient in English and Math.

- Wal-Mart on Bleachery Blvd. awarded a grant to Hall Fletcher Elementary in the amount of \$1,000. Assistant Principal, Jan Thomas received the award.
- Fifth-graders at Isaac Dickson Elementary School shared how the State of North Carolina chose their State Symbol, the Silver Spider. The students took turn demonstrating the steps used by the General Assembly in passing House Bill 595 and got it to the Senate.
- Ira B. Jones Elementary School, the Recorder Ninjas & Jedi reprised their performance from their Washington, DC trip to the National Museum of Marine Corps by playing three patriotic pieces of music. Music Teacher, Jeannie Parks and her students received a rounding applause.
- Mr. Glazener announced that Erin Hill, Student Engagement/Digital Communications would be leaving the school district on May 31. Ms. Hill has been an asset to what Asheville City Schools does for children.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Board Chair Sandford reviewed the guidelines for public comment.

- John Brigman addressed the Board on the importance of maintaining the law of the land.
- Kate Fischer announced to the Board the sad passing of Joe Bly, and encouraged everyone to get in the game and speak up for children as Joe did. Every child deserves and education.

SUPERINTENDENT SEARCH UPDATE

Board Chair Sandford announced that the Board was continuing to conduct interviews for the next superintendent for Asheville City Schools.

ACTION ITEMS

Sixth Grade Participation in Athletic Sports

1. Dr. Short reprised her presentation to the Board on April 24, 2017 at the work session to not have sixth graders participate in athletic Sports. Michael Holton, Asheville Middle School Athletic Director presented the pros and cons, especially in the Middle School Conference Competitive Sports Program, and shared that the sixth graders need to adjust to the academic rigor of the middle school without distractions; their physical development and transportation. A joint meeting is in the planning stages with Buncombe County Athletic Directors from all their middle school to revisit the issues. Mr. Holton mentioned some options that were under consideration.

James E. Lee made a motion to approve Dr. Short's recommendation to the Board to continue to only allow seventh and eighth graders to participate in the Conference Competitive Sports Program and to seek other sports opportunities for sixth graders. To enhance sports opportunities for our sixth graders, Interim Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Pam Cocke will be meeting with the Fifth-Grade Parent Committee to explore possible opportunities in the community. Principal Dockery and Mr. Holton plan to have Sixth Grade Intramurals next school year, and the goal will be to offer more sports opportunities at the middle school level outside the regular Middle School Conference Competitive Sports Program. The motion was seconded by Patricia Griffin and carried. The motion passed unanimously.

Change Bell Schedule for Elementary School 2017-2018

2. Martha Geitner made a motion to approve Dr. Short's recommendation beginning next school year (2017-2018), Asheville City Schools Elementary Schools begin at 8:00 am and dismiss at 2:30 pm with recess being a part of the instructional day. The middle and high schools' schedules will remain the same beginning at 8:30 am and dismissing at 3:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Joyce Brown and carried. The motion passed unanimously.

FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENT

- June 5, 2017 Board Personnel Meeting (11:30 am – 1:00 pm) Training Room #203
 - July 20, 2017 Board Summer Retreat (8:30-4:30 pm) Location: TBD
- June 10 AHS/SILSA Graduation at UNC-Asheville, Kimmel Arena at 7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 7:25 the regular Board meeting adjourned.

Shaunda Sandford, Chairperson

Dr. Bobbie Short, Interim Superintendent /Secretary