

MINUTES
THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
SPECIAL MEETING JULY 20, 2017

The Asheville City Board of Education ("Board") held a special meeting (summer board retreat/training) at 8:30 a.m., on Thursday, July 20, 2017, in the Board Room of the Asheville City Schools Administrative Offices, 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina.

Members present were:

Shaunda Sandford, Chairperson, presiding
Martha Geitner, Vice Chairperson
Joyce Brown
Patricia Griffin
James E. Lee III

Comprising a quorum of the Board; also

Dr. Denise Q. Patterson, Secretary/Superintendent
Chris Campbell, Board Attorney

Media present:

Jerry Rice

Guest: Dr. Kenston Griffin, Promotional Speaker with Dream Builders Communications

CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Sandford called the special meeting to order at 8:34 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

At 8:34 A.m., James Lee 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 to G.S. §115C-319. The motion was seconded by Joyce Brown and carried.

At 8:40 a.m., the Board returned to open session.

BOARD LEGAL TRAINING

The Board participated in a Legal Training Session conducted by Chris Campbell, the School Board Attorney. The training was provided to familiarize the three new board members on their roles, responsibilities, and relationship with the superintendent while serving on the Board of Education. The members will receive the second half of the training to be scheduled

during a work session. Upon the completion of the training, they will have met the required two-hour Board Ethics Training for new school board members.

At approximately 9:55 a.m., the training session ended and Mr. Campbell left the special meeting.

At 10:00 a.m. the Board recessed until 10:15 a.m.

BOARD PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board, Superintendent Patterson and Assistant Superintendent, Dr. Terrence McAllister participated in an interactive, group orientated session with Dr. Kenston Griffin about Team Building. The collaborative activities were to establish an understanding of the leadership styles for the Board and Superintendent. Other aspects of the team building included the relationship between the Board and Superintendent and the community.

At 12:00 p.m. the Board to a break for lunch and reassemble for a working lunch and continued their team building session.

At 2:00 p.m., Dr. Griffin left the session, and the Board took a fifteen minute recess and resumed at 2:30 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE BOARD

Charlotte Sullivan, Executive Director for Finance

Ms. Sullivan provided an update on the status of the school district's Fiscal Year 2017 Budget and reviewed the funding for the new school year. The Board was reminded during the presentation, of their priorities for the fiscal year 2018 regarding the strategic plan three focus areas: Early Childhood, Academic Achievement, and the Whole Child.

Marsha Lipe, Director of Testing and Accountability

Ms. Lipe shared with the Board the function of the Testing & Accountable model and how its operation using the Grade Level Proficiency (levels 3 and above) and College & Career Readiness (level 4 and 5) as the two standards that the state uses for reporting.

Kim Dechant, Human Resources Coordinator

Ms. Dechant presented an update on the Volunteer and Parent Engagement practices for the district.

Superintendent Entry Plan

Dr. Patterson presented her ten-page Entry Plan for the district, and it outlined four phases of her five goals, agendas, and activities in a timeframe for the district. Her overall focus will be to listen, learn, lead and develop a plan to include strategic activities to guide her transition to the role of Superintendent for the school district. She has already initiated phase one, which is to determine the strengths of the district. In her first three weeks, she has conducted individual meetings with the district Leadership Team, directors to understand the makeup and functionality of their departments, and continues to meet with principals. She has formed a Cabinet Staff Team comprised of leadership, directors, including other key staff

members who are directly involved in supporting and managing student data. The role of the cabinet will include, supporting student achievement and building positive relations within and outside the district. The Cabinet staff will meet on Mondays at 9 am.

Five Goals for the District

- Establish a positive and effective relationship with the Board of Education
- Organize the align resources to ensure all students are prepared for college-career-ready opportunities
- Monitor implementation of Equity Plans at schools and district levels to close the achievement gap
- Ensure effective and efficient operations to maximize and allocate resources to enhance rigorous teaching and learning, create a positive culture, and ensure a strong organizational structure
- Build and maintain positive relationships through collaboration and communication with all stakeholders

Dr. Patterson responded to questions pertaining to objectives and activities of her goals stated in the plan. In addition, she shared the seven of North Carolina Standards on Superintendent Evaluation Process. In a response during the presentation, the Board discussed some of the district's challenges in retaining minority teachers over the years. Board Chair Sandford mentioned the future direction of Asheville and its racial makeup and suggested that the Board and City Council will need to engage in a conversation referencing the topic.

Dr. McAllister shared the racial makeup of the elementary schools to be 35/65 and said they are in alignment with the State's Federal Desegregation Order, and the numbers also apply to the new Montford North Star Academy School. The racial balance is not as comparable for at Hall Fletcher since the school has been operating on a modified calendar.

The Board discussed the stakeholder groups that Dr. Patterson will need to connect and collaborate with.

The Board discussed Montford North Star Academy and requested to have a presentation update on the school at the Board work session on Monday, August 7, 2017, with handouts, and to schedule the September work session at the campus. The board will arrange to have individual visits to tour the campus.

ADJOURNMENT

At 4:05 p.m., the special meeting (board summer retreat) adjourned.

Shaunda Sandford, Chairperson

Dr. Denise Q. Patterson, Superintendent /Secretary