

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
2:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Tuesday, November 6, 2018

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on November 6, at 2:00 p.m. at the Administrative Offices in the Board Room located at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville North Carolina where and when the following business was transacted.

The following Board members were present:

Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair

Martha Geitner, Vice Chair

Patricia Griffin, Member

Joyce Brown, Member

James Lee, Member

Staff Members Present:

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Denise Patterson, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Administration; Dr. Dana Ayers, Chief Academic Officer; Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction; Charlotte Sullivan, Executive Director of Finance; Shane Cassida, Executive Director of Student Services; Timofey Buzyan, Communication Specialist; James Cathers, IT; Kidada Wynn, Mental Health Liaison; Marta Alcala-Williams, Parent/Family Engagement Coordinator; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER - Board Chair, Shaunda Sandford called the session to order at 2:08 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adopt the agenda and Martha Geitner approved and Patricia Griffin seconded the motion - the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

The Special Called Board Meeting held on November 6, 2018, was a Community Learning Session. This meeting was to inform the community about the achievement gap and where Asheville City Schools is compared to the State. Asheville City Schools has the highest achievement gap in NC. The Board Members and Dr. Patterson, Superintendent along with the Leadership Team wanted to inform the community in open forum the information about the achievement gap and to have an open conversation. The goal of the meeting was to get feedback

from the community about their concerns and solutions to help ACS with closing the gap and helping our African American students as well as all students. ACS invited a couple of key speakers for the meeting: Dr. Dwight Mullen, Retired Professor from UNC Asheville and Mr. Gene Bell with the Housing Authority City of Asheville. While having the attention of community leaders, community members, staff and parents ACS wanted to share some history and facts about Black Asheville. Dr. Mullen spoke with everyone about the State of Black Asheville and Mr. Gene Bell spoke about Reflections of Public Housing.

Leah Ferguson, a former ACS Board Member, was the moderator for the meeting. Ms. Ferguson stated to the crowd that we are all here to discuss a complex system with complex problems.

The meeting started with Dr. Mullen speaking about [State of Black Asheville](#). He wanted to begin with the Legacy of Jim Crow Segregation. Dr. Mullen spoke about dropout rates, graduation, academics, and discipline. He said to the audience that students are not making relationships with teachers and intern teachers are not becoming role models. In the national trend, every major area has disparity outcomes and private sectors cannot be a part of the process. Lastly, he said that goals need to be around the reality of ACS.

Mr. Gene Bell, [Housing Authority City of Asheville](#), spoke about reflections in public housing. Mr. Bell wanted to start with Income and Outcome. The Voucher system was created to help as a subsidy for low-income families. The average annual income for low-income families is \$8,100. The vouchers that are given to those families are 49% to whites and 51% to blacks. Students that receive voucher subsidies make up most of the school system with the Erwin School District having the most. He presented some history about housing, the military was put into segregated housing and this was at a time that public housing across the nation was segregated. When Pisgah View Apartments was built in 1952, 235 units went to whites and 91 units went to blacks. Blacks could not get VA (Veterans Affairs) loans and FHA (Federal Housing Administration) loans. Today there are five generations of students who attend ACS who live in public housing. Rent in Asheville is the highest in NC.

Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction shared some Data about the achievement gap. Last year, 2017-2018, ACS lost 156 students to private schools, charter schools, and out of state. There was one student who went to a virtual learning setting. Why did ACS lose these students? The enrollment committee is reaching out to the parents to find out why. Free and reduced lunch students have decreased over the last 10 years because low-income families are leaving the district.

Dr. Dana Ayers, Chief Academic Officer shared School Performance Grade, School Performance Score, and Growth by School (2013-2014 to 2017-2018). Schools letter grades are based on a

15-point grading scale. Dr. Ayers also shared that ACS has started using NC Star for their school improvement plans to target subgroups. Part of the ACS three year Equity Plan is to not pull students out of classes.

Dr. Eric Howard, Director of Student Services, shared behavior data and some solutions to help students. The goal is to work with staff and give them tools to help with students. Dr. Howard mentioned creating a safe space for all students. It would be great if schools would help to link students with peers and students with staff. He also spoke on trauma enforced services.

Ms. Ferguson allowed commentary from the audience throughout and after the meeting. She thanked everyone for attending the meeting and being a part of what is the beginning of many conversations to help ACS close the Achievement Gap.

ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Martha Geitner approved the motion and James Lee seconded the motion.



Denise Patterson, Superintendent



Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair

