

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING  
6:30 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room  
**Monday, May 24, 2021**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on May 24, 2021, at 6:30 p.m. at the Administrative Office - Board Room at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina, where and when the following business was transacted.

The following Board members were present:

James C. Carter, Board Chair  
Jackie McHargue, Vice Chair  
Martha Geitner, Member  
Peyton O'Conner, Member  
Shaunda Sandford, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent Instruction and Accountability; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Cynthia Lopez, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant; Carrie Buchanan, Principal HFE; Tima Williams, Principal APS; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Sarah Banks, Assistant Finance Officer;

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by the Board Chair, James C. Carter.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

James C. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda. Martha Geitner approved the motion. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following names were called to make a public comment:

Cecil Bothwell  
Pepi Acebo  
Sarah Davis  
Michele Torino Hower  
Wren Cook  
Laura OAngel  
Micheal Woods  
Brittany Wager

Thomas Priester  
Gabrielle White  
Patrick Johnson  
Taysia Elliott  
Lara Lustig  
John Grant  
Jessica deBettencourt  
Iya Rose Senzon  
Susan Senzon  
Zoe Trout  
Daniel J  
Chase Huge  
Honor Moor  
Sara Shea  
Idris Salaan

## **ACTION ITEMS**

1. Personnel Report No. 11  
Martha Geitner made a motion to approve Personnel Report No. 11. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. Peyton O’Conner asked to be rescued from the vote. The motion passed unanimously with four votes.

2. Asheville Primary School Study:

### **Option #1**

Motion to accept the study and close Asheville Primary School building, effective as of the 2021-22 school year.

(Note: Students previously assigned to Asheville Primary School building have been assigned to the HFE campus, and Asheville Montessori Primary School will be co-located on the HFE campus).

### **Option #2**

Motion to accept the study and close the Asheville Primary School building, effective as of the 2022-2023 school year, and establish a fourth grade at the new Asheville Montessori Primary School effective for the 2022-23 school year. The administration is directed to reassign students and staff to the Asheville Primary School campus for the 2021-22 school year as necessary. For the 2022-23 school year, the new Asheville Montessori Primary School will be co-located on the HFE campus.

### **Option #3**

Motion to keep Asheville Primary School at the Asheville Primary School campus for the indefinite future, subject to further Board action.

Mr. Carter did offer for Board Members to make a fourth motion if they would like.

**Motion:** Mr. Carter made a motion to accept the study and to leave APS for the 2021-2022 school year. In the future the Board of Education will revisit the location of the Asheville Primary School for the 2022-2023 school year.

We will also expand Montessori fourth grade for the 2021-2022 school year and expand fifth grade for 2022-2023. Reopen enrollment for Montessori Pre-K and Kindergarten at Asheville Primary School.

Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed 4-1.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes

Jackie McHargue, Vice Chair - Yes

Martha Geitner, Member - Yes

Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes

Shaunda Sandford, Member - Nay

3. Asheville Primary School Building Closure - No motion made

4. Asheville Preschool Recommendations:

1. Motion to expand into nine classrooms within Asheville City Schools Elementary Schools, to include new classrooms in Lucy Herring, Hall Fletcher, Asheville Primary School, and Isaac Dickson, OR,

2. Motion to expand into nine classrooms within Asheville City Schools Elementary Schools, as listed above, and two community sites, Maple Crest and Lonnie D. Burton.

Jackie McHargue made a motion to pursue the Preschool classrooms at the K-5 schools and three classrooms remaining at Asheville Primary School (recommendation 1). Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote:

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes

Jackie McHargue, Vice Chair - Yes

Martha Geitner, Member - Nay

Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes

Shaunda Sandford, Member - Nay

5. Budget Amendments

Jackie McHargue made a motion to approve the Budget Amendments. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Student Releases to Buncombe County

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the Student Releases to Buncombe County. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Contract/MOU's

Jackie McHargue made a motion to approve the Contracts/MOU's. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

8. Policies Second Final read: 3620

Jackie McHargue made a motion to approve policy 3620. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. There will be future discussion about the policy.

9. Summer Transportation Protocol - A or B

Peyton O'Conner made a motion to approve Summer Transportation Protocol option B. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

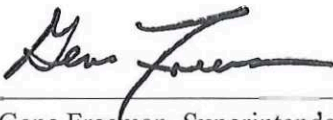
**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

Dr. Freeman shared events. The District will be starting on the Strategic Plan. Summer School planning is going on and will be starting in June. After the decision from the Board of Education reopening Enrollment for Asheville Primary campus, planning will begin. ACS had a vaccine clinic at Asheville Middle School where 172 vaccines were given.

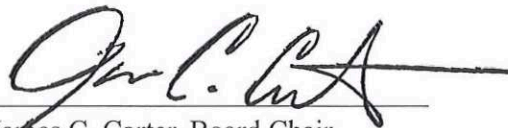
Mr. Carter thanked the staff who helped with getting the clinic together.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Martha Geitner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:31 p.m. Martha Geitner approved the motion and Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair