

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
4:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, March 22, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED: that the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on March 22, 2021, at 4:00 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

Joyce Brown, Member

Patricia Griffin, Member

James Carter, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Melissa Hedt, Chief Accountability Officer; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Chris Campbell, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA, Heather Reidinger, SILSA Assistant Principal; Ann O'Brien, AMS Teacher; Marilia Moura, AHS Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair, called the session to order at 4:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to approve the agenda. Patricia Griffin approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously:

INFORMATION AGENDA

- [Return to In-Person Update](#): Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; and School Reps, presented an update that included the following:
 - Senate Bill 220 Overview
 - Staffing Update
 - Elementary Update
 - Elementary Student Return Numbers
 - Secondary Student Return Numbers
 - Secondary Update
- [Preschool Update](#): Melissa Hedt, Chief Accountability Officer; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool shared an update that included the following about the Realignment & Expansion:
 - Increase Equity in Enrollment

- ACS Preschool Enrollment - School year, Students of color, Black students
 - Eliminate Barriers to Preschool
 - ACS Traditional Preschool Classrooms 2019-2020
 - ACS Traditional Preschool Planned Classrooms for 2021-22
 - Focus on Kindergarten Readiness
 - Kindergarten Readiness Data 2019
 - Prioritize Family Engagement
- [Revised Asheville City Schools: 2021-2022 School Calendar](#): Dr. Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary presented a revised ACS 2021-2021 school calendar that did not reflect the school year with a waiver. The state did not approve the calendar waiver for Buncombe County.
- A-B Tech Board of Trustees Reappointment - Dr. Parham: Attorney Campbell shared for approval the reappointment of Dr. John Parham. The reappointment does not have to be approved by the Buncombe County Board of Education. Each Board will make an appointment alternate years.
- Budget Updates and Amendments: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance, shared the budget amendments for approval.
- Policies Second/Final Read:
- [8000](#), [8100](#), [8110](#), [8210](#), [8220](#), [8230](#), [8300](#), [8300-P](#), [8305](#), [8310](#), [8320](#), [8325](#), [8330](#), [8340](#), [8341](#), [8350](#), [8410](#), [8520](#), [8530](#), [3620](#)-Updated: Dr. Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Attorney Campbell shared the policies for approval. The Board of Education would like a hyperlink to NCHSAA in the policy, and for the new copy of the revised policy for a second read.
- [Contracts/MOUs](#): Dr. Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services presented the following contracts for approval:
 - Asheville Police Department/SRO
 - Budd Group
- The decision on Plan A Busing for Elementary - Capacity of Ridership: Dr. Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services presented to the Board of Education the plan for approval to have students ride one per seat, two per seat, or full capacity. The recommendation is to go with Plan B for bus riders. If we need to go with the Plan A model for bus riders we will make the adjustment when needed. The Board of Education also gave Dr. Freeman the go-ahead to make the decision on the busing plan.
- Desegregation Order Update: Dr. Freeman shared that if we get rid of the desegregation order that it will give more African American families more choices of schools for their students to attend.

The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:

- **Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;**
- **Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege. Including the lawsuit of B. Lee Allen vs. Asheville City Board of Education**

ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 5:55 p.m. James Carter approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously:

ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the closed session at 7:20 p.m. James Carter approved the motion and Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The Board Returned to open session at 7:21 p.m.

Action Items for approval

- **A-B Tech Board of Trustees Reappointment - Dr. John Parham, Jr.**
Martha Geitner approved the motion. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- [Revised Asheville City Schools: 2021-2022 School Calendar](#)
James Carter approved the motion. Joyce Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Budget Amendments**
Patricia Griffin approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Policies Second/Final Read:**
[8000](#), [8100](#), [8110](#), [8210](#), [8220](#), [8230](#), [8300](#), [8300-P](#), [8305](#), [8310](#), [8320](#), [8325](#), [833 0](#), [8340](#), [8341](#), [8350](#), [8410](#), [8520](#), [8530](#)
James Carter approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
[3620](#) - Will not be approved. It will be reviewed at the next meeting.
- **Budd Group**
Martha Geitner approved the motion. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Asheville Police Department/SRO**
James Carter approved the motion. Joyce Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Personnel Report No. 8**
Martha Geitner approved the motion. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed with a 3-2 vote: Shaunda Sandford Yea; Martha Geitner, Yea; Patricia Griffin, Yea; Joyce Brown, Nay; James Carter, Nay.
- **Closed Session Minutes February 16, 2021**
James Carter approved the motion. Martha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Closed Session Minutes February 24, 2021**
Martha Geitner approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Closed Session Minutes March 1, 2021**

James Carter approved the motion. Martha seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Closed Session Minutes February 24, 2021**

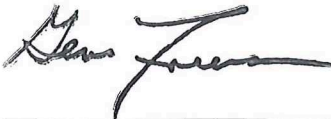
Martha Geitner approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Closed Session Minutes March 1, 2021**

Patricia Griffin approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m. James Carter approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously:



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair