

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
3:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, December 7, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on December 7, 2020, at 3:00 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 via Google Meet

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; Walter Dove, Director of Safety; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Dr. Dana Ayers, Chief Academic Officer; Melissa Hedt, Chief Accountability Officer; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Ian Nelson, Director of Testing; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Cynthia Lopez, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair called the session to order at 3:11 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to approve the agenda. James Carter approved the motion. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- 2019-2020 Finance Audit: Mike Wike of Anderson, Wike, and Smith shared the following:
 - Financial Statements
 - Compliance

They wanted to thank the Finance Team for all of the help to complete a successful audit.

- Budget Amendments: Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer, shared Budget Amendments. The amendments are:
 - COVID Relief Funds - Exceptional Children and Technology
 - Funds from Dogwood Trust for Housing Authority internetThis project is costing ACS nothing thanks to the community partners One of those being the Asheville City Schools Foundation.

- [Renaming of Vance Elementary School](#): Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications and Vance Elementary 5th grades student Mackenzie shared the recommendation for the new name of Vance Elementary School. The name recommended is Lucy Herring Elementary School.
- Testing Update - EOC and CTE: Ian Nelson, Director of Testing; and Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education, shared Regulations and Logistics, and Safety. It is a federal and state requirement that the exams be taken in person onsite. The courses are Math 1, Math 3, English II, Biology, and seven CTE post assessment courses for students who are taking these courses in the 1st semester. It is state law that 20% of each assessment grade will be allocated to a student's final grade. After the default scores come in from the state staff will evaluate the grade distribution and reevaluate the grade curve. ACS has applied to have the fall testing window through the end of January 2021. Our goal is to test as many students as we can the week of Dec 14th thru 18th. The state has also allowed for students who do not take the fall test to test in the spring and summer windows.
Students will have a grab-n-go breakfast and lunch. Transportation will be provided to students. ACS is following guidance from the NC Department of Health and Human Services.
- Students Releases to Buncombe County 2020-2021: Melissa Hedt, Chief Accountability Officer, presented for approval a list of students who live within the Asheville City Schools District who have requested a release from Asheville City Schools to attend school in the Buncombe County School District. There were no releases. Ms. Hedt did share with the Board of Education an enrollment update:
 - Current enrollment is 4,171 students, which is down 54 students from the beginning of the year. That is mostly elementary students.
 - We have students enrolling weekly
 - Our attendance rates are strong and almost 95% in most of our schools
 - Open Enrollment will be virtual this year with no in-person tours
 - Out of the 54 students who have left ACS there are about 30+ elementary students
 - New students are coming from the eastern part of the country
- [FieldTurf - Asheville High Baseball Field Contract](#): Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, asked to remove this item from the agenda until we have the financial agreement. This item will be reviewed again at the December 14th meeting.
- [Image Solutions 2-Year Renewal Contract](#): Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, reported the new contract will give ACS a \$40,000.00 credit and an additional savings of \$3,000 a month. Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer would like to move forward with the new contract.
- Recommendation for Asheville Primary School Montessori and Pre-K Programs: Dr. Gene would first like to move the Montessori students to HFE which has space and capacity. This way the students can stay together. He would like to maintain the program with the exception of 3rd graders. All staff would stay employed. Dr. Gene also recommended that the Pre-K students be moved into Ira B. Jones, Isaac Dickson, and Hall Fletcher Elementary schools, which currently have Pre-K classrooms in the district. Students will not be moved until the school year 2021-2022. The district is looking at enrolling siblings only as new students. Dr. Gene is not here to get rid of Montessori but he is recommending that the building be closed and sold.

- Recommendation for remote or in-class learning: Dr. Gene's recommendation is to have remote classes now through the end of January 2021. Staff can work remotely until January 19th. That will also include the Pre-School Staff. There will be communication sent to parents and staff.
- Phase I - 3000 Series - Second Read: Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Attorney Campbell shared the policies following policies for Second Read: [3101,3210,3225,3300,3320,3400,3410,3430,3431,3440,3460](#)
[4023,6305,7510,9030](#)
- Phase II - 3000 Series - First Read: Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Attorney Campbell shared the following policies: [3510,3515,3530,3540,3565/8307,3610,3640/5130](#)
- Contracts/MOU's: Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, shared information only on Contracts and MOU's:
 - Children First
 - Image Solutions 2 Year Renewal Contract
 - FieldTurf USA, Inc

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:

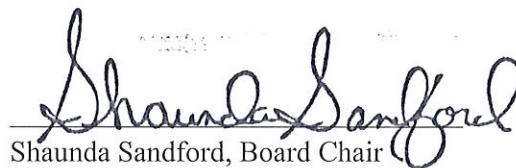
- Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;
- Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.

ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:14 p.m. James Carter approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair