## ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

# 5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room Friday, October 9, 2020

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on October 9, 2020, at 5:00 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 (via Google Meet); 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; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Chip Fleckenstein, IT; Nathan Haugaard, IT; Dean Shatley, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER - Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair called the session to order at 2:00 PM.

## APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

### INFORMATION AGENDA

Buncombe County Solar Project: Brownie Newman, Buncombe County Commissioner, and Jeremiah LeRoy, Sustainability Office shared some additional information with the Board of Education about the Buncombe County Solar Project. Mr. Newman shared an overview of the process. This collaborative effort includes putting a total of 47 solar installations on County facilities as well as buildings at A-B Tech, Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and the City of Asheville. The lowest responsive bidder was MB Haynes Corporation, a local electrical company. Additional good news is that the proposal submitted by MB Haynes, looking at it on a life cycle basis, will achieve two goals: help advance clean energy and reduce carbon footprint, and help reduce energy utility bills. Collectively there is \$5 million a year spent on electricity and utilities with the county and school buildings. The Buncombe County Solar Project offers renewable energy at a price that is significantly below what everyone is paying for power from Duke Energy. The County has approved funding to finance all of the solar energy installation costs for all county buildings along with A-B Tech, BCS, and ACS school buildings. The City of Asheville is funding the solar energy installation costs for their city buildings. After careful review by contractors, there were some concerns about the roof at Hall Fletcher. Because of those

concerns, solar panels will not be installed at Hall Fletcher at this time. With this initiative, there will be more money to allocate funds for projects in the future.

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to approve the Buncombe County Solar Project. Joyce Brown approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

### ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:36 p.m. Patricia Griffin approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent

Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair