

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

12:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room

Monday, August 24, 2020

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on August 24, 2020, at 12:00 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; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Charlie Glazener, Communication Consultant; Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services; Dr. Dana Ayers, Chief Academic Officer; Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Equity and Curriculum; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services; Derek Edwards, Principal AHS; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Chris Campbell, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER - Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair called the session to order at 12:01 PM.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

INFORMATION AGENDA

- **Benton Roofing:** Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services shared the contract for roof replacement at Claxton Elementary School for approval. Mr. Cassida is asking to approve the project so work can be started before the September 10th meeting. This agenda item will be put on the consent agenda for formal approval at the September 10, 2020, Regular Meeting.
- **STAR Renaissance purchase:** Dr. Ayers shared a new online assessment tool for ACS. This year the State of NC has given every district the opportunity to choose which platform they would like to use. We have chosen Renaissance STAR for the assessment tool for the district. This would be a 1-year adoption for the tool. We will be using this across the district in K-8 grades. Math and Reading will be used for Middle school. In elementary we will only be using the reading portion

since we have purchased a math tool already. The state will be paying for a portion that we have decided to adopt adding \$42,000 to our Read to Achieve funds. K-8 purchases across the district a portion of the purchase will come from the allotted funds. We are working really hard to use the data that is collected to guide instruction.

- **Enrollment:** Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Equity and Curriculum shared some updates that included the following:
 - Enrollment from the last five years 2016-2017 through the 2020-2021 school year. The numbers shared are for the 1st month of school.
 - Attendance tracking has been tricky with COVID. There are multiple ways to mark a student's presence
 - Schools are working to track down students who have not shown up
 - Demographics of Enrolled students:
 - White 63% Black 18% LatinX 9% Multi-Racial 8%
 - Since August 1st we have enrolled 81 students
 - 25-84 Kindergarten students enrolled in the last three weeks
 - 205 Students have withdrawn. Of those:
 - 25% Home school
 - 25% Buncombe County, Henderson County, or a surrounding county
 - 50% have moved out of state, private or charter schools
 - Working really closely with Homeschool families to make sure that they are registered with the NC Homeschool Association (NCDOA)
 - Class Size Legislation - K-3 is 18 students per class for 2020-21. In 2021-2022, class sizes will be K (17), 1st (16), 2nd-3rd (18)
- Update on school opening: Principal Derek Edwards spoke to the board about some of the challenges and things they are working on to overcome them. Some of the challenges and new things they are working on are:
 - There have been some challenges with how to teach a class that is hands-on.
 - Students not having the video on during class has been a challenge and not seeing their faces
 - There have been recommendations of digital things to try
 - Attendance has been solid. They are still trying to locate a few students.
 - Staff is wearing masks

Principal Edwards also said that he is very proud of the AHS staff!

- **PODS:** Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services shared an upcoming initiative created to help students that did not log into remote learning in the spring to have somewhere they can get internet and help with classes. The PODS will be starting on August 31, 2020.
- **Safety:** Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services
- **Contracts/MOU's:** Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services shared information only contracts and MOU's.
 - Blue Ridge Vision Services, LLC
 - Winston Salem Industries for the Blind, INC.
 - Mountain Professional
 - The BUDD Group

- Benton Roofing
- Mission Health Hospital, LLP
- [Policy 4400-Attendance](#): Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Attorney Campbell presented policy 4400 for First Read.
- [Policy 4050-Children of Military Families](#): Shane Cassida, Assistant Superintendent of Auxiliary Services, and Attorney Campbell presented policy 4050 for First Read.

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 12:53 p.m. and go into closed session. James Carter approved the motion. Joyce Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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:

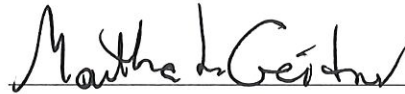
- Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;
- Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.

ADJOURNMENT

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:57 p.m. James Carter approved the motion. Joyce Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



Martha Geitner, Vice Chair

