

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
2:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room  
**Thursday, July 23, 2020**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a special called session on July 23, at 2:00 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; Georgia Harvey, Chief Finance Officer; Marta Alcalá-Williams, Executive Director of Equity; Melissa Hedt, Executive Director of Curriculum & Instruction; 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 2:07 PM.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to amend the agenda to include Asheville City Schools' Return to Learn Plan Fall 2020. Martha Geitner approved the motion. Patricia Griffin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**INFORMATION AGENDA**

- [Asheville City Association of Educators ACAE](#): Vice President, Angie Cathcart, and Secretary, Sarah Armstrong attended the meeting via Google Meet. The ACAE members presented the following information to the Board of Education from a Reopening Schools Survey, Plan B Survey, and the Statement of Solidarity.
  - Purpose:
    - Uncertainty about plans for reopening schools

- School staff concerned about their own health and the health of loved ones
  - School staff is concerned about the requirement to be in the building full-time if their own children are at home
  - Desire to collect data around these and other concerns
- Other items of discussion and information shares included:
  - Method
  - Results:
    - Who Responded
    - Where respondents work
    - Building Location
    - Do Bus Drivers feel safe?
    - Does Custodial Staff feel safe?
    - Do Food Service Workers feel safe?
    - Do you have a health condition that would prevent your returning to the building with students?
    - Do you feel safe returning to in-person teaching?
    - Childcare concerns under a hybrid model
    - Childcare concerns under the virtual model
    - At this time, with what you know, do you feel safe going back to school under Plan B proposed by ACS?
    - If ACS chooses to go forward with Pan B, are you considering requesting to teach remotely under Plan B?
    - If ACS Chooses to go forward with Plan B, are you considering taking a leave of absence or leaving the district?
  - Solidarity Statement - The K-6th Teachers & Staff of Asheville City Schools
- [Asheville City Schools' Return to Learn Plan Fall 2020](#): Dr. Ayers, Chief Academic Officer presented:
  - Governor Cooper recommended Option B for districts across the state. Asheville City Schools' Option B includes:
    - Pre-K Open all sites with reduced capacity
    - Grades K-6 hybrid Face-to-face and Remote-Week A/Week B Rotation
      - Sample Student Schedule
    - Grades 7-12 All Remote
      - All instruction for students in grades 7-12 will be delivered remotely with a combination of scheduled, online, whole-class sessions, and independent home learning.
    - Kindergarten-12th Grade Virtual Academy
      - Students who choose this option will complete work through a separate online platform with support from an ACS Teacher
  - Grading and Attendance

**Superintendent comments and recommendation to the Board of Education -**

Dr. Freeman's recommendation is to go to Plan C for the first nine weeks with remote learning. He would like to come back and meet in six to nine weeks to come back and talk about what the first nine weeks looked like. He would like for teachers in Pre-K - 12th staff to come back to their buildings and continue remote learning. Staff can bring their Pre-K - 12th-grade children with them to work.

Ms. Sandford thanked the Instructional Assistants, Child Nutrition, and Social Workers who have been in direct face-to-face contact with students and families every day. They are some of the lowest-paid staff and they have been there every day. They are our COVID Heroes of the summer! She wants to personally say thank you to them. Dr. Gene would like to see if we can get hazard bonuses for those staff members. They will also be working with the Jumpstart program.

Advisement on Motion by Attorney:

*Recommendation for clarity:* The Board of Education to make a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Plan C Remote and Virtual Learning Only for the first nine weeks of school.

*For the Record:* that motion will continue to give the Superintendent full flexibility to make adjustments as needed during that nine weeks for a student by student and employee by employee.

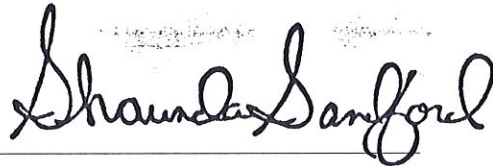
Shaunda Sandford made a motion to accept the Superintendent's recommendation for Plan C Remote and Virtual Learning Only for the first nine weeks of school. James Carter approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Shaunda Sandford made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:45 p.m. Martha Geitner approved the motion. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman,  
Superintendent



Shaunda Sandford, Board Chair