

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

5:00 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room

**Monday, May 9, 2022**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on May 9, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. at the Administrative Office - Board Room at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina, where and when the following business was transacted.

The following Board members were present:

James C. Carter, Board Chair

Martha Geitner, Vice Chair

George Sieburg, Member

Peyton O'Conner, Member

Shaunda Sandford Jackson, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Freeman, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Instruction and Accountability; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Kristy Coats, Facilities Director; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services; Marta Alcala-Williams, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fetcher; Ruafika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Jo Landreth, Assistant Principal Ira B. Jones; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Derek Edwards, Principal AHS; Chris Campbell, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. by the Board Chair, James C. Carter.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Ms. Moore's Third Grade Class, Ira B. Jones Elementary School

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

James C. Carter made a motion to amend the agenda to add a closed session to the end of the agenda.

Martha Geitner approved amending the agenda to add the closed session to the end of the agenda. George

Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**GOOD NEWS:**

Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communication presented:

- Glitch 2.0 Robotics Team - Asheville High's and SILSA's newly formed Robotics team. This is the first year we had a robotics team compete and they competed against 70 teams across the state and Glitch 2.0 finished ninth. Congratulations to the team!
- Ruafika Cobb was awarded the 21-22 Distinguished Leadership in Practice Program. She was one of 52 leaders across the state that was honored. Congratulations Mrs. Cobb!
- Montford's Science Olympiad 8th graders. This team earned top honors in the state science olympiad electric right stuff competition. Congratulations to the team!
- Brian Bilich is Asheville City Schools 2023 Teacher of the Year. Mr. Bilich is an Exceptional Children's Inclusion Math and Science teacher at Asheville High School. Congratulations Mr. Bilich!
- AVID Banquet was a time for our educators to celebrate the AVID students who will be achieving and moving forward with their college and career dreams. Congratulations to all these 30 outstanding students!
- Claxton's Helpful Hive is a group of third-graders who are the founders of the Helpful Hive which is a group of students that deliver positive and uplifting handwritten honey notes to students and staff. Congratulations!!

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following names were called to make a public comment:

### **In-Person**

John Brigham

### **Virtual**

No Comments

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

- Special Called Work Session Minutes April 4, 2022
- Closed Session Minutes April 4, 2022
- Regular Meeting Minutes April 18, 2022
- Closed Session Minutes April 18, 2022
- Special Called Work Session Minutes April 21, 2022
- Special Called Work Session Minutes April 28, 2022
- [Face Coverings](#)
- [Contracts/ MOUs](#)
- Budget Amendments
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2021-2022
- Policy Second/Final Read
  - [7430 Substitute Teachers-Final](#)
  - [Policy 2310 - Public Comment and Campaigning](#) - Board Member Peyton O'Connor would like to vote for this policy as an Action Item. All Board Members agreed.
  - [4150 School Assignment](#)
  - [4130-P Discretionary Admission of Out-of-District Students](#)

George Sieburg made a motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of Policy 2310 it will be voted on as an Action Item. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

Personnel Report No. 10

Peyton O'Conner made a motion to approve Personnel Report No. 10. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Policy Second/Final Read

o [Policy 2310 - Public Comment and Campaigning](#)

George Sieburg made a motion to approve Policy 2310. Shaunda Sandford seconded the motion. Comments after the motion from Board Member Peyton O'Conner, "Think it's important to provide people the opportunity or the requirement to identify themselves as a candidate for office if they are going to be using the public forum." Peyton O'conner asked if the members of the Board would accept a friendly amendment to just allow the identification of a candidate by name and title.

Peyton O'Conner made an amendment to change the policy to say that candidates may identify themselves as a candidate for any public office.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes  
George Sieburg, Member - No  
Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes  
Shaunda Sandford Jackson, Member - No  
The motion passed 3-2 votes.

Peyton O'Conner made a motion to approve Policy 2310 as amended. Martha Geitner seconded the motion.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes  
George Sieburg, Member - No  
Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes  
Shaunda Sandford Jackson, Member - No  
The motion passed 3-2 votes.

## **SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Dr. Freeman wanted to add a personal note:** he has read on social media and thinks it's important to answer questions where the Board of Education is negotiating with him on his leave. There is no negotiating on him leaving, there is no payout and there was none requested. Dr. Freeman wants to be clear to people that there is no payout or anything else. He will be leaving on November 30, 2022, by his own choice. That's what's going on. Thank you.

**CLOSED SESSION**

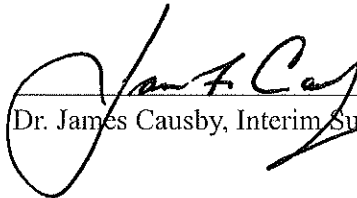
James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 6:00 p.m. George Sieburg approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. No action will be taken.

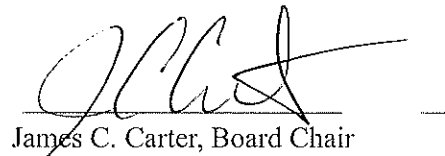
**The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into a closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:**

- **Under subsection (a) (1) to discuss confidential student matters pursuant to the federal education rights privacy act.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.

  
Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent

  
James C. Carter, Board Chair