

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Thursday, April 28, 2022

BE IT REMEMBERED: that the Asheville City Board of Education met in a special called session on April 28, 2022, at 5:00 p.m.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, Member
Geroge Sieburg, Member
Peyton O'Conner, Member
Shaunda Sandford, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability and Instruction; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Nathan Haugaard, Technology Specialist; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Susanna Smith, Director of PreSchool; Amanda Rigsby; Transportation Operations Coordinator; Walter Dove, Safety Officer; Cynthia Lopez, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

James C. Carter, Board Chair, called the session to order at 5:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James C. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda. Martha Geitner approved the motion. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Budget Updates: Dr. Freeman; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance shared Asheville City Schools 2022-2023 Historical Information and Budget Requests.
 - Historical Information about the district and the budget. Ms. Harvey shared that looking back at the board minutes and finances in 2017-2019, two additional schools were opened: Montford North Star Academy, and Montessori at Asheville Primary School. With the opening of the new schools, teachers and support staff were added to the two buildings. At the time the ADM was at an all-time high at 4,559 students with anticipated growth for the district. In 2017-2018 the local supplement was raised five percent at all levels. This added additional expenses into the budget. During this time the state capped

class sizes in K-3. This increased the number of teachers and classrooms through the years. The ADM began to drop in 2018-2019. A salary study was requested by the Board of Education in the fall of 2020. All classified were included in a salary schedule adjustment. Pre-K classrooms have expanded, which resulted in higher use of local funding up to \$1.6 million (that's anticipated again this year). That funding comes out of our K-12 dollars. In 2021-2022, there were state mandates that included minimum wage and other increases in budgets, salaries, and benefits. In 2022-2023 we will see the same state-mandated increases in salaries and benefits. Those increases will affect the local budget. Out of local funds, we have temporary employees who work 1 to 2 and up to 29 hours that are paid out of local funds. There are some that are paid out of ESSER Funds and At-Risk Funding. We are close to 143 temporary employees this year who are paid out of local funds. This is close to a million dollars.

- Additional Information:
 - Schools allotment from local funds and their balance as of April 25, 2022. The numbers are formula-driven and are based on per-student allotment per school. Any funds that are not used will be rolled over to next year.
 - ACS Central Office salary reduction by attrition beginning December 2020. A total of \$1,203,242.54.
 - Supplements total for all staff is 4.3 Million
- [Budget Request](#) to ask Buncombe County Government for the following:
 - \$33,215,172.00 FY23
 - Property tax rate of 12% FY23
 - \$600,000 for Pre-K to fund seven classrooms

Ms. Harvey and Dr. Freeman are requesting guidance and support on the following items:

Supplement change for new hires:

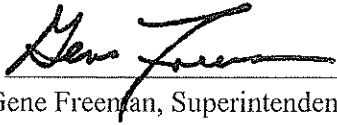
1. Request to have Bus Transportation funds from Buncombe County Schools be moved to Asheville City Schools for Bus Drivers
2. Through attrition of staffing from the revenues we receive from the county, whatever they are, would be moved from salary to hourly
3. Local supplement change for new hires which would be at a flat rate of 9% - asking for approval

Additional information:

- The two additional classrooms that would be allotted for Pre-K could be made K-3. The district would get funding from the state to cover those classrooms.
- The Board of Education asked Dr. Dickerson to invite all classified staff to come to the May 2nd board meeting to share their thoughts and opinions about going from salary to hourly. Classified Staff going salary to hourly has not been approved or voted on. All of the staff affected would be paid out of local funds.
- ACS will be meeting with Buncombe County for a work session for the budget on April 29th.
- On Monday, May 2nd Ms. Harvey and Dr. Freeman will bring a presentation proposal for approval that will be presented to the Buncombe County Government on May 10th.

ADJOURNMENT

Martha Geitner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Gene Freeman", written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James C. Carter", written over a horizontal line.

James C. Carter, Board Chair