

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

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

**Monday, March 14, 2022**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on March 14, 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 - Virtual

Peyton O'Conner, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Kristy Coats, Facilities Liaison to the Superintendent; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Walter Dove, Safety Officer; Marta Alcala-Williams, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fetcher; Nicole Cush, Principal SILSA, Rheta West, AP SILSA; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Tima Williams, Principal Asheville Primary; Ruafika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Jo Landreth, AP Ira B. Jones; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 5:07 p.m. by the Board Chair, James C. Carter.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

Ms. Cowart's Class, Asheville Primary School

**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.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes

Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes

George Sieburg, Member - Virtual - Yes

Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes

## **GOOD NEWS:**

Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communication presented:

- Hall Fletcher Robotics Team - This team ranked in the top 10 in qualifying events of the NC VEX Robotics State Championship! After finishing at the top all four Hall Fletcher Robotics Teams were invited to compete. For the second year in a row, the STEAM students came home as State Champions as well as winners of both the Excellence Award and the Build Award. In May, they are heading to the World Championship in Dallas, Texas!!
- SILSA's Class of 2021 - earned one of the highest graduation rates in the state. We congratulate and recognize Ms. Nicole Cush on behalf of the State Board of Education and State Superintendent Catherine Truitt.
- Ms. Shannon Hunt from Claxton Elementary School received the North Carolina Association for the Gifted and Talented Outstanding Teacher Award!
- Montford North Star Academy's Science Olympiad Team won 1st Place Overall in both Varsity and Junior Varsity. The Varsity Team will be one of three from the region attending the state tournament in Raleigh this April.
- Nick Mueller and Xander White, students at Asheville High School, have been selected as finalists in the 67th Annual National Merit Scholarship Program!
- Ms. Trina Jackson has been named the district's NCCAT Career and Technical Education Teacher of the Year!
- Asheville City Schools was one of two school districts from North Carolina recognized for using ESSER funds to recruit and retain staff as part of the White House's March 11, 2022, Fact Sheet.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

The following names were called to make a public comment:

### **In-Person**

Daniel Withrow

Pepi Acebo

Vikki Hutto

Sean Dunn

Sandi Abernathy

Amy Sheeler

### **Virtual**

No Comments

## **CONSENT ITEMS**

- Work Session Minutes February 7, 2022
- Closed Session Minutes February 7, 2022
- Regular Meeting Minutes February 14, 2022
- Summer Testing Plan
- Budget Amendments
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2021-2022
- Policy Second/Final Read

- [6305 Safety and Student Transportation Services-Final](#)
- [8305-P Federal Grant Administration Procurement Procedures-Final](#)

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the consent agenda. Peyton O’Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed 3-4.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
 Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes  
 George Sieburg, Member - Virtual - Nay  
 Peyton O’Conner, Member - Yes

### **ACTION ITEMS**

Personnel Report No. 8

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve Personnel Report No. 8. Peyton O’Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
 Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes  
 George Sieburg, Member - Virtual - Yes  
 Peyton O’Conner, Member - Yes

### **SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT**

#### **Human Resources**

- ACS will be hosting our annual Career Fair on Friday, March 25, and Saturday, March 26 at Asheville Middle School. Go to our website under the careers tab for more information. We currently have 41 people signed up to join us and the goal is 100.
- There will be a series of information sessions about Landed to be hosted in March. Dr. Dechant will be sending more information out about this.

#### **Equity**

- Marta Alcalá-Williams is continuing to support departments with Asset and Justice based Practices, thinking, and language.
- We will host another youth REI training in partnership with the ACSF.
- Marta is working to revamp the District-wide PTO and invited PTO leaders to attend REI for shared analysis.

#### **Student Services**

- Luke Mackenzie and Asheville City Schools Foundation have worked together to get additional mental health support on our High School campus. Thank you ACSF!
- Counselors and Coaches have worked together to make sure our students maintain the GPAs needed to continue their education after high school. Several of our students have signed their talents to Colleges and Universities. Ashley-Michelle and Dillon have captured some of those exciting moments beautifully. They are shared on our ACS social media sites.

- Our partners at Asheville Parks and Recreation are offering ACS students an opportunity to join their teams over the summer as Summer Youth Counselors for their summer fun programs. They offer competitive wages starting at \$15.00 an hour. A representative will be dropping off flyers and applications to our school counselors and the CTE departments this week.
- Spring Athletics has begun. Our student-athletes are doing an amazing job and are competing well!

### **Curriculum & Instruction**

- I am currently working with Mark and Georgia on position allotments and transfers for next year. We are doing an evaluation of staffing allotments in all areas across the district. This includes a comparison of district staffing to state allotments and a review of all transfer requests from one location to another. District leadership will be meeting with each principal to review staffing allotments for the 22-23 school year.
- We are currently in the process of planning summer programming for Elementary Reading Camp, Middle School Summer Bridge, High School Credit Recovery, and CTE Career Accelerator programs. Programming will take place in June and/or July. Students and families will be receiving information soon about summer program opportunities. Preparing for second data dives w/ principals - focusing on the growth of all students and specifically the growth of black students.
- Principals will be meeting with district leadership to review mid-year benchmark academic, discipline, and social-emotional data in the coming weeks. This is an opportunity for principals to share updates regarding growth for all students and within specific subgroups.

### **Maintenance**

- Building G Foundation and Walls are going up at Asheville High School.
- Hall Fletcher roof is in the design phase. We hope to bid this out in June.
- We've applied for ESSERS funds to repair existing HVAC needs - waiting to hear back
- Air handlebars at AHS and the boiler at HFE are in the design phase - we will apply for ESSERS funds to cover this once the design is in hand.

### **BOARD BUDGET DIRECTIVE**

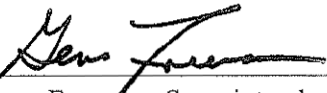
Mr. Carter and the Board of Education asked Ms. Harvey for the following information to be presented at the April Work Session:

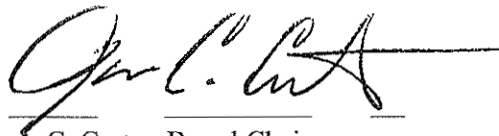
- Summary of the anticipated local revenue amounts for school operations,
- Expenditures for next year,
- A budget that keeps all of our current staff and brings on more staff if needed,
- An additional request is to not fix the budget by:
  - Letting staff go
  - No closure of schools
  - No consolidation of schools
  - Leave as much in the fund balance as possible.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Martha Geitner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 p.m. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes  
George Sieburg, Member - Virtual - Yes  
Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James C. Carter, Board Chair