

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
5:00 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, February 14, 2022

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on February 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
Peyton O'Conner, Member
Shaunda Sandford, 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; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability and Instruction; 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; Nathan Haugaard, IT Help Desk Specialist; Kristy Coats, Facilities Liaison to the Superintendent; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Dr. Paula Dowd, Director of Exceptional Children; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Tima Williams, Principal APS; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Derek Edwards, Principal Asheville High; Ruafika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James C. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda. Martha Geitner approved the motion. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Mr. Williams, Second Grade Class from Claxton Elementary School

2022-2023 Traditional Calendar: Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education shared the proposed 2022-2023 ACS Traditional School Calendar for approval. The following information was shared:

State Calendar Requirements

- 2022-2023 Priorities

- Common PLC and PD Time for Teachers
- LETRS Training
- Consistent Calendar PreK-12
- Calendar Committee and Process
- Common Feedback Trends
- 2022-2023 Calendar Highlights
- Proposed Calendar
- Additional Considerations

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

In-Person

Karina Holloway

Kari Holloway

Virtual

Daniel Withrow

CONSENT ITEMS

- ~~Special Called Work Session Minutes December 5, 2021~~
- ~~Work Session Minutes December 6, 2021~~
- ~~Closed Session Minutes December 6, 2021~~
- ~~Special Called Work Session Minutes December 7, 2021~~
- ~~Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021~~
- ~~Closed Session Minutes December 13, 2021~~
- Special Called Work Session Minutes January 10, 2022
- Special Called Closed Session Minutes January 10, 2022
- Special Called Work Session Minutes January 28, 2022
- Special Called Closed Session Minutes January 28, 2022
- Budget Amendments
- Contracts/MOU's - [Updated Chromebook Purchase Recommendation](#)
- [Face Coverings](#)
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2021-2022
- Policy Second/Final Read-6000 Series
 - [3640.5130 Student Voter Registration and Preregistration-Final](#)
 - [5008 Automated Phone and Text Messaging-Final](#)
 - [5024.6127.7266 Emergency Epinephrine Auto-Injector Devices-Final](#)
 - [5025 Prohibition of Drugs and Alcohol-Final](#)
 - [5026.7250 Smoking and Tobacco Products-Final](#)
 - [5027.7275 Weapons and Explosives Prohibited-Final](#)
 - [5028.6130.7267 Automated External Defibrillator-Final](#)
 - [5040 New Media Relations-Final](#)
 - [5070.7350 Public Records-Retention, Release, and Disposition-Final](#)

- [5100 Relationship with Other Governmental Agencies-Final](#)
- [5230 Participation in Research Projects-Final](#)
- [5240 Advertising in the Schools-Final](#)
- [6220 Operation of School Nutrition Services-Final](#)

- Transportation Policies
- [6300 Goals of Student Transportation Services-Final](#)
- [6315 Drivers-Final](#)
- [6320 Use of Student Transportation Services-Final](#)
- [6321 Bus Routes-Final](#)
- [6322 Student Assignment to Buses-Final](#)

Board Member O’Conner asked the Board of Members to table the December 2021 minutes. Board Member O’Conner has received some concerns brought forth by parents about the process and other things. Mrs. O’Conner has asked parents to put those concerns in writing. Would like a little more time to review the concerns.

Peyton O’Conner made a motion to approve the consent agenda, as listed above, with the exception of the first six bullet points which are:

- ◆ ~~Special Called Work Session Minutes December 5, 2021~~
- ◆ ~~Work Session Minutes December 6, 2021~~
- ◆ ~~Closed Session Minutes December 6, 2021~~
- ◆ ~~Special Called Work Session Minutes December 7, 2021~~
- ◆ ~~Regular Meeting Minutes December 13, 2021~~
- ◆ ~~Closed Session Minutes December 13, 2021~~

Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Personnel Report No. 7

Peyton O’Conner made a motion to approve Personnel Report No. 7. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. School Safety Plans - Asheville Primary, Claxton, Hall Fletcher, Ira B. Jones, Isaac Dickson, Lucy S. Herring, Asheville Middle, Montford North Star, Asheville High, SILSA.

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the School Safety Plans. Peyton O’Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. 2022-2023 Traditional Calendar:

Peyton O’Conner made a motion to approve the 2022-2023 Traditional School Calendar. The Board of Education is requesting that the state legislature grant us additional flexibility. The Board of Education will immediately reconsider the calendar if the flexibility is granted. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GOOD NEWS:

Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communication presented:

- Valentine's day pictures from the district's youngest students.
- The Lucy S. Herring Pre-K Classrooms Earns 5-Star Rating
- Regional Scholastic Art Winners - Asheville High and SILSA students joined other students across WNC to compete in one of the oldest art competitions in the nation. There were over 1,000 entries and 17 of our students were named scholastic winners. Those who won gold and silver for their pieces are on display at the Asheville Art Museum. These students are in the art classes of AHS teachers Amanda McCombs, Visual Arts Teacher; Natalie Davis, Ceramics Teacher; and Kristina Schriver, Visual Arts Teacher.
- Western Region All-District Band - AMS, MNSA, AHS/SILSA Band students auditioned for the Western Region Jazz Band and Western All-District Bands. These Cougars earned a record 92 spots in the All-District band and 12 in Region Jazz Band. In addition, 42 scored high enough to audition for All-State bands in March.
- Random Acts of Kindness - Ira B. Jones elementary and Lucy S. Herring were highlighted.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

Curriculum & Instruction

- IT is starting the process of replacing aging smart boards, projectors, etc., for all schools except AMS and Dickson (the two new schools).
- We are excited to have preschool teachers and four kindergarten classrooms participating in an early literacy grant with UNCA. Our focus is on closing the achievement gap before first grade.
- We are grateful to all the families who attended our Open Enrollment Open Houses. Open Enrollment ends March 14th.
- Our first group of academic coaches and central office staff begin LETRS training this month. LETRS is the early literacy training required by the state. ACS is getting ahead of the game by having instructional leaders trained in advance.
- The Middle Schools are concluding pilots of the ELA curriculum and will be selecting a shared 6-8 ELA curriculum this month.
- Middle School students are currently writing about youth and community violence as part of the Do the Write Thing essay competition, a partnership between ACS, Buncombe County Schools, and community partners.
- Middle of the Year benchmarking in reading and math is wrapping up. Principals will be digging into growth during their next data session with myself and district leaders.

Finance

- Our finance department is continuing to work on state-required retroactive pay.
- Budget planning for the Fiscal Year 2023 and working on assessing the Fiscal Year 2022 funds for the end of the year and summer programs.

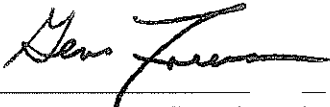
Student Services

- Per [HB75 Part V](#)– The total number of school mental health personnel we have currently is
 - 6 social workers and 15 counselors.
 - 1 mental health liaison.

- 5 student support specialists — with plans to hire 6 more.
- 3 full-time and one part-time school psychologist.
- 4 full-time nurses and two PRNs.
- We have 160 students identified who are experiencing homelessness in our district. The McKinney-Vento Foster Care team is doing a phenomenal job of supporting our families. Most recently, one of our families secured housing after experiencing homelessness for a year and a half!
- Our Middle School wrestling team is the undefeated conference champions! They also brought home first place in the conference tournament. Our Middle School basketball teams made it to the second round of playoffs and represented Asheville Middle School well.

ADJOURNMENT

George Sieburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:55 p.m. Peyton O’Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair