

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING/PUBLIC HEARING

5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room

Tuesday, December 7, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a special called session on December 7, at 5:00 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 of Education Members were present:

James C. Carter, Board Chair

Jackie McHargue, Vice Chair

Martha Geitner, Member

Peyton O'Conner, Member

Shaunda Sandford, Member attended virtually

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent Instruction and Accountability; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Sarah Cain, Director of Elementary Education and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Nathan Haugaard, IT Help Desk Specialist; Marta Alcala-Williams, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement; Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dr. Paula Dowd, Executive Director of Exceptional Children; Ian Nelson, Director of Testing and Accountability; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Kristy Coats, Facilities Liaison; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Miranda Wheeler, AP MNSA; Tima Williams, Principal Asheville Primary; Brad Johnson, Principal Isaac Dickson; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Ruletta Hughes, Principal Lucy S. Herring; Sonna Jamerson, AP Lucy S. Herring; Ruafika Cobb; Principal Ira B. Jones; Jo Landreth, AP Ira B. Jones; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Derek Edwards, Principal AHS; Ashley Free, AP AHS; Tiger Norman, AP AHS; Holly Sutter, AP AHS; Nicole Cush, Principal SILSA; Rheta West, AP SILSA; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Harrison Newkirk, AP HFE; April Collins, Principal Asheville Middle School; Cynthia Lopez, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to call the meeting/public hearing to order. Martha Geitner approved the motion. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James C. Carter, Board Chair -Yes

Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes

George Sieburg, Member - Yes

Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes

Shaunda Sandford, Member - attended virtually - Yes

OPENING REMARKS

James C. Carter, Board Chair shared details on how the hearing will be conducted. The Board of Education is holding a public hearing for individuals to speak on one of three different topics. 1.) Keeping Asheville Primary School where it is; 2.) Relocating Asheville Primary School; 3.) Closing Asheville Primary School. Each speaker will have three minutes. When you step up to the podium you will have three minutes. You will see a green light that starts your time. A yellow light will indicate that you have 15 seconds left and red is when you should stop talking.

The Board Chair will call up two speakers at a time. The first person will be the speaker and the second person will wait to speak next. It is asked that everyone be respectful of each other as we have our speakers. The Board will not address individuals but they do ask that you be respectful of each other. If there are disruptions or you deviate from the three topics you will be gavelled down. If there are disruptions you will be removed. We are here for our children tonight and we're here to listen to everyone speak. Please be respectful as we go through this process. The [meeting notice](#) was shared with the audience and details on how the hearing will be conducted.

THE FOLLOWING AUDIENCE MEMBERS GAVE INPUT IN PERSON AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

1. Melinda Hopkins
2. Lindsay Braathen
3. Federica Collina
4. Eric Sullivan
5. Craig Huber
6. Brittany Wager
7. Charlie Muehl
8. Honor Moor
9. Susan Senzon
10. Jeanne Lambert
11. Layton Hower
12. Michele Torino-Hower
13. Charlotte Huggins
14. Jennifer Curtin
15. Molly Hardy
16. Carrie Rabuck DiGiovanni
17. Jessica deBattencourt
18. Sarah King
19. Liza Kelly
20. Tracie Wilson
21. Mirah Honeycutt
22. Lara Lustig
23. Stacey Claude
24. Amanda Hency
25. Alison Default

26. Sara Shea
27. Kera Morman
28. Erik Fabian
29. Rebecca Strimer
30. Steven Gueksian
31. Alexandra Skau
32. Stacy Claude
33. Wren Cork
34. Anna Goodard
35. Baily Griffith
36. Pepi Acebo
37. Stephanie Motley
38. Shifra Ahlers
39. Beth Mayberry
40. Taysia Elliott
41. Matthew Leggat
42. Sara Shea

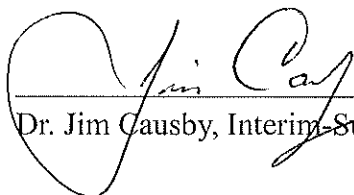
THE SCHOOL BOARD INVITED ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS BY EMAIL. THE FOLLOWING 64 PUBLIC COMMENTS WERE SUBMITTED BY EMAIL. THE EMAILS SUBMITTED WILL BE A PART OF THE OPEN RECORD.

Asheville Primary School Open Hearing Email Public Comments


ADJOURNMENT

James C. Carter made a motion to recess the open hearing until the Regular Meeting on December 13, 2021. A virtual option for public comments will be available at the Public Hearing portion of the December 13 meeting. The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

James C. Carter, Board Chair -Yes
Martha Geitner, Vice Chair - Yes
George Sieburg, Member - Yes
Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes
Shaunda Sandford, Member attended virtually - Yes



Dr. Jim Causby, Interim-Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair

