

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION
5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, December 6, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED: that the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on December 6, 2021, 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
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 Alcalá-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; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Kristy Coats, Facilities Liaison; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Tima Williams, Principal APS; Brad Johnson, Principal Isaac Dickson; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Ruletta Hughes, Principal Lucy S. Herring; Ruafika Cobb; Principal Ira B. Jones; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Derek Edwards, Principal AHS; Chris Campbell, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

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

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.

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

INFORMATION AGENDA

Open Remarks for the Board Chair, James C. Carter. Mr. Carter informed the public that there will be no vote on moving MNSA to Asheville Middle School.

- [House Bill 400](#): Attorney Campbell, HB400 will convert this Board from an appointed board by the City of Asheville to an elected Board of four new members in November 2022. That will make the Board of Education a seven-member panel. Anyone who resides in the statutory boundaries of the Asheville City Schools district will be able to vote for new school board members. The board will be converted from a five-member board to a seven-member board. In November 2024 Asheville City will have a fully elected Board of Education. On Sunday, December 5th the Asheville City Board of Education approved the filing fee of \$5.00.
- [PFA Architects Presentation](#): Chip Howell, pfa Architects, presented a presentation of our facilities. This presentation includes what NCDPI says our buildings would need to be to standards. This can be used to help with strategic planning.
- Overview of Statutory Issues, Attorney Campbell, the statute on closing and consolidating schools was originally drafted in 1955 and is written with the assumption that we have a free-standing school. And, that the school board may want to close that school or combine that school with another facility or building. The Board of Education will be discussing the recommendation from the administration to move the APS students and staff to another physical location. Asheville Primary School would continue as a school with its school number and principal, in compliance with [G.S. 115C-72](#). Everything the statute mentions will be discussed and factored into the decision about Asheville Primary School. The study includes all of the information that is required by the statute in making a decision about APS. There will be a public hearing on December 7, 2021, with public comments. The statute states that this decision will not go before a judge. The decision made by the Asheville City Board of Education will be final. Later in the meeting, Ms. April Dockery reviewed the draft study regarding Asheville Primary School including revisions addressing the potential closure of Asheville Primary School. The Board discussed the budget and cost issues associated with relocating versus closing Asheville Primary School. Based on the discussion, Mr. Campbell recommended that parents be notified that the Board is considering a complete closure of APS with a revised draft study to allow for public input on all options. Mr. Carter confirmed that the options are 1) relocate the school, 2) close the school or 3) retain the school. Mr. Carter invited emailed comments in addition to live comments. Mr. Campbell confirmed that public hearings do not have a specific time frame or a requirement that everyone is heard. He stated it would be prudent for the Board to hold the public hearing on December 7 and continue or extend the public hearing on December 13 to allow more comment, including virtual comment, before the Board considered an action on APS. By consensus, the Board agreed to hold the public hearing on December 7 and on December 13 with virtual comment options on December 13th.
- [Pre K Information](#): Dr. Freeman; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool shared the following information:
 - Cost per Classroom

- Options for 4 classrooms currently at APS
- Buncombe County ECE Grant
- Key Points Driven by the Budget
- Asheville Primary School [Executive Summary of the DRAFT APS Study Form Analysis](#): Dr. Freeman; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations shared the following information:
 - Section 1: Reasons to Consider Closure of Asheville Primary School
 - Section 2: Possible Hardships Resulting from Closing Asheville Primary School
 - Section 3: Public Hearing Summary
 - Section 4: Public Hearing Summary
 - Section 5: Exhibits
 - Additional information:
- Budget Amendments and Budget Update: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance: Shared the budget amendments for approval.
 - [Budget Update](#): the following information was shared:
 - ESSER Fund Review
 - Lottery Funding Review
 - Draft Review – Facilities Capital Cost
- [Contracts/MOUs](#): Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources: shared contracts and MOUs for approval and information only.
 - The BUDD Group for approval
- Face Coverings “[Per Senate Bill 654](#), the Board of Education must consider its policy on face coverings on a monthly basis.” Dr. Freeman made a recommendation to continue with universal masking for all students, staff, and visitors on all ACS campuses.
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2021-2022: Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator presented for approval a list of students who live within the Asheville City Schools District who have requested a release from Asheville City Schools.
 - Enrollment Update: Tanya Presha, Academic, and Program Support Coordinator shared that there were no enrollment updates.
- Policies Second/Final Read Enrollment: Tanya Presha, Academic, and Program Support Coordinator shared the following policies:
 - [4115 Behavior Standards for Out of District & Transfer Students](#)
 - [4130 Discretionary Admission of Out-of-Students](#)
 - [4130-P Discretionary Admission of Out-of-District Students](#)
 - [4140 Appeals of Final Admission and Assignment Decisions](#) - Delete
 - [4150 School Assignment](#)
- Dr. Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources shared the following policies for First Read 5000s:
 - [Redline-5000 Schools and the Community](#)
 - [Redline-5010 Parent Organizations](#)
 - [Redline-5015 School Volunteers](#)
 - [Redline-5020 Visitors to the Schools](#)

- [Redline-5022 Registered Sex Offenders](#)
 - [Redline-5030 Community Use of Facilities](#)
 - [Redline-5071/7351 Electronically Stored Information Retention](#)
 - [Redline-5110 Relationship with County Commissioners](#)
 - [Redline-5120 Relationship with Law Enforcement](#)
 - [Redline-5210 Distribution and Display of Non-School Material](#)
 - [Redline-5220 Collections and Solicitations](#)
 - [Redline-2030 Board Appointments of Trustees to A-B Tech](#)
 - [Redline-3101-P Dual Enrollment](#)
 - [Redline-3102-P Online Instruction](#)
- [ESS Substitute Update](#): Dr. Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction shared the following update:
 - Hiring Process
 - Asheville Pay - Substitute Teacher Rates
 - Pay
 - Systems - How to Accept an Absence
 - Systems - Absence Management
 - Contact Information

James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 7:52 p.m. Martha Geitner approved the motion. Peyton O’Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

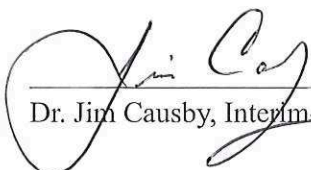
The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into a closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:

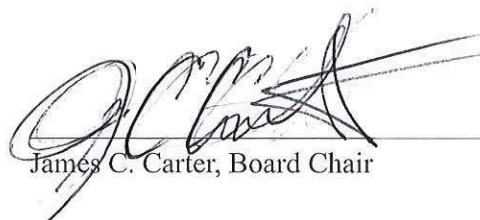
- **Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;**
- **Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.**

James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into open session at 8:26 p.m. Peyton O’Conner approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.


 Dr. Jim Causby, Interim-Superintendent


 James C. Carter, Board Chair