

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
5:00 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, October 11, 2021

BE IT REMEMBERED: That the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on October 11, 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

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; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Marta Alcala-Williams, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement; Nathan Haugaard, IT Help Desk Specialist; Walter Dove, Safety Officer; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Board Chair, James C. Carter.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James C. Carter made a motion to amend the agenda to have the special presentation for Mr. Kevin Wooten presented before public comment. Peyton O'Conner approved the motion to amend the agenda. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Lifchez, First Grade Class from Ira B. Jones Elementary School

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

A High School Diploma was Presented to the Family of Mr. Kelvin Wooten: Shaunda Sandford Jackson, Board Member introduced former Asheville High Teacher and Coach Mr. Bruce Peterson to share his story and relationship with Mr. Wooten. Mr. Peterson has asked if Asheville City Schools would honor this young man who is a graduate of Asheville High School with a diploma. After a conversation with Dr. Freeman, he immediately said yes!

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

Virtual

Tom Dessereau

In-Person

Honor Moor

Pepi Acebo

Stacy Claude

Shifra Ahlers

Lara Lustig

CONSENT ITEMS

- Work Session Minutes September 13, 2021
- Closed Session Minutes September 13, 2021
- Regular Meeting Minutes September 20, 2021
- [Face Coverings](#)

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve the Consent Items. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

1. [Burton Street Property Deed](#)

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve [Burton Street Property Deed](#). Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

2. Personnel Report No. 3

Martha Geitner made a motion to approve Personnel Report No. 3. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

BEGINNING TEACHER of the Year: Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dr. Karen Sumner, Chief Academic Officer for NCCAT presented an outstanding award to one of ACS's many beginning teachers of the year. This award is awarded to one beginning teacher from all charter schools and all school districts across the state of NC.

[ASHEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING G:](#) Chip Howell, Scott Donald, and Philip Canandy of pfa ARCHITECTS; Ronnie Lunsford, Buncombe County Government; Derek Edwards, Principal AHS shared an update on the new Building G that will be built soon.

[GOOD NEWS:](#)

Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communication presented:

- Isaac Dickson Elementary School's Solar panel project is now complete after six years.
- College Success Award from GreatSchools.org - SILSA is one of 1,838 schools nationwide that received an award. SILSA is one of 81 NC Schools that won the inaugural College Success Award - Gold.

- Asheville High School was the first campus to receive the Stop the Bleed Training. The training is to increase staff preparedness in handling emergency health situations across our campuses.
- Ms. Nicole Scavotto has been named Asheville City Schools 2022 Beginning Teacher of the Year.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

● **Human Resources**

- Upcoming Career Fairs:
 - Career Expo at the Agriculture Center - Tuesday, October 12, from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Custodians, Bus Drivers, Maintenance, Instructional Assistants, and Substitute Teachers
 - Appalachian State University - Friday, October 22, from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.
- ESS will take over substitute teacher management on Monday, October 18, 2021. Substitutes will move to weekly pay.
- Teachers who are interested in becoming Nationally Board Certified, please contact Dr. Kim Dechant in HR.

● **Safety**

- Stop the Bleed Kits - Staff training has begun for all schools. AHS was trained on October 5th and APS will be trained on October 12th. The maintenance department received their training on Friday, October 8th. Our goal is to have all ACS staff trained before winter break.
- Crisis Response Teams - Team leads and school reps are working with school communities to ensure ACS staff understand and know our plan to support students and staff in the event of a crisis.
- New Activity Bus - We have a new much-needed activity bus for athletics and field trips.
- COVID Safety Protocols - The NC Public Schools Toolkit was updated on October 6th, these updates have been shared with district and school leadership. We continue to closely monitor the impact of COVID-19 on our school district, we thank all the staff and families for their continued support of our efforts to keep our staff and students healthy

● **Maintenance**

- Currently creating a preventative maintenance plan.
- Construction is starting on Building G at AHS
- They are working on a camera assessment for the sinkhole near the tennis courts at AHS. Construction will begin on or around December.
- Lucy S. herring is in the design phase for the roof, windows, and mechanical
- Hall Fletcher is in the design phase for the roof
- Monitoring the HVAC issues throughout the district-programming and insulation for piping.

● **C&I**

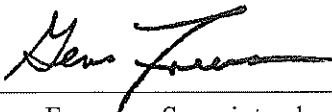
- Literacy PD for Elementary IA's was held on October 7th.
- PLC work at secondary schools on the first late start day on September 29th was successful.
- We are preparing for a federal program review visit on October 14th.
- Matt is applying to waive 2 ECF funds for staff devices, which could bring in \$53,500.

- All BOY assessments have been completed and we will be meeting with principals to analyze the data.
- **EC**
 - The EC Department is excited to announce that Abby Mulchay, EC teacher at AMS, is the ACS Teacher of Excellence for the 70th Annual Conference on Exceptional Children. She will receive the award and recognition from the NCDPI EC Division staff in Greensboro on November 18th.
 - Early Intervention Coach, Mrs. Amy Powchak has started a series of PD for EC teachers and K-2 classroom teachers. The first session focused on Foundations: Targeted Small Group Intervention Lesson Planning Guidelines and recommended Resources.
 - The speech-language pathologists conducted the mass hearing screenings for all the kindergartners and 1st graders in our district. They are conducting screenings (hearing, speech & language) for all the Head Start preschool students in our community Head Start programs.
 - The speech-language pathologists continue to ensure that all students with speech-language priorities are served in Asheville City Schools as well as the community Head Starts (Hillcrest, Pisgah View, and Burton) and private schools (Rainbow, Odyssey, Emmanuel Lutheran, Asheville Catholic, Jewish Community Center, Waldorf, Irene Wortham, Gracelyn) and homeschool students.
 - The EC team continues to recruit quality Special Education Teachers and Instructional Assistants. We have filled several of our vacancies in the last two weeks and will continue to work to ensure students with IEPs are provided a full continuum of services and have staff in place to provide the specially designed instruction (SDI).

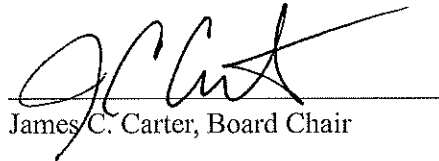
Peyton O'Conner would like to ask if the Board of Education will take up a resolution opposing the comments made by Lieutenant Governor Mark Robinson. Mark Robinson had some comments come to light that he continues to stand by. The comments were that transgenderism and participation in homosexuality is filth. The reason for the resolution is because of the message that it sends to the young members of the LGBTQ community. The Board of Education will address it at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Martha Geitner made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:32 p.m. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair