

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room  
**Monday, August 2, 2021**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** that the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on August 2, 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; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent Instruction, and Accountability; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations; Tima Williams, Principal APS; Raufika Cobb, Principal IBJ; Mary Nichols, Principal Claxton; Carrie Buchanan, Principal HFE; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Jo Landreth, Assistant Principal IBJ; Susanna Cerrato, Third-grade Teacher at IBJ and ACS District Teacher of the Year 2019-2020; Cynthia Lopez, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant.

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

James C. Carter, Board Chair, called the session to order at 5:05 PM.

#### **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

James C. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda. Peyton O'Conner approved the motion. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Carter made the announcement that the Board of Education and Asheville City Schools former Board Member, Administrator, and Teacher, Mrs. Patrica Griffin passed away. At this time we do not have any details. As we get that information we will share it with everyone. Please keep her family in your prayers.

#### **INFORMATION AGENDA**

- [Calendar Revisions for 2021-2022 School Year](#): Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education, We would like to make June 10th an optional teacher workday. It is required by law that staff work 215 calendar days. In the previous calendar, there were 214 days. The late start days for middle and high school have changed due to testing schedules that we have received from the

state. We have reduced the number of days from 16 to 12 days. September changed from 3 days to 1 day, January will have 1 day. February and March will have two dates, but they have shifted. Exams will be given after the Holiday Break. We have 29 ½ banked hours. The calendar also includes 5 inclement weather days.

- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2021-2022 and [Enrollment Update](#): Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Accountability presented for approval a list of students who live within the Asheville City Schools District who have requested a release from Asheville City Schools. The students have attended or will be going to school in the Buncombe County School District.
  - Enrollment Update: Enrollment projections by school for 2021-2022. The numbers presented are the projected numbers based on the current enrollees. The numbers are changing daily as we are getting more applications every day. The team is recalculating the overall district percent of white and minority students. We are currently trending up with more white students in the middle school's numbers. We have to be careful with the numbers for placing students to stay within the guidelines of the desegregation order. The numbers for high school are up. The current total enrollment is at 4,300. There are two schools at full capacity: APS and MNSA. [The enrollment summary 2021-2022 projection.](#)
- [Back to School Safety Protocols](#): Dr. Freeman; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations presented the following:
  - **NC Public Health Toolkit (K-12)**
    - CDC - Level of Community Transmission
  - **COVID-19 Vaccines / Minimizing Exposures**
    - Vaccination
    - Physical Distancing & Minimizing Exposure
    - COVID-19 Testing
  - **Health Screenings**
    - Screening
    - Screening - Staff & Students
    - Screening - Athletics
  - **Handling Possible, Suspected, Presumptive, or Confirmed Positive Cases of COVID-19**
  - **Cleaning, Hygiene & Air Quality**
    - Cleaning and Hygiene
    - Water and Ventilation Systems
  - **Transportation**
  - **Protecting Vulnerable Populations**
  - **Campus Guests / Large Gatherings**
    - Limit Campus Guests
    - Large Gatherings/Field Trips
  - **Face Coverings**
    - American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP)
    - ACS Face Covering

- Overview of Recommended ACS COVID-19 Protocols
- Face Coverings: Dr. Freeman; April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations shared the following face-covering protocols:
  - All Students Pre-K thru 12th Grade will be required to wear face coverings inside all ACS campuses (unless medical or developmental conditions prohibit use).
  - All staff, both school-based and district-wide support, will be required to wear face coverings regardless of their vaccination status.
  - All students, Pre-K thru 12th Grade, will be required to wear face coverings on school buses.
  - Because physical distancing will be maintained, students and staff will not be required to wear face coverings when they're outside for recess, PE, or when in an outdoor classroom.
    - Student-athletes will be required to wear face coverings when they are not actively engaged in rigorous physical activity.
  - To the greatest extent, physical distancing will be maintained while actively eating and drinking.

James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adopt universal masking for grades PreK-12 on all ACS campuses. This will be for all staff and students. Jackie McHargue approved the motion. Peyton O'Conner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

James C. Carter, Board Chair - Yes  
 Jackie McHargue, Vice Chair - Yes  
 Martha Geitner, Member - Yes  
 Peyton O'Conner, Member - Yes  
 Shaunda Sandford, Member - Yes

- Activity Buses: April Dockery, Executive Director of Crisis Management and Operations shared with the Board of Education that the transportation department is looking to possibly purchase an activity bus. We have some old buses and we are in need of a new bus for athletics.
- [ACS Educator Advisory Council Presentation](#): Dr. Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Dr. Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Ashley-Michelle Thublin, Executive Director of Communications; Susanna Cerrato, Third-grade Teacher at IBJ and ACS District Teacher of the Year 2019-2020 and Western Region Teacher of the Year; shared what the ACS Educator Advisory Council is about and what they will be doing for the 2021-2022 school year. The following was shared:
  - Vision
  - Mission
  - Participants
  - ACS TOY Role
  - Alignment with 2021 BWF NC Regional TOY Cohort
  - RTOY Action Goals
  - Alignment with NC Teacher Leadership Council
  - Alignment with NC DPI Priorities

- **Contracts** and Budget Updates: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance presented the following contracts as information only:
  - Republic Services of NC
  - Southeastern Paper Group
  - Blue Ridge Vision Services, LLC
  - DHHS Voc Rehab Services
  - Sandra Garcia Translation Services
  - Monica Murillo Translation Services
- **MOU's**: Dr. Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources presented the following MOU's as information only:
  - Call me MiSTER
  - MAHEC
  - Family Preservation
- **Policies First Read**: Dr. Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources shared the following policies:
 

Spring Updates  
[1510/4200/7270](#), [1610/7800](#), [1710/4020/7230](#), [2440](#), [3300](#), [3460](#), [3610](#), [3620](#), [4040/7310](#), [4125](#), [4240/7312](#), [4335](#), [4400](#), [7232](#), [7510](#), [7720](#), [8310](#), [8341](#), [4302-P](#), [7438](#)

Minor Changes:  
[1310/4002](#), [3102](#), [3230/7330](#), [3470/4305](#), [3640/5130](#), [4050](#), [4270/6145](#), [4700](#), [7100](#), [7130](#), [7430](#), [9020](#)

James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 7:06 p.m. Peyton O'Conner approved the motion. Jackie McHargue seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

**The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into 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.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



Dr. Gene Freeman, Superintendent



James C. Carter, Board Chair