

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

5:00 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room

Monday, May 15, 2023

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on May 15, 2023, 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:

George Sieburg, Board Chair

Amy Ray, Vice Chair

James C. Carter, Member

Liza Kelly, Member

Rebecca Strimer, Member

Sarah Thornburg, Member

Jesse Warren, Member

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Causby, Interim Superintendent; Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability and Instruction; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations; Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator; Kim Robinson, Executive Director of Student Services; Tim Shelton, Facilities Director; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology and Media Services; Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity/Community Engagement; Sarah Cain, Executive Director, Exceptional Children and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Tima Williams, Director of Social Emotional Learning; Shannon Baggett, Principal Montford Northstar Academy; Raufika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Nicole Cush, Principal SILSA; Derek Edwards, Principal Asheville High School; Sonna Jamerson, Principal Lucy S. Herring; Ruletta Hughes, Principal, Isaac Dickson; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Jo Landreth, Principal Asheville Middle School; Sarah Wright, Principal Claxton; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool; Miranda Wheeler, AP Montford Northstar Academy; Blair Johnston, AP Asheville Middle School; Sybil Jefferson, AP 9th Grade; Ann O'Brien, Literacy Coach; Tracey Jenkins, Administrative Assistant; Chris Campbell, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. by the Board Chair, George Sieburg.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. Bruder's Second Grade Class,
Isaac Dickson Elementary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GOOD NEWS:

April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations presented [Good News](#):

- Lizzie Rogers was named ACS 2024 Teacher of the Year.
- AHS and SILSA Students Inducted into the National Honor Society - Julia Young shared some information about NHS and congratulated its newest members.
- Do the Write Thing winners celebrated - Ace Wilkins, a student at Asheville Middle, is the ACS winner.
- Claxton wins the elementary Battle of the Books competition.
- Hall Fletcher Running Stunning Racers
- The Asheville Middle School Track & Field Team is Conference Champion.
- Principal Fellows for 2023 are Craig Shimer and Kelly McCarthy.
- Blair Johnston graduates from the NCPAPA Future Ready Leadership program.
- Dr. Mark Dickerson completes NCSSA Aspiring Superintendent Program.
- ACS graduates the largest AVID group in history with 42 students. JaNaya and Nancy spoke about their experiences with AVID.

ELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT

Comments from George Sieburg, Board Chair

The seven-member board met in January 2023 to begin discussing the superintendent search. It is now May and with the help of Summit Search Solutions, there were 49 applications. The 49 applications were whittled down to 16 of the highest qualified candidates. Working together as a board they narrowed the 16 down to nine semi-finalists. With Summit support conversations among the board members that were engaging, fruitful, and deep they were able to narrow the applicants down to four. At this meeting, the board is excited to make a motion. Mr. Sieburg wanted to thank the community for survey input which was over a thousand people who participated!

Motion for Election of Superintendent

The Chair will now accept the following motion:

“I (Amy Ray, Vice Chair) move that the Asheville City Board of Education hereby elect Dr. Richard A. Cruz as its next Superintendent of Schools effective July 1, 2023, and authorize the Chair to execute a contract with Dr. Cruz as discussed by the Board in closed session.” James C. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

We have elected Dr. Rick Cruz as the Asheville City Schools' next superintendent!

George introduced Dr. Cruz. Dr. Cruz thanked the Board and offered some brief details about his life and background and how excited he is about coming to work for Asheville City Schools. Dr. Cruz wanted to

acknowledge and say he felt some emotion hearing from the two students who spoke about their AVID teacher Mr. Hughes and feeling emotion when they described how the community came together to support them. They spoke about their teacher, families, and parents who inspired them. “That’s what it is all about!” Work is all about ensuring that we work together as a community, that we are partners in the work, and that we’re making sure every single student in Asheville gets the support, resources, and guidance they need to be successful. That is equity and that’s what this work is all about, and that is what brought Dr. Cruz here.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

In-Person:

- Sybil Jefferson
- Pastor Ronald Gates
- Pastor John Amanchukwu
- Michelle Morrow
- Colleen Miller
- Janet Peterson
- John Brigham
- Pepi Acebo
- Bailey Griffith

Virtual

No Virtual Comments

CONSENT ITEMS

- Special Called Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023
- Work Session Meeting Minutes April 11, 2023
- Closed Session Minutes April 11, 2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes April 17, 2023
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023
- Personnel Report No. 9
- [Recommendation/Resolution State PRC 071 Supplemental Teacher Pay](#)
- [Budget Amendments](#)
- [Recommended 2022-2023 School Calendar Change Revised School Calendar](#)
- Policy: Second/Final Read
 - [3102-Online Instruction](#)
 - [3430-School Improvement Plan](#)
 - [4260-Student Sex Offenders](#)
 - [5240-Advertising in the Schools](#)

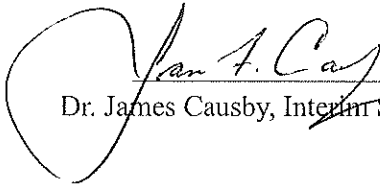
Amy Ray made a motion to approve all items in the Consent list. Liza Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETINGS

Board Chair, George Sieburg

ADJOURNMENT

James Carter, Board Member made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Liza Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:07 p.m.


Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent


George Sieburg, Board Chair