

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

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

Monday, April 17, 2023

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on April 17, 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; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Sarah Banks, Assistant Finance Officer; Kim Robinson, Executive Director of Studnet Services; April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations; Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator; Tim Shelton, Facilities Director; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer; Nathan Hauggard, Instructional Technology Specialist; 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; Shannon Baggett, Principal Montford Northstar Academy; Raufika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Sonna Jamerson, Principal Lucy S. Herring; Eddie George, Assistant Principal, Lucy S. Herring; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Jo Landreth, Principal Asheville Middle School; Sarah Wright, Principal Claxton; 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. Engstrom's Second Grade Class,
Hall Fletcher Elementary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

George Sieburg made a motion to approve the agenda. Amy Ray approved the motion to approve the agenda. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

GOOD NEWS:

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

- AHS/SILSA students accepted to Governor's School
- Lucy S. Herring Ecology Night
- Asheville High/SILSA Speech & Debate competes at Harvard
- Asheville Middle School Speech & Debate competes at State Competition
- Asheville Middle School Band receives a superior rating
- Jo Landreth receives Patriot Award
- Asheville High/ SILSA Glitch 2.0 competes in State Competition
- Asheville Middle School Quiz Bowl
- Culinary students compete at the state competition

[AHS/SILSA School Climate Committee](#) presented by Asheville High School Student Government Association (SGA). The SGA presented the following:

- Survey Report
 - 229 students responded to the survey
 - Demographics
 - Questions asked in the survey
- Student-Produced School Climate Solutions
 - 85 Solutions, 56 were categorized
 - 6 Categories shared with the Board of Education
 - Bringing Racial Inclusion in Honors/AP Classes
 - Hybrid Classes: What's Working and Not Working
 - Practices to Improve the Environment
 - Community-Building (peer: peer)
 - Educator Mindsets & Inclusion in the Classroom
 - School Structure
- Takeaways & Closing

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

In-Person:

Jen Hampton

Clara Nunan

Vanessa Gregor

Ana Hernandez

Pepi Acebo (Yielded Time)

Martinia Akers

Matthew Leggat

Brenda Moreau

Kensley Herbst

Sybriea Lundy
Timothy Lloyd
Shanna Peele
Shannon Hunt
Megan Smith
Wylie Paxton
Daniel Withrow
Brooke Heaton

Virtual

No Virtual Comments

CONSENT ITEMS

- Work Session Meeting Minutes March 6, 2023
- Closed Session Minutes March 6, 2023
- Special Called Meeting Minutes March 7, 2023
- Special Called Closed Session Minutes March 14, 2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes March 14, 2023
- Special Called Meeting Minutes March 15, 2023
- ~~Special Called Meeting Minutes March 27, 2023~~
- Special Called Closed Meeting Minutes March 30, 2023
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023
- [ACS Summer Program Plan](#)
- [Charter School Omnibus Legislation Resolution](#) - HB 219
- [Budget Amendments](#)

James Carter made a motion to approve all items in the Consent list, including moving the March 27th Special Called Meeting Minutes to the May Consent Items and moving the Recommendation to Partner with BE SMART Gun Safety Program to Action Item #2. Amy Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEM

Board Chair, George Sieburg

1. Personnel Report No. 8

James Carter made a motion to approve the Personnel Report. Liza Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

OPERATIONS

- Staff is working to complete the Code of Success for the 23-24 school year.

- The district safety council has completed a tabletop discussion with the Asheville Fire Department to better enhance safety and response.
- We are continuing with the RFP process with engagement from child nutrition staff and other stakeholders.

FINANCE

- Finance continues to work on the FY24 Budget. There will be a Board Work Session on March 15, 2023, to continue that work.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- The EC department has completed the state April 1st Headcount with 556 students qualifying for Exceptional Children services in Asheville City Schools.
- We have concluded a three-part series with teachers and district administrators, Understanding Autism in the Classroom.
- May 1st is the opening for our IDEA grant.
- May 10th is Field Day for Visually Impaired students of Western North Carolina, hosted on the Asheville Middle campus from 10-1.
- The Enrollment team has been diligently working on school placement for the 2023-2024 school year! School Placement letters for in-district and out-of-district letters will go out this Tuesday, which is ahead of schedule.
- Kindergarten registration is May 8th, 9th, and 11th at the elementary schools.
- C&I and the schools are preparing for the End of Year (EOY) testing:
 - STAR: May 1-12
 - Panorama: May 1-22
 - mClass: May 9-30,
 - The testing window for EOGs and yearlong EOCs - 5/26 thru 6/9,
 - Testing window for 2nd semester EOCs - 6/5 thru 6/9
- AVID celebration for Seniors and 8th Graders is on May 2, 2023. We have one of our largest graduating AVID cohorts with 42 seniors this year!
- Prior to Spring Break, over 75 community volunteers read and scored middle school student writing entries for the Do the Write Thing Contest. 11 students from Asheville Middle School and Montford North Star Academy have been named finalists, and two overall winners from Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools will go to Washington DC this summer.
- School MTSS teams are currently in the process of completing the FAM-S, a facilitated assessment of MTSS implementation. The district team has also completed a district version and this data will be used to monitor MTSS implementation at the school and district level and support goal-setting and planning for next school year.

EQUITY

- Marta has been working to ensure a true equity lens in the enrollment committee, policy committee, MTSS, HR, Data, and IT.

- All members of the Anti-racist leadership institute are completing coaching sessions and are meeting to move the work forward.

ACTION ITEMS

2. [Recommendation to Partner with BE SMART Gun Safety Program Presentation](#) In addition to the recommendation to partner with BE SMART, the Board asks the administration to pursue the actions that were listed in the recommendation, consistent with board policies and report back the final plan.

Rebecca Strimer made a motion to approve the recommendation. Liza Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

3. [2023-2024 Local Budget Recommendation](#)

Additional documentations

[Document 1](#)

[Document 2](#)

George Sieburg moved that the Superintendent's recommended budget request to the County Commissioners for FY 23-24 be amended and adopted by the Board of Education as follows:

- 1.) To Increase the fund balance allocation to \$2.4M to limit student-facing reductions and/or cuts.
- 2.) To request an increase of \$7.7M above the local current expense appropriation for FY 22-23 in order to accept the Superintendent's recommendation on increases to classified and certified staff to accommodate a living wage and including a 7-point increase in the supplement for all staff. This request includes the additional funding previously identified by the County Commission for compensation increases for FY 23-24.
- 3.) To request an increase in the supplemental school tax rate to \$.12 in order to achieve the full \$7.7M increase, if necessary.

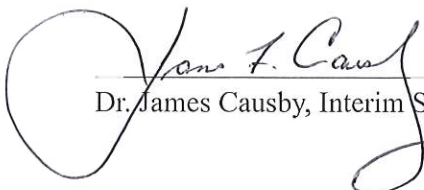
Amy Ray approved the motion. James C. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.


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 9:05 p.m.


Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent


George Sieburg, Board Chair