

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING
5:00 p.m. - Regular - Administrative Offices - Board Room
Tuesday, March 14, 2023

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on March 14, 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; April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations; Matt Whiteside, Director of Instructional Technology; Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer; Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity/ Community Engagement; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Shannon Baggett, Principal Montford Northstar Academy; Raufika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Kris Caudle, Attorney; Tracey Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Board Chair, George Sieburg.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Ms. McDaniels Kindergarten Class,
Ira B. Jones Elementary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GOOD NEWS:

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

- Bands - A total of 80 ACS students made All District, and 9 made All State. The Asheville High School Wind Symphony accepted an invitation to perform at Carnegie Hall in March of 2024.
- MNSA Science Olympiad team placed 2nd overall in the regional competition. State Competition will be April 23, 2023 in Raleigh. Teacher Gretchen Ross expressed her thanks to the Board and to the Science Olympiad coaches.
- Isaac Dickson Elementary was ranked first in state fundraising, raising a total of \$31,426 in the Jump Rope for Heart Challenge.
- Battle of the Books was held on March 6th at Central Office between Asheville Middle School and Montford Northstar Academy. Montford won in a tiebreaker.
- ACS Winter Sports - Highlights of Asheville High/SILSA Indoor Track Team, Basketball teams, Swim/Dive team, and Wrestling team. Also noted the Asheville Middle School Wrestling team,
- Pi Day celebrations today at Claxton Elementary and IRL Afterschool at Asheville Middle.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

In-Person

John Brigham

Virtual

Pepi Acebo

AGENDA ITEMS

[Report from Summit Search Solutions](#) - Superintendent Search Firm: Todd LoFrese and Arasi Adkins virtually presented an update for the Superintendent Search process. The presentation highlighted the purpose of the search, summary data of results from surveys and listening sessions, and next steps for the process. An applicant update was also provided, and next steps for the application process. The deadline for applications is March 23, 2023. Board Chair Sieburg expressed thanks to Todd Lofrese and Arasi Adkins of Summit Search, and to April Dockery, Dillon Huffman, Nathan Haugaard, School Principals, and staff for helping to make the listening sessions and survey so successful.

[ACAE Petition Report](#) - Daniel Withrow, President and Liz Lebeau, Vice President, presented the 2023-2024 Budget Petition, "Our Kids Can't Wait!" which received signatures from about 600 ACS staff (82%). The report included a background summary of the state and local pay structure and supplements, and comparisons of Asheville to other NC school districts for supplements, and cost of living. A total of 2,032 signatures are on the petition. Mr. Withrow gave copies of the petition to the board, and expressed the need for a budget that prioritizes the staff recruitment and retention. Ms. Lebeau presented the details of the petition's priorities: to provide raises for certified and classified staff, to permanently fund positions created from temporary COVID relief funds, and to establish an Exceptional Children and Student Support Advisory Committee. The petition will be presented to the County Commissioners at a Rally in City-County Plaza on March 20, 2023 at 5:00pm.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Special Called Work Session Meeting Minutes February 6, 2023
- Closed Session Minutes February 6, 2023
- Regular Meeting Minutes February 13, 2023
- Special Called Meeting Minutes February 23, 2023
- [Food Services RFP](#)
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023
- [Lottery Capital Projects](#)
- AHS North Slope Drainage/Repair - [Purchase Order](#) change
- Policies for approval

Attorney Kris Caudle explained that there are very minor, non-substantive changes that have been made to Policies 2400, 7510, and 7550, and he recommends they remain on the list to be approved tonight. He also recommended that Policy 7520 be removed from tonight's list for approval:

- [2121-Board Member Conflict of Interest](#)
- [2210-Duties of Officers](#)
- [2400-Board Policies](#)
- [2410-Policy Development](#) (If adopted, rescind policies 2420, 2440, 2450)
- [2420-Adoption of Policies](#) (Rescind)
- [2430-Dissemination and Preservation of Policies](#)
- [2440-Policy Review and Evaluation](#) (Rescind)
- [2450-Suspension of Board Policies](#) (Rescind)
- [2600-Consultants to the Board](#)
- [7510-Leave](#)
- ~~[7520-Family and Medical Leave](#)~~
- [7540-Voluntary Shared Leave](#)
- [7550-Absences Due to Inclement Weather](#)
- [7620-Payroll Deductions](#)
- [7810-Evaluation of Licensed Employees](#)
- [7815-Evaluation of Non-Licensed Employees](#)
- [9400-Sale, Disposal and Lease of Board-Owned Real Property](#)

Amy Ray made a motion to approve all items in the Consent list, including accepting Attorney recommendations to remove Policy 7520 Family and Medical Leave, and to approve the others as amended. James Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

George Sieburg, Board Chair - Aye
Amy Ray, Vice Chair - Aye
James C. Carter, Member - Aye
Liza Kelly, Member - Aye
Rebecca Strimer, Board Member -Aye
Sarah Thornburg, Member - Aye
Jesse Warren, Member - Aye

ACTION ITEMS

Board Chair, George Sieburg

1. Personnel Report No. 7

Liza Kelly made a motion to approve the Personnel Report. Rebecca Streimer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

George Sieburg, Board Chair - Aye
Amy Ray, Vice Chair - Aye
James C. Carter, Member - Aye
Liza Kelly, Member - Aye
Rebecca Strimer, Board Member -Aye
Sarah Thornburg, Member - Aye
Jesse Warren, Member - Aye

2. Recommendation to correct the name of the park playground at Jones Elementary School to the Candace Pickens Memorial Park.

James Carter made a motion to approve the recommendation to make the correction. Sarah Thornburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

George Sieburg, Board Chair - Aye
Amy Ray, Vice Chair - Aye
James C. Carter, Member - Aye
Liza Kelly, Member - Aye
Rebecca Strimer, Board Member -Aye
Sarah Thornburg, Member - Aye
Jesse Warren, Member - Aye

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

FINANCE

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

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- Our EC Sustained Support Classrooms at Ira B. Jones Elementary are participating in a special assistive technology project with engineering students from the Franklin School of Innovation. The high school students have observed and determined creative ways to help students by designing, building, and delivering appropriate Assistive Technology solutions for children living with severe and profound physical and cognitive disabilities.
- The AVID program is ramping up recruitment efforts to increase the number of students in the AVID program. A new recruitment flier and AVID recruitment video have been created and shared with staff and students.
- The C&I team is in the process of facilitating mid-year data dives with each school principal.
- The staff for summer programs have been selected and student selection has begun.

- Open enrollment for students for the 2023-2024 school year closes today, March 13th.
- The Newline screen installation is now 99% complete.

OPERATIONS

- We continue to hold active shooter sessions with all staff at each campus.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- ACS Career Fair is coming up on March 24th and 25th. More information is available on the ACS website under the Careers tab.

EQUITY

- The next REI session will be April 22nd and 23rd.
- Anti-Racist Leadership met this week to discuss where we are on the journey and to discuss next steps.
- Students participated in a multi-generational learning event with community members, teachers, and the Asheville City Schools Foundation.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETINGS

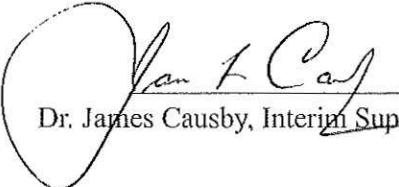
Board Chair, George Sieburg

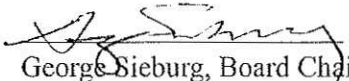
George Sieburg, Board Chair noted a correction to the upcoming meetings listed in the agenda: The next Regular meeting for the Board will be on Monday April 17, 2023 (not April 13).

ADJOURNMENT

George Sieburg, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Liza Kelly seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

George Sieburg, Board Chair - Aye
Amy Ray, Vice Chair - Aye
James C. Carter, Member - Aye
Liza Kelly, Member - Aye
Rebecca Strimer, Board Member - Aye
Sarah Thornburg, Member - Aye
Jesse Warren, Member - Aye


Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent


George Sieburg, Board Chair