

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room  
**Monday, March 6, 2023**

**BE IT REMEMBERED:** The Asheville City Board of Education met in a special called work session on March 6, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. 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, Board 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; Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity; April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations; Kim Robinson, Executive Director of Student Services; Sarah Cain, Executive Director, Exceptional Children and Federal Programs; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer; Nathan Haugaard, Technology Specialist, Tim Holcombe, Acting Assistant Maintenance Director; Tim Shelton, Facilities Director; Derek Edwards, Principal Asheville High School, Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Jo Landreth, Principal AMS; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Copland Rudolph, Director Asheville City Schools Foundation, Anna Gillespie, Attorney; Tracey Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

**CALL TO ORDER**

George Sieburg, Board Chair, called the session to order at 5:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

George Sieburg made a motion to approve the agenda. James C. Carter motioned to approve the agenda. Liza Kelly 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

## INFORMATION AGENDA

- Superintendent Search Update - Board Chair George Sieburg gave an update on the search for the district's next superintendent. The Board has held seven community input forums, as well as sent surveys to staff, students, and community members. Online surveys are due by March 10, 2023. The job application deadline is March 23, 2023. Interviews will begin after Spring Break with the hope to announce the district's next superintendent in May.
- [Food Services RFP](#), April Dockery, shared a memo from Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Causby requesting a service change for our Child Nutrition services. This Request for Proposals from outside vendors is the first step in the process. If this RFP is approved by the Board, the next steps are to verify the team, to have Vendor walk-throughs in April, and applications and presentations due by May 1, 2023. Ms. Dockery assured the board that no employee would lose a position, and that if an outside vendor is chosen, current employees could choose to continue to work for ACS or to work for the vendor. Board members asked questions regarding pay rates from prospective vendors, and concerns with privatization of our Child Nutrition Services.
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023, Tanya Presha presented the list of students from ACS being released to BCS. The Board asked questions regarding the tracking of where students are coming from and going to as they enter and leave the ACS district. The board also asked questions about the process and what is considered when a student asks to enter or leave the district.
- [Board Members Protocol Discussion](#), Rebecca Strimer spoke about different protocols the Board wants to set for their meetings.
- Report on Meeting with County Commissioners Regarding the Asheville Primary School Site, Board Chair George Sieburg summarized Board Chair George Sieburg gave an update on the meeting he, Vice Chair Amy Ray, and Interim Superintendent Dr. Jim Causby had with Buncombe County leadership regarding the site of Asheville Primary School. Buncombe County is asking for a way to make sure the partnership is beneficial for the county and for Asheville City Schools. Asheville City Schools made it known that our needs are a permanent home for the Education and Career Academy, as well as a space for Maintenance, Transportation, and the Child Nutrition departments. Buncombe County would like to potentially use the space for a PreK hub, an EMS hub, and/or a new library. Chair Sieburg noted that the county would take on the responsibility of assessing possibilities for the property, and that this is a long-term discussion with ACS, the City, and the County.
- [Lottery Capital Projects](#), Dr. Causby presented information about the North Carolina State Lottery Fund, which is one funding source for school facilities capital projects. Asheville City Schools currently has approximately \$1.5 million in available lottery funding. Dr. Causby recommended the Board use this money for two projects at Asheville High/SILSA: classroom space near the school's media center, and lights for the baseball field. Asheville High School is the only team in Buncombe County in either baseball or softball that doesn't have lights.



- [Legislative Education Issues](#), Dr. Causby updated the Board on different legislation that centers around education, and highlighted specific bills that could affect ACS, and western NC public schools. Board members discussed options for prioritizing the issues that are most important to our district to our local and state legislators.

Board Chair George Sieburg called a brief Recess at 6:36 pm. The Board returned at 6:34pm.

- AHS North Slope Drainage/Repair [Purchase Order](#) , Georgia Harvey - This was previously Board-approved at \$658,750, but has since increased to \$726,252 and needs updated approval. Tim Holcombe and Tim Shelton explained the change orders and answered questions from the Board.
- [Contract/MOU's](#), Georgia Harvey, Dr. Dickerson presented the contracts and MOUs for information only.
- Safety and Student Services Support Update - Kim Robinson and April Dockery provided the Board with the update that was initially scheduled for the January 6th board retreat. This update included information on student services, discipline data, alternative programming, mental health providers, student health advisory, safety, and crisis response teams.
- Schedule for Budget Education Meeting(s) with Board Members - Dr. Causby stated that the Board will hold two budget education meetings. The first will be Tuesday, March 7th at 5:00 PM. The second will be on Wednesday, March 15th at 5:00 PM. Both meetings will be held in the Boardroom at 85 Mountain Street.
- [Board Members Committee Assignments](#), Dr. Causby discussed different Asheville City Schools committees that different Board members will serve on.
- Policy: Second Read, presented by Dr. Mark Dickerson.
  - [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 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](#)

## CLOSED SESSION

George Sieburg, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 7:34 p.m. James Carter approved the motion. Amy Ray 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

**The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into a closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:**

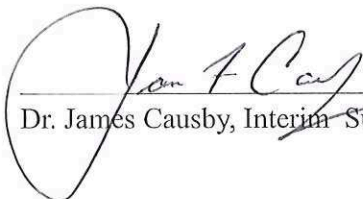
- **Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;**
- **Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.**

The board returned from Closed Session at 8:34pm. Board Chair, George Sieburg reviewed the announcements and upcoming meetings.

## ADJOURNMENT

George Sieburg, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting. James Carter approved the motion. Amy Ray seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:36 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