

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

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

Monday, February 13, 2023

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on February 13, 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; Kim Robinson, Executive Director of Student Services; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator; Dr. Kim Dechant, Director of Recruitment and Induction; Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer; Nathan Haugaard, Instructional Technology Specialist; Sarah Cain, Executive Director, Exceptional Children and Federal Programs; Laura Parks, Director of Secondary Education; Tim Shelton, Assistant Maintenance Director/Property Management; Derek Edwards, Principal, Asheville High; Raufika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fletcher; Anna Gillespie, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, 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:

Mr. Hardison 4th Grade Class,
Lucy S. Herring Elementary

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

GOOD NEWS:

Dillon Huffman, Public Information Officer presented:

- Asheville High/ SILSA Theatre students going on to state competition.

- Recognize the Maintenance Department for their response to the winter weather impact over the holiday break.
- Mrs. Raufika Cobb is the Western Region Principal of the Year
- Thank you, Mr. James C. Carter, for your time and dedication as Board Chair of the Asheville City Schools Board of Education.
- A Resolution of Appreciation to Judge Mr. Stephen Cogburn for serving as an impartial observer of school lotteries for Asheville City Schools for the integrity of student admissions for Asheville City Schools. Judge Cogburn has also been an invaluable advocate and ensuring the appropriate administration of justice and bond forfeiture matters whereby revenues are payable to public schools.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

The following names were called to make a public comment:

In-Person

Pepi Acebo
John Brigham
Dr. Melvin Hines

Virtual

No virtual comments

Agenda Items

Superintendent Search Firm: Board Chair, George Sieburg, and Vice-Chair Amy Ray shared information about the interviews they completed with the three finalist firms Summit, NCSBA, and McPherson & Jacobson. The Board of Education has decided to move forward with a recommendation from Board Chair and Vice Chair to have Summit Solutions conduct the Superintendent Search.

James C. Carter made a motion to accept Summit Search Solutions as the search firm for the Superintendent Search. Rebecca Strimer seconded the motion.

Liza Kelly asked if the Board Chair would ask Summit to make the guarantee for two years. Mrs. Kelly would like for the motion to be contingent upon Summit amending their guarantee to two years. The Board took a recess at 5:45 p.m. to contact Summit Solutions regarding including a two-year guarantee. The meeting reconvened at 6:00 p.m. to move forward with the agenda until hearing back from Summit. Later in the meeting, the Board Chair read the conditions of the second-year guarantee that was sent from Summit Solutions representative Arasi Adkins: Summit Solutions will provide a guarantee for the second year if the selected candidate is terminated or resigns based on performance-related issues within two years of the hiring date. Summit Solutions will also provide a full guarantee if the candidate leaves for any reason during the first year. Mrs. Kelly expressed her satisfaction with both guarantee options.

[Possible Board Committee Assignments](#): Dr. Causby, shared a list of possible committee assignments for the Board Members to choose from.

[School Calendar Resolution](#) - Action Item: Dr. Causby, Interim Superintendent shared a resolution that matches Buncombe County Schools which supports giving schools the flexibility for choosing a start date earlier in August.

CONSENT ITEMS

- Special Called Work Session Meeting Minutes December 2, 2022
- Closed Session Minutes December 2, 2022
- Work Session Minutes December 5, 2022
- Closed Session Minutes December 5, 2022
- Regular Meeting Minutes December 15, 2022
- Special Called Work Session Meeting Minutes January 6, 2023
- Special Called Work Session Meeting Minutes January 23, 2023
- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023
- Budget Amendments

Amy Ray motioned to approve the consent agenda. James C. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS

1. Personnel Report No. 6. James C. Carter motioned to approve personnel report No.6. Rebecca Strimer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
2. [School Calendar Resolution](#). Amy Ray motioned to approve the School Calendar Resolution. Sarah Thornburg approved the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
3. Summit as the Superintendent Search Firm. James C. Carter motioned to approve Summit as the Superintendent Search Firm. Liza Kelly approved the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

HUMAN RESOURCES

- We are hiring teachers, instructional assistants, bus drivers, custodians, substitute teachers, etc.
- The 2023 ACS Career Fair will be held at Asheville Middle School on March 25th and 26th. There is registration information on our website under the Careers tab.
- The ACS Human Resources Team has already conducted two new employee orientation sessions in January and February. If the staff was hired between August 2022 and January 2023 and you have not attended a New Employee Orientation, you will need to make arrangements with your supervisor to attend the session on Thursday, March 2, in the Boardroom at 85 Mountain Street from 4:00 until 5:00.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

- The EC Stakeholders meeting is tomorrow here in the Boardroom from 11:30 AM - 1:00 PM. The community will have the opportunity to meet district leaders, review our goals, receive updates on data, and be given the chance to provide feedback.

FINANCE

- Georgia Harvey and her team are continuing to work on FY24 budget planning.
- This year's transportation budget has received an additional \$144,982 in State allocated funds.

MAINTENANCE

- I am pleased to announce that Tim Holcombe has been named as Acting Assistant Maintenance Director.

EQUITY

- We had our Kick off Day with Dr. Tracey Benson from The anti-racist leadership institute on Feb 6th - 8th and will continue the journey with our cohort of 16 members. Grateful to have our board chair and the Executive Director of the ACSF as participants to work alongside us. This is great timing for this workshop as we honor Black History Month and while we are clear that Black History is 365 days a year - we will be discussing ways to honor Black Excellence.

CURRICULUM & INSTRUCTION

- DPI conducted a monitoring visit of the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) after-school programs in our elementary schools last Wednesday. The after-school programs received rave reviews from the DPI monitoring team. Especially noted was the strong family and parent engagement component of the ACS 21st CCLC after-school programs.
- Middle-of-Year (MOY) academic testing is wrapping up and the MOY assessment window for Social Emotional Learning (SEL) opens today. The C&I team is working with school and district leads to analyze data.
- Open enrollment for students runs until March 13th! Things are going very well.
- Science Gallery Walks for grades 3-8: Teachers, support staff, and administrators are invited to come preview materials and will also be given access to review materials digitally for most curriculums. Teachers may come on February 16th or 20th, 2:30 - 4:30 pm in the ACS Board Room.
- The C&I team continues to cover elementary classrooms so that grade-level teams have extended planning. Between January and February, the C&I team taught 55 classes.
- The new interactive boards have arrived and installation has already begun!

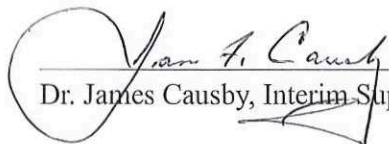
OPERATIONS

- Asheville City Schools welcomed the U.S. Attorney's Office and the Secret Service to Asheville High School last month. This event was attended by law enforcement agencies, school administrators, school social workers, school administrators, and faculty and staff from all over Western North Carolina. Information was shared from a study completed by the National Threat Assessment Center (NTAC) of prior school attacks in the United States and it explored relevant past incidents as well as findings and recommendations from NTAC's latest research on targeted school violence. The presentation also focused on how communities can utilize a multidisciplinary approach to identify, assess, and intervene with students exhibiting concerning or threatening behaviors as early as possible. This presentation was very informative and will be an asset to the processes already in place throughout all of Asheville City Schools.
- Dena King, US Attorney for the Western District of NC, came to the Education and Career Academy to speak about her career with students and staff. This was very well received.
- We are in the planning process for moving our Transportation Offices from the area behind the Board Room to our leased building located at 100 West Side Drive. This is where Maintenance was previously located and where our Food Services Office is located. This will provide much better space for our transportation staff and alleviate concerns about where they are currently located.

The Board of Education voted to change the date of the Regular Board Meeting from Monday, March 13th to Tuesday, March 14th. Amy Ray motioned to approve the new date for the March Regular Board Meeting to March 14th. James C. Carter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:46 p.m. The motion passed unanimously.


Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent


George Sieburg, Board Chair