

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

5:00 p.m. - Work Session - Administrative Offices - Board Room

Monday, September 12, 2022

BE IT REMEMBERED: that the Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on September 12, 2022, 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:

James C. Carter, Board Chair

Martha Geitner, Member

George Sieburg, Member

Peyton O'Conner, Member

Shaunda Sandford Jackson, Member

Staff Members Present:

Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability and Instruction; Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources; Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance; Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services; April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations; Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement; Kristy Coats, Director of Facilities; Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator; Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator; Ian Nelson, Director of Testing and accountability; Dillon Huffman, Communication Specialist; Matt Whiteside; Director of Instructional Technology and Media; Walter Dove, Director of Safety; Jessica Supik, Youth in Transition Coordinator and McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Liaison; Kim Robinson, School Social Worker Coordinator and Restorative Practices Coordinator; Nicole Cush, Principal, SILSA; Carrie Buchanan, Principal Hall Fetcher; Shannon Baggett, Principal MNSA; Ruafika Cobb, Principal Ira B. Jones; Susanna Smith, Director of Preschool, Derek Edwards, Principal AHS; Jo Landreth, Principal AMS; Ruletta Hughes, Principal Isaac Dickson; Dr. Randall Johnson, Director of the Education and Career Academy; Sarah Wright, Principal, Claxton; Sonna Jamerson, Principal Lucy S. Herring; Kris Kaudle, Attorney; Kimberly Jones, Administrative Assistant

CALL TO ORDER

James C. Carter, Board Chair, called the session to order at 5:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

James C. Carter made a motion to amend the agenda to start with the student releases to Buncombe county and to remove policy 5010 for a first-read. Martha Geitner approved the motion to amend the agenda. George Sieburg seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATION AGENDA

- Student Releases to Buncombe County 2022-2023: Tanya Presha, Academic and Program Support Coordinator presented for approval a list of students who live within the Asheville City Schools District who have requested a release from Asheville City Schools.
- The Principals and Directors gave updates on the first weeks of school.

Statement from Board Chair James C. Carter:

On behalf of the board, I want to take this opportunity to first thank all our classified and certified staff, who worked extremely hard over the summer to make sure we got off to a great start to the school year. As you will hear later in the meeting, Asheville City Schools is close to filling a number of needed positions and that is a true blessing.

I also want to thank Dr. Causby, our central office staff, and our principals for their hard work over the summer and every day since school began. Unfortunately, even with all the hard work that our staff has put in, there are those in the community that has chosen to single out and malign specific staff members. On behalf of the Board, I would like to express our sincere appreciation to Deputy Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Melissa Hedt, Mrs. April Dockery, Mrs. Kidada Wynn, and Principal Ruletta Hughes for your dedication to our students and district. Your jobs are difficult and involve the constant struggle to align policy, legal constraints, and what is best for each individual child. Please know that you have the full support of this board and Dr. Causby.

Our former superintendent, and the board, made decisions that were not always well received by some in our community. Unfortunately, many of our staff have caught hell for decisions that they did not control. As Board Chair, I apologize that the challenges of last year were directed at our staff in inappropriate ways and I want to voice our appreciation for what you do for kids in the Asheville City Schools. For those who wish to continue to take issue with decisions that have been made, I ask that you direct your displeasure to the board or superintendent. This board will no longer tolerate the constant assaults on our valued staff. It is time for us to move forward as a district and community, and continue to put our students first in all we do. Thank you.

- [ACS Accountability Update](#): Melissa Hedt, Deputy Superintendent of Accountability and Instruction; Ian Nelson, Director of Testing and accountability shared the following ACS Accountability Update:
 - School Performance Grades
 - Proficiency vs Growth
 - EVAAS Growth
 - ACS Internal Results Review Summary, 2021-22
 - ACS Accountability Highlights
 - Multi-Year Achievement Gap Data
- **Transportation Update**: Amanda Rigsby, Transportation Operations Coordinator, and April Dockery, Executive Director of Operations shared the following updates:
 - Asheville City Schools transportation transports to 12 programs for all students from K-12, which includes all 8 school campuses. Transportation will start transportation for

Pre-K, Community High, Education and Career Academy, and for our Exceptional Children's Department and McKinney-Vento students.

- We have 16 regular ED buses and four EC.
- The number of students that have requested bus transportation is at an all-time high for the district. There are 1587 requests for a.m transportation and 1883 for p.m. requests.
- Mrs. Rigsby is working on training in her department. Recruiting is ongoing. We have new drivers who are taking bus classes and should be driving in the next month or two.
- **Jones Park Proposal**: Attorney Kris Kaudle shared Jones Park Proposed Terms, and Executive Summary for the Board of Education to consider for approval at the September 19th Regular Meeting.
- **McKinney Vento Department Update**: Jessica Supik, Youth in Transition Coordinator and McKinney-Vento and Foster Care Liaison shared the following information:
 - McKinney-Vento Act
 - McKinney-Vento Definition
 - Unaccompanied Homeless Youth and Unaccompanied Homeless Youth "Own Their Own"
 - McKinney-Vento Educational Rights
 - How ACS supports MV students and families
 - ACS MV 21-22 School Year Data
 - MV Families and Pandemic
 - Current MV Needs
 - Ms. Supik Contact Information
- **Human Resources Update**: Dr. Mark Dickerson, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources shared the following updates:
 - 87 New Employees
 - Employee Data by Site as of 9/12/22
 - Employee Demographic Data as of 9/12/22
 - Current Vacancies and Other Vacancies
 - Human Resources Hiring Workflow
 - Resignation Data (since July 1)
 - Position Changes (10-month employees)
 - ESS Substitute Update
 - ACS Beginning Teachers 21-22 and 22-23 by school location, race, and gender
 - Recruitment Events
- **Equity Update**: Marta Alcalá, Executive Director of Equity and Family Engagement shared the following district-wide equity updates:
- **District Mental and Behavioral Health Plan**: Kidada Wynn, Executive Director of Student Services shared updates to the plan that will be submitted to NCDPI by September 15th.
 - Mandatory Training
 - Your Mental Health
 - Suicide Prevention
 - Substance Abuse
 - Teenage Dating and Violence

- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention and Sex Trafficking
 - Mental Health and Restorative Practices
 - District Student Support Flow Chars Available for Reference at Each Campus
 - Student Support Specialist Flowchart
 - Asheville City Schools Crisis Flowchart
 - Suicide Intervention Procedural Flowchart
 - Restorative Practices and restorative Principles
- Budget Amendments: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance, there are no budget amendments
- Budget Updates: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance, shared the following information. The district is using yellow buses for the following afterschool programs In Real Life at AMS and Herring Hearts at Lucy S. Herring. Herring Hearts is one of the 21st Century Programs.
- Contract: Georgia Harvey, Executive Director of Finance, shared the following contact information. [Hall Fletcher Roof-Eskola](#) - BID and [Eskola Contract](#)—pending attorney review of A101.
- Policy First Read [5010 Parent Organizations](#): will be reviewed at a later meeting.

CLOSED SESSION

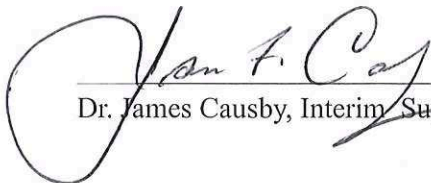
James C. Carter, Board Chair made a motion to adjourn the meeting and go into a closed session at 7:01 p.m. George Sieburg approved the motion. Martha Geitner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

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.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.



 Dr. James Causby, Interim Superintendent



 James C. Carter, Board Chair