

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
MAY 5, 2014

The meeting was held at the Central Office Annex as scheduled with all members present. Chairman King called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Eagle Scout Stanton Moore.

The agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

Dr. Beckworth recognized the 2014 Ashe County Spelling Bee Champion, Damien J., 5th grader at Blue Ridge, and presented the Spelling Bee Trophy to his Principal, Callie Grubb, to display at the school.

Damien J. presented a large jar of pop tops to the Ashe Educational Office Professionals President, Angie Gambill, as a donation to the Ronald McDonald House.

Endowment Committee Chairman Ed Baker, along with Endowment Grant Chairperson Ellie Perzel, recognized the following Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund recipients. Grant awards for 2014 totaled \$10,020.

- Ashe High – Olivia Jenkins – *Blood Pressure Simulation Training Equipment*
- Ashe High – Linda Bennett – *Kitchen Upgrade and Remodeling*
- Ashe Middle – Danny Eldreth and Janis Harless – *Graphic Science: Using Comics to Enhance Learning*
- Ashe Middle – Jessica Yearick – *Future Ready Technology Classroom*
- Blue Ridge – Rachel Nave – *Ukuleles in the Classroom: The exciting method for every child*
- Blue Ridge – Emily Roten – *With the Click of a Mouse*
- Blue Ridge – Tonya Blevins – *Math is "Versatile"*
- Mountain View – Barbara Heufel, Kristi Booker, Lori Hensley, and Debbie Newton – *"LEGO" Math Challenges*
- Mountain View – Robin Nethery, Chelsea Clanton, Misty Prichard, and Kelly Mullis – *Code to Freedom – An Underground Railroad Journey*
- Westwood – Mary Greene – *Tour the World with Music*
- Westwood – Michelle Blevins and Amanda Bloomer – *Time to Talk Tots*
- Westwood – Jessica Greer and Charlene Goodman – *Learning on Fire*

Superintendent Holden presented Principal David Blackburn with a plaque recognizing Mountain View Elementary as a High-Performance School for three consecutive school years.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on April 7, 2014.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Jennifer Stone to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2014/15 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Adam and Ashley Jones to allow their son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2014/15 school year.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

Non-Instructional Support

- Approval of two-year contract for Elizabeth Matheson as school nurse at Westwood effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016
- Approval of two-year contract for Regan Perry as school nurse at Mountain View effective July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2016

Teachers

- Transfer of Ronnie Pruitt from physical education/health teacher at Ashe High to physical education teacher at Mountain View effective August 12, 2014
- Transfer of Robin Reeves from physical education teacher at Mountain View to physical education/health teacher at Ashe Middle effective August 12, 2014

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Crystal Crouse, Frances Fuller and Brooke Gartley to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leave

- Request from Angela Douglas, reading teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on August 12, 2014 through January 1, 2015 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- K-6 teacher at Mountain View and Westwood
- English teacher at Ashe High
- Social studies teacher at Ashe High (possibly two depending on numbers)
- Teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of Bradley Richardson to the approved substitute bus driver list

Tutors

- Reassignment of Dana Johnson from substitute teacher to temporary, part-time tutor (<30 hours per week) at Ashe Middle effective May 12 and ending on or about May 23, 2014 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Cindy Cochrane from substitute teacher to temporary, part-time tutor (<30 hours per week) at Ashe Middle effective May 12 and ending on or about May 23, 2014 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Judy Greer from substitute teacher to temporary, part-time tutor (<30 hours per week) at Ashe Middle effective May 12 and ending on or about May 23, 2014 (prior approval)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Gail Neaves, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, for a family medical leave of absence beginning April 6, 2014 and ending on or about the end of the current school year (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Lisa Jones, bus monitor at Mountain View, for an extension of medical leave of absence ending on or about May 21, 2014 (FMLA total = 8 weeks)

- Request from Ronald Turnmire, custodian at Ashe Middle, for an extension of medical leave of absence with an undetermined end date

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Tutor at Mountain View

Director Michele Reedy of the NC Farm Bureau Federation provided a presentation on *Ag in the Classroom*. NC Farm Bureau provides agricultural outreach grants to North Carolina teachers valued up to \$500. These grants help teachers provide PK-12 students with valuable, real-world education and experiences about the agricultural industry while adhering to the Common Core and Essential Standards curriculum.

The Board was given the 2014/15 Administrator contract recommendations for consideration at the regular meeting in June.

The Board was encouraged to establish a date as close to June 30 for the June year-end and July meetings.

The Superintendent offered the following comments.

- Informed the Board of a \$500,000 grant opportunity through Appalachian State University entitled *Developing Knowledge About What Works to Make Schools Safe*—grant does not require any matching funds from the local school system;
- Update on the 25% Compensation Plan;
- Shared a video featuring 2nd grade students singing a song that they wrote on leadership at the Blue Ridge Leadership day.

Other information items included the following.

- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 2, 2014, 7:00 pm at the Central Office Annex.
- Thursday, May 15—The Board is invited to the District 7 Maintenance Association meeting at Shatley Springs. Dinner will be served at 6:30 pm.
- May 28-June 10—EOG testing for grades 3-8
- June 2-June 6—EOC and NC Final Exam testing for grade 12
- June 4-June 10—EOC and NC Final Exam testing for grades 9-11
- Friday, June 6—High school graduation @ 7:00 pm—Project Graduation immediately following
- Tuesday, June 10—last day for students—early release—11:00, 11:30, 12:00
- Wednesday, June 11—last day for teachers—RTW

A motion at 8:00 pm by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a short recess prior to going into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel item that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6)] and a legal matter [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(3)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:13 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:45 pm.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

- Resignation of Lynette Eller as cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective May 1, 2014
- Resignation of Rebekah Turnmire as tutor at Mountain View effective April 18, 2014
- Approval to advertise for English/drama and masonry teachers at Ashe County High, CTE/technology facilitator at Ashe Middle and tutors at Mountain View

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:49 pm.