

MINUTES  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
May 7, 2018

Prior to the beginning of the regular meeting, Architect Larry Greene gave a public update on the revised architectural drawing for the middle school which included all the requested changes to the initial drawing from middle school staff and directors. The new drawing contains 152,868 square feet, making the cost exceed the approximate budget of \$30,000,000. Mr. Greene responded to several questions and comments.

Immediately following the public session, the regular meeting was held as scheduled with all members present. The Chairman called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Addendums requesting approval to write and submit a literacy grant to the Department of Education and additional personnel recommendations were added to the agenda. The Vice Chairman requested that agenda items 4.07 and 5.05 dealing with personnel be moved until after closed session. The agenda was approved by general consensus.

The Board stated it needs more time to review the architectural drawing for the middle school.

Chairman Jones recognized Zachariah B. as the State 2A Wrestling Champion for the 220 weight class and presented him a certificate acknowledging his accomplishment.

Board Liaison to the Endowment Committee Marcia Elledge and Committee Member Joyce Kilby recognized the following Ashe County Schools Endowment Fund recipients. Grant awards for 2018 totaled \$7,767.

- Mountain View—Jenny Johnson, Kristy Houck, Jana Baldwin, Misty Prichard—*Creating Little Geniuses*
- Westwood—Michelle Blevins, Amanda Bloomer, Annerys Soto, Emily Warrenburg—*Social Skills . . . Opening Doors to Success*
- Mountain View—Shera Ashley—*Hey! Let go of my LEGO!!!*
- Ashe High—Amber Dillingham—*Pottery Wheel*
- Central Support—Lesia Goodman—*Bringing STEM and Literacy Together on the Literacy Express*
- Blue Ridge—Rachel Nave-Lewis—*Coding Music to Life: Exploring Live Musical Compositions and Performances Through Raspberry Pi*
- Ashe Middle—George Zeller, Connie Register—*Acknowledging Diverse Learning Methods*
- Westwood—Sara Lambert, Audrea Little, Holly McClure, Makayla Spencer—*Look What We Do!*
- Ashe High—Angela Brock, Kasee Roberts, Amanda Black, Jennifer Treva, Crystal Bennett, Dwayne Farmer, Heather Phillips, Becky McNeil—*Team Building Skills*

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for April 9, 2018.

Action on the request from Berkeley Brown and Tom Givins, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/19 school year was postponed until the Board receives additional information from Watauga County. According to Ms. Brown, Watauga County needs the Board's decision by May 15, 2018.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High ProStart I State Team members for an overnight trip to attend the invitational Thrive NC festival hosted by Blue

Cross and Blue Shield NC (BCBSNC) in Raleigh, May 10-11, 2018. Funding for the trip will be paid in full by BCBSNC.

A motion from Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the following resolution supporting the observance of the North Carolina Whole Child Month in October each year.

WHEREAS, the observance of North Carolina Whole Child Month in October of each year provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on how to best address the needs of our children;

WHEREAS, recognizing that true student success entails more than just academic achievement, the nonprofit professional organization ASCD (Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development) launched the Whole Child Initiative in 2007; this comprehensive approach to education seeks to adequately prepare today's young North Carolinians for the demands of college, career, and good citizenship; and

WHEREAS, the initiative highlights five key elements that children need to become happy, productive members of society; that they are healthy, safe, engaged, supported, and challenged; and

WHEREAS, the first element is that a child enters school healthy and learns about and practices a healthy lifestyle; and

WHEREAS, the second element is that each student learns in an environment that is physically and emotionally safe for students and adults; and

WHEREAS, the third element is that each student is actively engaged in learning and is connected to the school and broader community; and

WHEREAS, the fourth element is that each student has access to personalized learning and is supported by qualified and caring adults; and

WHEREAS, the fifth element is that each student is challenged academically and prepared for success in college or future study and for employment; and

WHEREAS, the North Carolina affiliate of ASCD (NCASCD) is the largest affiliate and provides professional development and networking opportunities for thousands of educators across our state; and

WHEREAS, the continued prosperity and vitality of our state depends on our children's achieving their full potential, which in turn requires educational policies that ensure young North Carolinians be successful; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Ashe County Board of Education recognizes October as North Carolina Whole Child Month and encourages parents, educators, and community members to support a whole-child approach to education.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2018/19 school calendar as presented by the Superintendent and Board Member Williams.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous to providing ACA 118 College Study Skills at Ashe Early College High School in lieu of career management skills as required at the high school.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Lesia Goodman to write and submit the 2018 Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant from the office of Elementary and Secondary Education, Department of Education. The grant is \$750,000 per year for three years.

Blue Ridge Elementary presented on the Leader in Me Program. A synopsis of the program was led by Callie Grubb, Jerry Baker, June Neaves, Dedra Buchanan, Lora Miller and student leaders Chase Miller and Madison Weaver. Adopted by the school five years ago, the Leader in Me Program has made a huge effect in academics, behavior and attendance. State testing scores have steadily increased, student attendance has reached an all-time peak, and the number of behavior referrals have dropped. This program has also impacted student confidence and leadership skills and abilities. Students take ownership of their personal and academic lives by creating goals as well as strategies to reach those goals. Students encourage and support one another in the attainment of their goals.

Elaine Cox, the principal of Ashe Early College (AEC), gave an update on the student selection process. The final count of 58 students to attend AEC in 2018/19 is composed of 17 rising sophomores and 41 rising freshmen. These numbers will allow approximately 20 students per teacher. All teachers have been hired except for the college liaison, science teacher and counselor. Remodeling the hall assigned to AEC at the community college campus is underway, and student scheduling will begin soon.

The Superintendent had received a request from Ann Rose, Project Director for the Lansing School Project. Ms. Rose is creating an advisory board to help fund and restore the historic school into a school of cultural arts and requested that a member of the Board of Education serve on this board. The Vice Chairman stated that he thought it important that the Board showed support and agreed to attend on behalf of the Board.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mr. King gave unanimous approval to the contract between Appalachian State University and Ashe County Schools for Counseling Services through the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) for the 2018/19 school year.

Human Resources Director Lesia Goodman presented the 2018/19 teacher contract recommendations and the contract non-renewals to the Board for its consideration and review. Action will be taken at the regular meeting for June.

The Superintendent informed the Board that she had met with County Commissioners and that they agreed to fund the \$66,000 needed for safety updates at Mountain View, Westwood and the Early Learning Center. The additional safety features are an outcome of the work of the Ashe County Schools Safety Committee.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Tuesday, May 8—National Teacher Day
- Tuesday, May 8—Career Day @ Ashe Middle, 8:00-1:00 pm—lunch provided
- Tuesday, May 8—Senior Scholarship Banquet, 5:30 pm @ Ashe High gymnasium—*save the date!*
- Wednesday, May 9—Special Olympics @ Ashe High—*rain date is Thursday, May 10*
- Friday/Saturday, May 18-19—Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*
- Friday, June 1—last day for students—early release—11:00, 11:30, 12:00
- Friday, June 1—Required Teacher Workday—High school graduation @ 7:00 pm—Project Graduation immediately following @ Mountain View
- June 4-8—Required Teacher Workdays—student enrichment and/or professional development
- June 11, 12—Required Teacher Workdays
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, June 4, 2018, 7:00 pm in the annex.

At 8:07 pm, the Board took a short recess prior to going into closed session for the purpose of considering a personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(6)] and real estate [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:23 pm and returned to regular session at 10:09 pm.

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

## **CERTIFIED**

### **Central Support Services**

- Resignation/retirement of Kenneth Richardson, director of maintenance, effective May 1, 2018

### **Teachers**

- Resignation/retirement of Phyllis Ashley, CTE health science teacher at Ashe High, effective June 12, 2018
- Resignation/retirement of Hilda Baker, Spanish teacher at Ashe High, effective June 12, 2018
- Resignation/retirement of Sharon Houck, teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2018
- Resignation of Sarah Tugman, science teacher at Ashe High, effective end of day June 12, 2018
- Transfer of Alice Everett from English teacher at Ashe High to English teacher at Ashe Early College High School effective August 13, 2018
- Transfer of Brittany Slaughter from math teacher at Ashe High to math teacher at Ashe Early College High School effective August 13, 2018
- Resignation of Tabitha Schommer, science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective end-of-day June 12, 2018

### **Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Rachel Farley, Kathy Goodale, Shelby Kremer, Jordan Nemeth and Ashley Strange

### **Employee Leaves**

- Request from Katherine Greene, art teacher at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about May 7, 2018 and going through the end of the school (FMLA = 6 weeks + 2 days)
- Request from Cynthia Coldiron, ESL teacher at Ashe High and Westwood, for an extension of medical leave until end of 2017/18 school year

### **Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- Certified staff to begin the 2018/19 school year
- Substitute teachers
- Summer personnel for Literacy Express (grant funded)

## **CLASSIFIED**

### **Bus Driver Substitute**

- Addition of Talmage Lawrence to the approved substitute bus driver list

### **Cafeteria Assistants**

- Resignation/retirement of Barbara Roland, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, effective July 1, 2018
- Reassignment of Kayla Moore from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time cafeteria assistant (4 hours per day) at Ashe High effective April 9, 201 (prior approval)

**Coaches**

- Addition of Briana Ashley as head girls' varsity basketball coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (non-faculty, paid)
- Addition of Kristi Powers as girls' junior varsity basketball coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (paid)

**Office Support**

- Transfer of Beth Hodges from administrative assistant at Central Support Services to administrative assistant at Ashe Early College High School effective July 1, 2018

**Employee Leaves**

- Request from Shannon Barnes, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective April 24, 2018 through the end of the 2017/18 school year (eligible for 12 weeks)

**Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions**

- Lifeguards
- Administrative assistant/receptionist at Central Support Services
- Classified staff to begin the 2018/19 school year
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

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