

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 27, 2019

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

After adding an addendum to personnel, the agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

During open comments, Westwood parents Shawn Horton and Amanda Nighton expressed concerns about the recent reassignment of assistant principals. Both felt the moves had a negative impact on school safety and morale. Mrs. Nighton felt that students should view their school as “a safe, happy school family”.

Lesia Goodman introduced Roy Putman as the new Human Resources Director effective July 1, 2019. Sandra Peterson introduced Julie Taylor as the new K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs Director effective July 1 as well.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on June 3, 2019 and the special training session on June 13, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Courtney Cutillo, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Matthew and Stephanie Boulanger, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Nicole Norman, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2018/19 Budget Amendments as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron. Copies of the amendments are on file in the Finance Office.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the following 2019/20 Interim Budget Resolution as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Chief Financial Officer for the Ashe County Board of Education be, and hereby is, authorized to continue paying salaries and the usual, ordinary expense in amounts not to exceed those set in the current budget period. This authorization is to be effective from July 1, 2019 until the adoption of a new budget resolution pursuant to North Carolina G. S. 115C-434. Any such interim appropriations expended shall be charged to the proper appropriation in the 2019/20 budget upon adoption.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the State mandated Records Retention and Disposition Schedule as presented by Amanda Coldiron at the June 3, 2019 meeting.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave approval to the following personnel recommendations. The vote was 4-1 with Mrs. Eldreth voting nay to the motion.

CERTIFIED

Central Services Support

- Reassignment of Earl Pennington from assistant principal at Blue Ridge to Director of CTE and Testing & Accountability effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)

Administration

- Reassignment of Joallen Lowder from Director of CTE and Testing & Accountability to principal at Blue Ridge effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Lindsey Williams from assistant principal at Mountain View to assistant principal at Ashe Middle effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Gordon Prince from assistant principal at Ashe Middle to assistant principal at Blue Ridge effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Jason Krider from assistant principal at Westwood to assistant principal at Mountain View effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Brian Hampton from physical education teacher at Ashe High to assistant principal at Ashe High effective July 1, 2019

Teachers

- Employment of Erika Donahue as math teacher at Ashe High effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Employment of Taylor Hinrichs as regular classroom teacher at Westwood effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Samantha Shepherd as regular classroom teacher at Westwood effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Charles Bower as regular classroom teacher at Mountain View effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Transfer of Rachel Nave-Lewis from music teacher at Blue Ridge to regular classroom teacher at Mountain View effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Transfer of Amanda Black from teacher of exceptional children at Ashe High to language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Polly Falls as music teacher at Blue Ridge effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year
- Resignation of Andrea Gardner as choral music teacher at Ashe High effective June 30, 2019

Non-Instructional Support

- Approval of one-year contract for Whitney VanSant as coordinator of mental health for Ashe County Schools

Employee Leaves

- Request from Autumn Cline for a parental leave of absence from the beginning of the 2019/20 school year through November 5, 2019
- Request from Holly Roten for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about October 15, 2019 and extending through January 1, 2020
- Request from Terry Richardson, Director of EC and Pre-K programs, for a medical leave beginning on or about July 29, 2019—ending date to be determined

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Certified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Brandy Stanton as bus driver at Westwood effective end-of-day June 27, 2019

Coaches

- Addition of Michael Elliott as assistant football and assistant wrestling coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (volunteer)
- Resignation of Donnie Parker as assistant football coach at Ashe High effective June 4, 2019 (volunteer)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Classified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Ashe TAB (tutoring, attendance and behavior) Coordinator for the 2019/20 school year (full-time, 10 months, JCPC grant)
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Custodian at Ashe High

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2019/20 ACHS coaching assignments as presented by Athletic Director David Koontz. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the submission of BOE training activities as prepared by the Superintendent to the NC School Board Association.

The segment on *The Reading and Writing Connection* scheduled for the Board members' training session on June 13, 2019 was moved to this meeting due to a scheduling conflict with the presenters. Curriculum Director Sandra Peterson introduced teachers Dalton Lewis from the middle school and Becky Wells from Ashe High—Pam Cole from Westwood was unable to attend due to family illness. Each teacher's presentation demonstrated how the integration of the strategies enhanced their classroom lessons. They enthusiastically shared student work samples and digital products of student work produced throughout the school year. Mrs. Well's shared her appreciation for the training by expressing how thankful she was that the system was sharing a consistent strategy that would help students become better writers, and Mr. Lewis thanked the Board for providing training that taught him strategies that would help his struggling students access learning more easily.

Following a presentation by Principal Dustin Farmer, Athletic Director Mitchell Mash and Ashe County Youth Football League (ACYFL) President Larry Bare, the Board approved the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Ashe County Board of Education and the Ashe County Youth Football League. The purpose of the MOA is to set the respective responsibilities of both parties for collaboration on middle school football. The League will have seven teams in the conference, school data managers will check eligibility requirements, and parents are responsible for transportation.

Student Services Director Jamie Little reported that 125 students in grades 1-3 participated in the *Read to Achieve Summer Reading Camp*. Countywide, there were 52 1st graders, 29 2nd graders and 44 3rd graders—

21 of the 3rd graders were required to attend. Of the 21 required 3rd graders, 8 students (38 percent) showed proficiency—3 passed the Read to Achieve test and 5 passed by good cause exemption. The Literacy Express visited each school site for four days of camp, students took a field trip to the Ashe County Public Library to see the Science Teller Show and all students took book bags home filled with seven or more books to keep and read over the summer. The Literacy Express grant provided the books for students.

Earl Pennington and Joallen Lowder gave an update on the testing timelines and levels. In 2017, the State Board of Education adopted new content standards for mathematics and English language arts/reading requiring new assessments. The new assessments for mathematics were effective in the 2018/19 school year, and the new assessments for English language arts/reading will be effective in the 2019/20 school year. Test scores for mathematics will not be available until late August 2019. Mr. Pennington gave an overview of the draft academic achievement levels—Level 2 and below, Level 3, Level 4 and Level 5. Levels 1 and 2 are now combined.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to increasing student overnight field trips for the elementary and middle schools by \$25 should it become absolutely necessary. The current maximum cost for elementary and middle students is \$400—field trips at the high school level will remain at \$500.

The Superintendent commented on the following.

- Schedule Budget Work Session the week of July 1
- Kudos to Westwood Elementary 2nd grade students for donating proceeds from their Lemonade Stand to the Ronald McDonald House

The budget work session was scheduled for Tuesday, July 2, at 7:00 pm in the annex.

The following information items were shared with the Board.

- Thursday, July 18—Endowment Golf Tournament—Mountain Aire
- Monday, August 5—regular meeting of the Board

At 8:55 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 9:04 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:15 pm.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to sending the plan for soil erosion and sediment control prepared by Civil Engineer Jason Herman to the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR). DENR must approve the plan before bid documents can be released.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to changing the painting scheme for the tennis courts per the request of the high school. For an additional cost of approximately \$2,489, the playing area will be purple and the non-play areas will be green with white boundary lines. This additional cost still keeps the project well within budget.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to employing an exceptional children specialist. This new position will be paid from the State allotment for exceptional children.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately adjourned the meeting.