

MINUTES

ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

February 1, 2010

The February meeting was held at Westwood instead of the Board of Education Annex as planned due to weather and parking conditions. All Board members were present. Prior to the regular meeting, a reception was held honoring National Board recipients, Teacher of the Year and nominees, Principal of the Year, Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children, and National Award for Entrepreneurship. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the addition of an overnight trip request from Blue Ridge sixth grade class (item 13.a), the addition to attachment 5 (item 16), and the addition of closed session, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on January 4, 2010.

Superintendent Reeves presented Board member Dorothy Witherspoon with a certificate of recognition for her dedication and service as the 2009/10 *North Carolina School Boards Association* President.

Superintendent Reeves presented the February *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* to Dane Absher, bus driver for Ashe High.

Career and Technical Education Director Joallen Lowder recognized Ashe High teacher Thelma Kastl for her *National Entrepreneurship 101 Award* for outstanding leadership in the field of business creativity and entrepreneurship. Mr. Weaver presented Mrs. Kastl with a certificate recognizing her achievement.

Exceptional Children Programs Director Teresa Stansberry recognized Blue Ridge teacher Tonya Blevins as the 2009/10 *Teacher of Excellence for Exceptional Children*. Mr. Weaver presented Mrs. Blevins with a certificate recognizing her achievement.

Superintendent Reeves recognized recipients of the 2009 *National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS)* certification, and Mr. Jones presented the following with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Sarah Pyles, Ashe High; Sherrie Hines, Ashe Middle; and Sara Benfield, Westwood.

Superintendent Reeves recognized individual school *Teacher of the Year* nominees, and Dr. Beckworth presented the following with a certificate acknowledging their achievement: Scott Turnmyre, Ashe High; Sherrie Hines, Ashe Middle; Courtney Eller, Blue Ridge; Ruth Turnmire, Mountain View; and Billie Gardner, Westwood. Dr. Beckworth recognized Ashe Middle teacher Sherrie Hines as the 2009/10 *Ashe County Schools Teacher of the Year* and presented Mrs. Hines with a plaque acknowledging her achievement.

Superintendent Reeves recognized Mountain View Principal Kimberly Ball as the *2009/10 Ashe County Schools Principal of the Year*. Mrs. Witherspoon presented Ms. Ball with a plaque in recognition of her achievement.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Blue Ridge Odyssey of the Mind team for an overnight trip to compete at the regional *Odyssey of the Mind* competition at Northern Guilford High School in Greensboro, North Carolina, March 5-6, 2010.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Blue Ridge sixth grade for an overnight trip to Washington, DC, March 17-19, 2010.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Weaver gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High varsity cheerleaders for an overnight trip to compete in the CANAM National Cheerleading Championships in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, March 19-21, 2010.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to adopting the *Integrated Pest Management Policy*.

A motion by Mr. Weaver and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to amending Policy 4150, *School Assignment* after striking the last sentence of section B.1 and adding the following requirement to the admission of a nonresident student under section C:

- reciprocal tuition will be paid by a nonresident student coming from a county that charges tuition to Ashe County residents.

Superintendent Reeves presented a proposal for the reorganization of bus routes for the 2010/11 school year, stating that he plans to hold a public hearing in the near future to explain the proposal and present new bus lines. Students in the proposed area of the county are presently transported by buses to Mountain View, but under this proposal, would attend Blue Ridge beginning 2010/11 school year. The proposed area is 2 miles closer to Blue Ridge than Mountain View and would affect 33 students at this time. This recommendation is based on efficient utilization of facilities, efficient operation of buses, continuity of attendance, and continuity of neighborhoods.

Curriculum Director (grades 7-12) Keith McClure presented Ashe County Schools' statewide rankings for 2007/08. Mr. McClure explained that the data was collected and presented by Iredell-Statesville Schools and contained financial, academic, economically disadvantaged, and graduation rate components. Ashe County Schools ranked 13 of 115 school systems statewide. Mr. McClure stated that Ashe County Schools have performed extremely well and that this data will be used to set goals in areas that need improvement.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to the 2010 Endowment Fund Grants as recommended. There were 17 applications and 7 grants awarded. Grants totaling \$5,000 were awarded and those recipients will be recognized at the March Board meeting.

Superintendent Reeves gave an update on the current school calendar and the number of days missed due to inclement weather. A letter will be sent home informing parents that Saturdays will be used as needed to make up days missed that were not included in the calendar for this purpose. In order to attend school on a Saturday, a day during that week must be missed. Days missed may be added at the end of the school year or taken from spring break. Superintendent Reeves would like to survey staff as to their preference on these options.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to the Ashe Middle spring coaching assignments.

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

CERTIFIED

Administrator

- Promotion of Lesia Nave from assistant principal at Blue Ridge to human resources director effective February 15, 2010

Guidance Counselor

- Request from Michael Tasso, guidance/career counselor at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective January 4, 2010 through January 27, 2010 (FMLA=3 weeks+ 3 days)

Instructional Support

- Re-employment of Beverly Clark-Horner as part-time (< 20 hours/week) speech pathologist at Mountain View effective February 2, 2010 (employment subject to the earnings cap)

Teachers

- Request from Ricky Goodman, math teacher at Ashe Middle, for a medical leave of absence effective January 12, 2010 through April 6, 2010 (FMLA=12 weeks)
- Request from Lindsey Williams, math teacher at Ashe High, to extend her family medical leave (maternity) effective January 13, 2010 through the end of the current school year (FMLA=12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions

- Interim math teacher at Ashe Middle
- Literacy specialist at Ashe High

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Reassignment of Terry Woods from substitute bus driver with Ashe County Schools to part-time bus driver (<30 hours/week) at Ashe Middle effective January 4, 2010
- Request from Ann Bickford, bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective January 7, 2010 through February 10, 2010 (non FMLA)

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of James Junior Pennington to the list of approved substitute bus drivers

Cafeteria Assistant Substitute

- Addition of Patsy Shumate to the list of approved substitute cafeteria assistants

Coaching Assignment

- Addition of Mary Beth Knight Greene to the approved spring sports coaches list at Ashe High as assistant varsity girls soccer coach

Custodians

- Employment of Brian Philemon as custodian at Ashe Middle (4 hours/day) and Westwood (4 hours/day) effective January 19, 2010
- Reassignment of Robert Greer from interim custodian at Ashe High to full time custodian at Ashe High effective February 2, 2010
- Resignation of John Tibbs as part-time custodian at Blue Ridge effective end of the day January 29, 2010

School Nurse

- Employment of Tarren Pruitt as interim school nurse at Mountain View effective January 11, 2010

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Janet Barr, Jennifer Ball, Jacob Bradford Wandler, and Brandon Stewart to the list of approved substitute teachers

Teacher Assistant

- Resignation of Dawn Pennington as teacher assistant at Mountain View effective January 20, 2010

Prior approval to employ to fill the following vacant positions

- Interim custodian at Ashe High
- Part-time custodian at Blue Ridge
- Receptionist/office assistant at Blue Ridge
- Teacher assistant at Mountain View
- Tutors
- Bus driver substitutes
- Cafeteria assistant substitutes
- Teacher substitutes
- EC assistant at Ashe Middle

Informational items

- *Calendar of Events*
- Opening of Ashe Middle pool bids, Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 2:00 pm in the Board of Education Annex
- Ashe County Jail open house for Board members, Friday, February 5, 2010, 5:30 – 7:00 pm
- Teen suicide prevention speaker Dave Opalewski, March 22-23, 2010 (times to be announced)
- *Top 20 Parent-Friendly North Carolina School Systems – Ashe County #4*

Following a short recess at 8:55 pm, the Board went into closed session at 9:08 pm.

- For the purpose of discussing [the acquisition of real estate] [the terms of an employment contract]. [N.C. General Statute § 143-318.11(a)(5)]
- 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)]

No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session at 10:24 pm, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.