

## MINUTES

### ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 1, 2010

The March meeting was held at the Board of Education Annex as scheduled with all members present except Mr. Weaver due to illness. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance, and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the addition of an early graduation request (item 8a), a motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on February 1, 2010.

Superintendent Reeves and Dr. Beckworth recognized Ashe County Spelling Bee Champion Josh J., and Dr. Beckworth presented Josh with the Spelling Bee trophy. Josh is an eighth grade student at Ashe Middle.

Superintendent Reeves presented the March *ACS Employee of the Month Award* to Ed Robinson, lead custodian at Westwood.

Superintendent Reeves and Endowment Fund Grant Coordinator Marcia Elledge presented the 2010 Endowment Fund Grant recipients with a certificate. Grants totaling \$5,000 were awarded as follows:

Rainy Day "Wii"cess	Penny Barnes	\$ 400.00	Blue Ridge
Blue Ridge Goes Green	Laura McClure	\$ 990.55	Blue Ridge
	Cathy Shepherd		
iLove to use iPods	Rachel Shepherd	\$ 800.00	Ashe High
Writing and Math on the Fly	Jennifer Treva	\$ 425.50	Ashe High
Forensic Anthropology:			
Skeletal Remains	Sarah Tugman	\$ 483.95	Ashe High
Digital Natives Passport Project	Penny Barker	\$ 900.00	Ashe Middle
Real World...Are We Ready?	Keana Triplett	\$1,000.00	Ashe High
	Becky Wells, Polly Jones, and Christy Rivers		

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request for early graduation from Dale William Thompson for school year 2009/10.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Mrs. Witherspoon gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Technology Student Association for an overnight trip to compete in the 2010 North Carolina TSA State Competition, March 7-10, 2010, in Greensboro, North Carolina.

A motion by Mrs. Witherspoon and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from the Greater Fleetwood Preservation Organization (GFPO) to renew the lease on the Fleetwood Community Center (old Fleetwood School). Carolyn Moser, GFPO treasure, also asked the Board to consider leasing the facility for a longer time frame. The Board gave unanimous approval to extending the lease to 10 years. The current lease with the GFPO expires March 10, 2010.

Appalachian District Health Department Director Danny Staley presented information to the Board regarding the funding status of the School Based Health Center (SBHC) located at Ashe Middle. Mr. Staley stated that continuation funding is no longer available to sustain the (SBHC) through the State Health Department. Options are being pursued to provide services at the center through May 31 of this school year. Community advisory meetings are scheduled to examine other possible means to keep this essential service available for the students at Ashe Middle.

Family Support Facilitator Tara Miller introduced guest speakers and representatives with *Communities In Schools (CIS)*, President and Chief Executive Officer of North Carolina Linda Harrill, Director of Developing Communities Arlene Wouters, and Wilkes County Executive Director Glendora Chipman. CIS representatives presented an overview of services offered to assist with dropout prevention through community-based mentor programs. CIS is currently affiliated with 40 counties across the state of North Carolina, and should CIS be implemented in Ashe County, the program will assist the schools in helping students succeed in school and prepare for life.

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following Resolution Request for a School Calendar Waiver to the North Carolina General Assembly.

**ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION  
RESOLUTION APPROVING THE REQUEST FOR  
A SCHOOL CALENDAR WAIVER FROM THE  
NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
March 1, 2010**

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County School System is required by North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.2.(a)(1) to include in its school calendar for the Ashe County Schools a minimum of 180 days and 1,000 hours of instruction; and

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has the authority to grant relief from this requirement because of an extreme number of school days missed due to record-setting snowfall that has resulted in persistent dangerous travel conditions; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education has fully utilized its adopted inclement weather make-up plan and the attempt to minimize the number of days missed by the use of two-hour delays, limited bus routes, the movement of protected teacher work days to student holidays, and Saturday school has resulted in only one day of recovery; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education has now utilized the spring break days for the recovery of missed school days and the last day for students to attend is currently Tuesday, June 8, 2010; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education began the 2009-2010 school year on Thursday, August 6, 2009 and further lengthening of the school year will risk compromising the 42 consecutive day requirement of North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.2.(b)(2); and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education values at least three weeks in June for retesting or a possible summer intervention program for students in need of academic growth assistance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education is subject to several more weeks of inclement winter weather and is in critical need of the flexibility of the 180 day instructional requirement of North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.2.(a)(1); and

**WHEREAS**, the Ashe County Board of Education remains committed to maximize both the number of days and the number of hours of instruction to ensure the quality of education provided to all students through the continued use of the aforementioned strategies;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:**

1. That the Ashe County Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Ashe County Schools respectfully request the North Carolina General Assembly to permit the Ashe County Schools to meet the minimum instructional day and hour requirement of North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.2.(a)(1) effective through June 30, 2010 by providing a minimum of 180 days **or** 1,000 hours of instruction covering at least nine calendar months; and
2. That the Ashe County Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Ashe County Schools respectfully request the North Carolina General Assembly to grant an alternate provision of relief from the number of days of instruction required by North Carolina General Statute 115C-84.2.(a)(1), if the preceding request is not granted; and
3. That the Ashe County Board of Education and the Superintendent of the Ashe County Schools respectfully request the North Carolina General Assembly to respond to this request within 20 days from the adoption of this Resolution in order for teachers and administrators to have sufficient time for the curriculum, instructional, and logistical planning and assessment necessary to guarantee the uninterrupted continuation of the quality of educational programs currently provided to the students of the Ashe County Schools.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave unanimous approval to the reorganization of bus routes for the 2010/11 school year.

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

**CERTIFIED**

**Teachers**

- Request from Karen Toomey, part-time teacher for exceptional children at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective February 19, 2010 through April 19, 2010 (not FMLA eligible)

- Request from Sheila Johnson, teacher at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave effective February 22, 2010 through March 9, 2010 (FMLA =2 weeks + 2 days)
- Request from Heather Parsons, teacher at Blue Ridge, for an extension of maternity leave to end February 20, 2010
- Reassignment of Linda Johnson from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to interim EC teacher (50%) at Westwood effective February 19, 2010 through April 19, 2010
- Reassignment of Jacob Brad Wandler from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to interim math teacher at Ashe County High on or about April 7, 2010 through the end of 2009/10 school year

### **Substitute Teachers**

- Addition of Dana Johnson and Heather Kilgore to the list of approved substitute teachers

### **CLASSIFIED**

### **Afterschool**

- Release of Julia May, 4-H TRAC tutor coordinator at Blue Ridge, from employment with Ashe County Schools effective February 1, 2010

### **Bus Drivers**

- Resignation of Ann Bickford as bus driver at Westwood effective February 12, 2010
- Resignation of Libby Roark as bus driver at Ashe High effective February 11, 2010
- Release of Erick Langseth, bus driver at Blue Ridge, from employment with Ashe County Schools effective February 8, 2010
- Reassignment of David "Casey" McNeil from substitute bus driver to temporary regular route bus driver at Ashe High effective March 2, 2010 through the end of 2009/10 school year
- Reassignment of Thomas Farmer from substitute bus driver to temporary regular route bus driver at Blue Ridge effective March 2, 2010 through the end of 2009/10 school year
- Reassignment of David Higgins from substitute bus driver to temporary regular route bus driver at Westwood effective March 2, 2010 through the end of 2009/10 school year

### **Bus Driver Substitute**

- Addition of Libby Roark to the approved substitute bus driver list effective February 12, 2010

### **Cafeteria Assistant Substitute**

- Addition of Ann Bickford to the approved substitute cafeteria list for all schools effective February 12, 2010

### **Office Support**

- Employment of Donna Pollard as full time receptionist/office assistant at Blue Ridge effective February 18, 2010

### **Teacher Assistants**

- Request from Nancy Gregory, teacher assistant at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective January 26, 2010 through February 20, 2010 (FMLA =4 weeks)

- Request from Evelyn Colvard, teacher assistant at Westwood, for a family medical leave of absence effective February 4, 2010 through the end of 2009/10 school year (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Reassignment of Rebecca Rose from interim teacher assistant at Mountain View to temporary full time, teacher assistant at Mountain View Elementary effective February 2, 2010

### **Tutors**

- Reassignment of Joy Campbell from substitute teacher to tutor, part-time temporary at Westwood effective March 8, 2010
- Reassignment of Retha Taylor from substitute teacher to tutor, part-time temporary at Westwood effective March 2, 2010

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

- Bus driver substitutes
- Cafeteria assistant substitutes
- Teacher substitutes
- Tutors

### **Information items**

- Calendar of Events
- Teen suicide prevention speaker Dave Opalewski, March 22-23, 2010
- Policy 4150 *School Assignment*
- Policy 9230 *Integrated Pest Management*
- Update on 2010/11 School Calendar Committee
- Board Budget Work Session, Thursday, March 25, 2010, 12:00pm

A motion by Mr. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to taking a short recess prior to going into closed session at 8:25 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 the Board. [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6)]

The Board returned to regular session at 10:36 pm.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Jones gave a 3 to1 approval to the employment of Hannah Reeder as assistant principal at Blue Ridge immediately following her release from Watauga County Schools.

There being no further business, the chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:40 pm.