

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 4, 2011

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

The agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus.

Arts Council Members Judy Dancy and Connie Hardison, along with students representing each school, delivered a singing invitation to upcoming events sponsored by the Ashe County Arts Council.

Superintendent Reeves presented the April *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* to Debra Phipps, cost clerk at the School Bus Garage.

Zach T., a junior at Ashe County High, was the first place winner in the national essay contest sponsored by the Bill of Rights Institute. His sponsoring teacher was Marc Gamble, and over 24,000 entries were received nationwide. Zach attended a special ceremony recognizing his achievement in Washington, DC on March 22, 2011. Dr. Reeves congratulated Zach and presented him with a certificate.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on March 7, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe High AP biology class for an overnight field trip to the Smoky Mountains, May 15-17, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe Middle to attend the Science Olympiad State Tournament in Raleigh, April 28-30, 2011.

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

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Employment of Holly Riddle as temporary 7th grade language arts and social studies teacher at Ashe Middle effective March 15, 2011 (prior approval March 7, 2011)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Michele Hayes and Kim Taylor to the list of approved substitute teachers

Volunteer Substitute Teacher

- Use of Polly Jones as volunteer substitute teacher for Keana Triplett, English teacher at Ashe High, who is on family medical leave—Mrs. Jones will receive no monetary compensation for her services

Employee Leaves

- Request from Cynthia Coldiron, ESL teacher at Westwood, for a medical leave effective March 29, 2011 through May 10, 2011 (FMLA=6 weeks)
- Request from Shannon Williamson, 6th grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave effective March 28, 2011 through the end of the 2010/11 school year (FMLA=9 weeks + 3 days)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED**Bus Driver Substitute**

- Addition of Jody Miller, Johnny Calhoun and Terrence Kepple to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria Assistant Substitute

- Addition of Carol Alderson to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Coaches

- Addition of Tim Badger to the approved coaches list for spring 2010/11 as volunteer assistant men's golf coach at Ashe High
- Addition of Chris Taylor to the approved coaches list for spring 2010/11 as assistant girls softball coach at Ashe Middle (approved as TBD on October 4, 2010)

Tutors

- Employment of Valencia Deardorff as part-time temporary tutor at Blue Ridge effective March 8, 2011 (prior approval)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Mary Graybeal, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, for an extension of medical leave of absence to end on or about April 15, 2011 (FMLA=8 weeks total)
- Request from Mona Hudler, teacher assistant at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence effective March 16, 2011 through April 1, 2011 (FMLA=13 days)
- Request from Sandra Michelle Walton, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective March 24, 2011 and ending on or before June 2, 2011

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Approval to employ staff necessary to open and operate swimming pool located at Ashe Middle
- Substitute bus drivers as necessary
- Substitute cafeteria assistants as necessary

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to adoption of the 2011/12 School Calendar with the stipulation to protect the optional teacher workday on January 16 if possible. Protection of this day is dependent upon how the first semester ends.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the request from Kim Barnes, Director of Federal Programs, to submit the following 2011/12 Federal Grants to the Department of Public Instruction.

- Vocational Education Basic Grant
- Homeless Education
- Title I of the No Child Left Behind Act
- Improving America's Schools Migrant Education
- IDEA VI-11-B Education of the Handicapped Act
- IDEA Pre-School Handicapped Grant
- IDEA VI-B Pre-School Targeted Assistance
- Rural and Low Income Schools
- Title II Teacher Quality Enhancement Grant
- Title III Language Acquisition for Second Language Learners

Superintendent Reeves asked for consideration in relocation of the Ashe Early Learning Center Pre-K classrooms to Mountain View for the purpose of saving money in the areas of energy and personnel costs. From an educational perspective, students would have availability to a school counselor and nurse, access to the media center, and would be on campus for school programs and socialization. Student safety will also be enhanced. Dr. Beckworth questioned how the move would affect the program's current five star rating. Following discussion, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to relocation of the Ashe Early Learning Center Pre-K classrooms to Mountain View.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to a request from the Ashe High FFA for an overnight trip to attend state-level competition for horse judging at Martin Community College in Williamston, NC, April 15-16, 2011.

Sara Benfield provided information from the Autism Society and informed everyone that April is National Autism Awareness Month. The school system is currently serving 22 autistic students.

Dr. Calvin Miller and Marcia Elledge gave an update on the Endowment Grant Fund. The fund has \$5,350 available for distribution in 2011. Eleven applications were submitted, and seven grants will be awarded and announced at the regular meeting for May. Dr. Reeves added that the annual Golf Tournament date has been set for July 20, 2011 at Mountain Aire.

Superintendent Reeves provided an update on the Strategic Plan for Ashe County Schools. The Steering Committee is halfway through the process at this point. Dr. Reeves presented the Vision, Mission, and Belief statements to the Board. The next phase of this process will focus on developing goals and strategies within six priority areas.

Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates presented *Policy 8342 Limited Claim Settlement* for the Board's consideration. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance and procedures when claims are filed for injuries to person or property sustained while on school property or at a school-

sponsored event not covered under other applicable insurance. In keeping with Board policy, action will be taken at the May 2011 meeting.

The Superintendent presented a list of questions/concerns regarding the wireless infrastructure at Ashe High and requested guidance from the Board. Dr. Beckworth's concern is that Skyline not be asked to guarantee more than what was in the original request for proposal (RFP). The Board came to a unanimous decision and directed the Superintendent to meet with Skyline to resolve any concerns.

Informational items included the following.

- Pool Celebration, Community Collaboration Flows from Generation to Generation, ACMS, Sunday, May 1, 2:00 pm
- Board Meeting, Monday, May 2, 7:00 pm at the Ashe County Arts Council

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval at 8:53 pm to 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 9:05 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 10:08 pm.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the resignation of Heather Peters as school nurse at Mountain View effective April 29, 2011 and the resignation of Nancy Rupard as bus monitor at Mountain View effective April 15, 2011.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to posting the principal position at Mountain View internally. The posting is to run through April 15, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous prior approval to employ an interim nurse and temporary bus monitor.

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