

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 6, 2011

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

Dr. Beckworth requested that Action Items 4.08, 4.09, 4.10 and 4.11 be moved to follow closed session. With no opposition, the agenda for the meeting was approved by general consensus of the Board.

Superintendent Reeves presented the *May Ashe County Schools' Employee of the Month Award* to Jacki Miller, VoCATS Coordinator at Ashe High.

Carolyn Shepherd and Rhonda Church from Ashe Cooperative Extension Service and Superintendent Reeves recognized Child Nutrition Director Angie Thompson, principals and second grade teachers for receiving the State Golden Star Award for Collaboration with the Ashe County Schools and the NC Cooperative Extension Ashe County Center in the Expanded Foods and Nutrition Education Program.

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 May 2, 2011 and the special meetings on May 12 and May 31, 2011.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Ashe High FFA for an overnight trip to attend the NC State FFA Convention in Raleigh, NC, June 21-23, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Sheri King, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her children to attend school in Watauga County effective school year 2011/12.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Terry Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Chantel Pelletier, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her children to continue in school in Watauga County effective school year 2011/12.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a request from Judd and Sarah Pinnix, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective school year 2011/12.

Policy 4400 Attendance 9-12 was presented with recommended changes from the May 2 meeting highlighted. Although Dr. Beckworth commended the group for their work on the policy, he expressed concern about lowering the standards and wanted the make-up time to be 45 minutes of seat time. Dr. Beckworth would also like to review the results and reevaluate the policy after one year. Mrs. Jones believed that students need the ten days to make up assignments but that grades should be left to the teachers' discretion. A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to adopting the recommended revisions to *Policy 4400 Attendance 9-12* with the stipulation that policy be reviewed in one year.

Policy 3460 Graduation Requirements was brought up for approval from the May 2 meeting. Dr. Beckworth was adamantly opposed to a 21 credit diploma because he believes this lowers the standards of Ashe County Schools, tarnishes the diploma, and sends the wrong message to students. He also stated that “we, as a Board of Education, need to decide if our goal is graduating students with 21st century skills to compete for 21st century jobs or if it’s our goal to raise the graduation rate and lower the dropout rate—the 21 credit diploma makes these two goals mutually exclusive.” A motion was made by Mr. Williams to incorporate 21/24 credit diplomas with the stipulation of mandatory review by the Board in one year. A second by Vice Chairman Jones led to a 4-1 approval to adopting the recommended revisions to *Policy 3460 Graduation Requirements* with Dr. Beckworth opposing.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the proposal to revise the transportation routing system for 2011/12 as presented by Transportation Director Shea Coldiron. The primary goal of the change is to reduce bus ride time for students.

Following an overview by Maintenance Director Kenneth Richardson, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to changing the boundary line agreement between the Board of Education (Fleetwood property) and Victoria Hamby Moore and husband, Christopher Charles Moore. The agreement will increase property owned by the school system 10-12 feet and enable the Moore family to obtain a clear deed to their property.

The Board was asked to lift the ban on out-of-state travel for staff development in full or by an indicated radius. Superintendent Reeves stated that out-of-state travel was banned three years ago due to the decrease in staff development funding. Staff development opportunities are available in adjoining states that are no further away than Raleigh. Race to the Top funding could also require out-of-state travel. Chairman King asked that this be looked at further and postponed until the next regular meeting.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to rolling the current US Foods bid for food and supplies and the Pet Dairy bid for milk and ice cream into the 2011/12 school year. A cooperative agreement between Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, and Watauga counties enabled the consortium to secure better pricing for food and supplies.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to awarding the bid for bakery items to Sara Lee/Earthgrains for the 2011/12 school year. This bid was also secured through the consortium.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a price increase for paid student and adult breakfasts for the 2011/12 school year. The paid breakfast will increase from 75¢ to \$1 and, the adult breakfast will increase from 90¢ to \$1.25.

Information items included the following:

- Meeting with County Commissioners—Monday, June 6, 3:45 pm, Courthouse
- Special Board Meeting—June 13, 12:00 noon, annex
- The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 30, 2011, 7:00 pm and will be held at the annex. This meeting is for year-end requirements and the regular meeting for July 2011.
- Summer Conference, Monday-Wednesday, July 11-13, ACHS
- The 10th Annual Endowment Golf Tournament, Wednesday, July 20, Mountain Aire

- Administrators' Retreat—Wednesday, July 27, Broyhill Conference Center, ASU

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to a short recess at 7:52 pm before going into closed session to discuss personnel action that involves an officer or employee of this Board [N.C. General Statute §143-318.11(a)(6)].

The Board returned to regular session at 11:04 pm.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave 4-0 approval to the following personnel recommendations with Dr. Beckworth abstaining.

CERTIFIED

Teachers

- Resignation of Rebecca Lane, 8th grade science teacher at Ashe Middle, effective end-of-day June 3, 2011
- Resignation of Jill Smithers, CTE teacher at Ashe High, effective June 30, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Patricia Maltba, kindergarten teacher at Mountain View, effective June 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Sharon Eldreth, teacher for exceptional children at Westwood, effective June 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Robert Kilby, social studies teacher at Ashe High, effective June 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Dianne Eldreth, AIG teacher at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2011
- Transfer of Thelma Kastl from CTE teacher at Ashe High to CTE teacher at Ashe Middle effective August 4, 2011
- Transfer of Angela Roland from CTE teacher at Ashe Middle to CTE teacher at Ashe High effective August 4, 2011
- Reassignment of Kathryn Overcash from substitute teacher to interim 4th grade teacher at Mountain View effective May 6, 2011 through end of school year 2010/11 (to fill leave of absence)

Employee Leaves

- Request from Rachel Shepherd, social studies teacher at Ashe High, for a parental leave effective August 4, 2011 and ending on or about September 28, 2011 (FMLA= 6 weeks)
- Request from Kristy Houck, PK teacher at Ashe Early Learning Center, for a parental leave effective on or about August 21, 2011 and ending on or about November 7, 2011 (FMLA=12 weeks)

CLASSIFIED

Afterschool

- Resignation of Jennifer Ball, 4-H afterschool on-site coordinator at Ashe Middle, effective July 1, 2011

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Carl Farmer, bus driver at Blue Ridge, effective June 2, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Margaret Marze, bus driver at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2011

Cafeteria Assistant

- Resignation/retirement of Jerry Rex Blevins, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, effective July 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Ruby Lewis, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, effective July 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Ardene Testerman, cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2011

Lifeguards

- Employment of Peyton Brown as part-time, temporary lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective June 7, 2011 (prior approval—contingent upon drug screen and background checks)
- Employment of Sierra Wilson as part-time, temporary lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective June 7, 2011 (prior approval—contingent upon drug screen and background checks)

Office Support

- Retirement/resignation of Kathie Beckworth, program support at the Central Office, effective August 1, 2011
- Resignation of Melissa Pennington, office assistant with health duties, at Westwood effective end of day May 16, 2011
- Reassignment of Kathy Hartzog from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to temporary office assistant at Westwood effective May 17, 2011 through June 3, 2011 (for Melissa Pennington)

Pool Manager

- Additional assignment for Susan Poe, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, as temporary, full-time pool manager at Ashe Middle effective May 25, 2011

Teacher Assistants

- Resignation of Davina Anderson, teacher assistant for exceptional children at Westwood, effective end-of-day June 3, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Betty Rash, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, effective July 1, 2011
- Resignation/retirement of Katy Huffman, teacher assistant at Westwood, effective July 1, 2011
- Reassignment of Rebecca Rose, substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools, to temporary teacher assistant with exceptional children at Mountain View effective May 3, 2011 through end of school year 2010-2011(prior approval)
- Employment of Leigh Stratton as temporary teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe Middle effective May 5, 2011 through end of school year 2010-2011

Employee Leaves

- Request from Brandon Shepherd, transportation safety assistant at Ashe Middle, for educational leave of absence effective August 9, through December 21, 2011
- Amended request from Lesa Absher, teacher assistant at Mountain View, for a medical leave of absence effective May 23, 2011 and ending on or about August 15, 2011 (FMLA ≈ 3 weeks)
- Request from Clarence Dillard, custodian at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning May 18, 2011 through undetermined (FMLA not eligible)
- Request from James Johnson, bus driver at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave of absence beginning May 16, 2011 through the end of the current school year (FMLA eligible)

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following four-year administrator contracts.

- Jerry Baker—Assistant Principal, Ashe County High
- Callie Grubb—Assistant Principal, Ashe County High
- Elaine Cox—Assistant Principal, Ashe County Middle

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave 3-0 approval to the following probationary contracts. Dr. Beckworth and Mrs. Jones abstained due to conflict of interest.

- Ashe High—Mark Baldwin, Josh Beckworth, Angela Brock, Daniel Calhoun, Ryan Claar, Mark Maya, Christy Rivers, Mark Shepherd, Edgar Simmons, Stephen Simms, Jill Starling, Sarah Tugman, Jennifer Wilkinson and Lindsey Williams
- Ashe Middle—Janice Brice-Nash, Patricia Burkhart, Gina Calhoun, Harry Calloway, Summer Davis, Kelly Gunderson, Johnna Johnson, Gordan Prince, Meghann Roberts, Katherine Robinson, Stephanie Stolt, and Horace Thompson
- Blue Ridge—Margaret Fernandez, Andrea Huovinen, Kayla Rash and Kim Turnmire
- Westwood—Jessica Greer, Audrea Little and Dianna Miller

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to terminating the contract with Gary Dillard, bus driver at Mountain View, as recommended by the Transportation Director Shea Coldiron and Coordinator of Classified Personnel Marcia Elledge.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned at 11:09 pm.