

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
September 12, 2011

The meeting was held in the auditorium at Ashe County High School as scheduled with all members present. Chairman King called the meeting to order, welcomed those in attendance and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

The Board heard two open comments. Rebecca Herman from the Ashe County Arts Council informed the Board that September 11-17 is National Arts Education Week and recognized each art teacher employed by the school system. Mrs. Herman also gave the Board a copy of the 2011/12 Arts Council School Programming Calendar. Angela Brown then spoke and requested increased communication between the schools and parents. She asked that all individual web sites be kept up-to-date, particularly teacher information. Mrs. Brown also asked that the Board consider expanding communication to RSS feeds, facebook, text messaging, etc.

The Board recognized Ashe High Coach Laura Foster on her selection as all-star basketball coach for the West team by the North Carolina Coaches Association. Ms. Foster was unable to attend. The high school principal accepted the certificate on her behalf.

The Superintendent recognized Carolina West Wireless for upgrading the cellular infrastructure and service at Mountain View and Westwood Elementary Schools. Joel McMillan accepted the certificate on behalf of Carolina West.

Superintendent Reeves recognized Blue Ridge Teacher Assistant Helen Robinson as the September *Employee of the Month* and presented her with a certificate.

The Superintendent recognized Pat Jordan, Jennifer Richardson, Rachel Shepherd and Don and MaryAnne Moore, members of the Ashe County Middle School Community Pool Committee. The committee received a grant in the amount of \$40,000 from the Ronald McDonald Charities, enabling the committee to pay its final share of the pool project in full. The Superintendent presented Don and MaryAnne Moore a certificate of appreciation for their support of the middle school pool project.

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 August 1, 2011 and special meeting on August 15, 2011.

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

CERTIFIED

Central Office

- Additional duties for K-12 curriculum assigned to Phil Howell effective August 1, 2011

Teachers

- Resignation of Courtney Hoskins as 1st grade teacher at Westwood effective end-of-day August 23, 2011
- Resignation of Mark Shepherd as CTE masonry teacher at Ashe High effective July 31, 2011
- Promotion of Evelyn Colvard from teacher assistant at Westwood to kindergarten teacher at Westwood effective August 29, 2011 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Kasey Jones from teacher assistant for exception children at Ashe Middle to teacher for exceptional teacher at Ashe Middle effective September 1, 2011
- Reemployment of David Smith as ROTC instructor at Ashe High effective September 1, 2011 (prior approval)
- Reemployment of Kelly Holleman as 7th grade language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle effective September 1, 2011
- Employment of Susan Poe as 5th grade teacher at Blue Ridge effective August 4, 2011 (prior approval)
- Employment of Laura Absher as 6th grade teacher at Westwood effective August 4, 2011 (prior approval)
- Employment of Lindsey Hagel as teacher for exceptional children at Westwood effective August 4, 2011 (prior approval)
- Employment of Reba Cox as school nurse at Ashe High effective September 8, 2011 (prior approval)

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Jessica Yearick, Linda Caldwell, Sarah Smith Furches, Ann Peters, Amanda Gouge, Jeanne Coward, Sierra Phipps, Suzanne Taylor, Amanda Black, April Perry, Sherry Hamm, Julianne Jones, Amy Jones and Meghan Newcomb to the substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers as necessary

CLASSIFIED

Afterschool

- Employment of Amanda Spann as 4-H afterschool LINK coordinator at Ashe Middle effective August 4, 2011 (prior approval)
- Employment of Thomas Burne as 4-H afterschool onsite coordinator at Blue Ridge effective August 11, 2011 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Terrance Kepple from substitute bus driver to 4-H afterschool onsite coordinator at Ashe Middle effective August 4, 2011 (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Erica Roten from substitute teacher to 4-H afterschool LINK coordinator at Blue Ridge effective August 9, 2011 (prior approval)

Bus Driver

- Reassignment of Randy Mahaffey from substitute bus driver to regular route driver at Blue Ridge effective August 22, 2011
- Reassignment of Daniel Wayt from substitute bus driver to regular route driver at Mountain View effective August 22, 2011
- Reassignment of Chris K. Watson from substitute bus driver to regular route driver at Blue Ridge effective August 22, 2011
- Reassignment of Denver Caudill from substitute bus driver to regular route driver at Blue Ridge effective August 22, 2011
- Transfer of Denise Austin from bus driver at Blue Ridge to bus driver at Mountain View effective August 22, 2011

Cafeteria Assistants

- Reassignment of Lynette Eller from substitute cafeteria assistant to full-time cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective August 29, 2011 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Angela Calhoun from part-time cafeteria assistant (4 hours per day) at Mountain View to full-time cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle effective August 9, 2011 (prior approval)

Cafeteria Assistant Substitutes

- Addition of Sandy Greer and Kristy Townsend to the approved substitute cafeteria assistant list

Coach

- Addition of Matthew Spencer to the approved Ashe High approved coaches list as assistant women's golf coach effective August 29, 2011 (non-faculty)

Office Support

- Transfer of Jacki Miller from CTE assistant at Ashe High to receptionist at Ashe Middle effective August 4, 2011

Teacher Assistants

- Resignation/retirement of Debbie Dishman as teacher assistant at Mountain View effective September 1, 2011
- Reassignment of Rebecca Rose from substitute teacher to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective August 4, 2011
- Reassignment of Meagan C. Lancaster from substitute teacher to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Westwood effective August 4, 2011
- Reassignment of Dwayne Farmer from substitute bus driver/bus monitor to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective August 4, 2011

Transportation Safety Assistant

- Resignation of Valerie Greer from transportation safety assistant at Mountain View effective August 3, 2011

Employee Leaves

- Request from Amber Woodward, cafeteria assistant at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence effective on or about September 30, 2011 and ending on or about November 22, 2011

- Request from Thomas Zachary, bus driver at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence effective August 9, 2011 and ending on or about September 30, 2011

Prior approval to employ for the following vacant positions

- Transportation safety assistants at Ashe High and Mountain View
- Part-time cafeteria assistant at Mountain View
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to submission of the LEA Based Calendar Waiver Request for 2012/13 for weather related causes.

Following an in-depth discussion of Board requirements for academic credits and community service hours, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the following requests for early graduation for school year 2011/12:

- Amanda Calhoun, Dawn Darnell, Jessica Eller, Taylor Greer, Ashlyn Harman, Tristina Keagy, Chelsea Mahala, Sierra Neaves, Harley Osborne and Victoria Rash

Mrs. Jones stated that a school counselor should attend any future meetings when requests for early graduation are on the agenda.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to attend the choral clinic at Gardner-Webb University, October 12-13, 2011.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to Orlando, Florida, to participate and perform in *America Sings!*, February 23-26, 2012.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Ashe High Husky Show Choir for an overnight trip to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee to compete in *Music in the Parks*, May 4-6, 2012.

Superintendent Reeves and Human Resources Director Lesia Nave gave an overview of the 2011 legislation with policy implications and impact. House Bill 769, High School Work Partnership, requires that the Board adopt a policy with provisions for students absent from school for job-shadowing activities. Senate Bill 466, Modify Teacher Career Status Law, states that local boards may adopt or amend policies to reflect changes for mandatory improvement plans. This bill also requires the LEA to create a list of qualified observers from recommendations submitted by school improvement teams and to follow the detailed provisions for dismissal of probationary and tenured teachers. Mrs. Nave will prepare and submit policies and/or amend current policies to address these legislative directives to the Board for consideration in the near future. In addition, House Bill 736 amends the law in regard to school discipline. It also requires the development of a Student Code of Conduct that defines acceptable/unacceptable student conduct and clarifies revisions to suspension and expulsion laws [115C-390.2(c)]. The completion of this document should be finished in early spring and included in the 2012/13 student handbooks.

Superintendent Reeves and Testing/Accountability Director Phil Howell gave an in-depth overview of the 2010/11 testing results for ABCs, AYP, Cohort Graduation Rate, SAT and ACT. Information on the upcoming changes within North Carolina's accountability system was also shared.

Superintendent Reeves reported that the early release on Thursday, September 1, for professional development for transition to Common Core was successful.

Information items included the following.

- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 3, 2011, 7:00 pm, at the central office annex.
- Strategic Plan Celebration—Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 PM, ACHS auditorium
- NCSBA nominations—Raleigh Dingman Award and NCSBA County Commissioners Award—nominations due prior to October 7, 2011
- The return to last year's bus routing system is running smoothly.
- NCSBA District Meeting—September 28, 3:00 pm, Watauga High School

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval at 8:29 pm to taking a short recess prior to going into closed session 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)].

Before officially going into closed session, a motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to a request from Pamela Ann DeBord to allow her daughter, Rusty Layden Bare, to attend school in Alleghany County effective immediately. This request was received after the September agenda was approved.

The Board went into closed session at 8:48 pm. No action was taken. Upon return to regular session at 10:53 pm, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.