

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 3, 2012

The December meeting was held at the Board of Education annex as scheduled with all members present. Superintendent Reeves called the meeting to order and welcomed those in attendance.

Policy 2200, *Election of Officers/Organization of Board*, requires that the Board of Education hold an organizational meeting at the first meeting in December of each year at which time a chairman and vice chairman are elected. Following opening remarks by Superintendent Reeves, the floor was opened for nominations for chairman. Mr. Jones nominated Charles King followed by a second from Dr. Beckworth. A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to Mr. King continuing as chairman. Superintendent Reeves relinquished the meeting to Chairman King who opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Mr. Williams nominated C.B. Jones to continue as vice chairman. A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to Mr. Jones continuing as vice chairman. There was no opposition to the Chairman's suggestion that the Board continue meeting on the first Monday night of each month (unless altered by a holiday) at 7:00 pm in the annex.

The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by the Chairman.

The Board gave unanimous approval to the agenda for the meeting.

During open comments, Superintendent Reeves expressed heartfelt appreciation to the Board for giving him the opportunity to lead this school system. He thanked the Board for its support and expressed appreciation to the people with whom he worked.

Superintendent Reeves presented the *Ashe County Schools Employee of the Month Award* for December to Janet Miller, teacher assistant at Mountain View.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on November 5, 2012.

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

CERTIFIED

School Nurse

- Re-employment of Mary Burgess as part-time temporary school nurse at Westwood effective November 5, 2012

Teacher

- Re-employment of Kelly Gunderson as media coordinator at Ashe Middle effective January 1, 2013

Substitutes

- Addition of Pamela Brady and Darlis Farmer to the approved substitute teacher list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Lucy Barker as bus driver for Ashe County High and from employment with Ashe County Board of Education effective November 12, 2012

Substitute Bus Driver

- Addition of Dale Wineberg to the approved substitute bus driver list

Coaches

- Addition of Brett Miller to the approved winter coaches list as volunteer 7th grade boys basketball coach at Ashe Middle
- Addition of Nathan Colvard to the approved winter coaches list as volunteer men's basketball coach at Ashe High

Custodian

- Re-employment of Clarence Lewis as interim custodian at Westwood effective November 16, 2012

Teacher Assistants

- Resignation of Maude Goodman, teacher assistant at Mountain View, effective November 30, 2012
- Reassignment of Linda Caldwell from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective November 6, 2012

Tutors

- Employment of Dustin Absher as part-time tutor at Mountain View effective January 3, 2013
- Re-employment of Charity Ballou as part-time tutor at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2013
- Reassignment of Mike Eldreth from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2013
- Reassignment of Jessica Yearick from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Blue Ridge effective January 3, 2013
- Reassignment of Rebecca Howell from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Mountain View effective January 3, 2013
- Reassignment of Sierra Phipps from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Westwood effective December 4, 2012
- Reassignment of Tonya Lee from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Westwood effective December 4, 2012

- Reassignment of Darlis Farmer from substitute teacher with Ashe County Schools to part-time tutor at Westwood effective December 4, 2012

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Custodian at Ashe High
- Teacher assistant at Mountain View
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

Mike Wike of the accounting firm Anderson Smith and Wike, PLLC presented the 2011/12 comprehensive annual financial report. He reported that Ashe County received an unqualified audit report which means it was clean with no findings and of the highest level. Mr. Williams commended Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates, the finance staff and directors for having this exceptional audit.

The elementary art teachers Jorena Sparks, Lindsey Postlethwait and Olivia Snider gave a presentation on *Arts Across the Curriculum* and how they were collaborating to implement the new common core standards into their curriculums.

The Propane Service Agreement between Blue Ridge Energies and Ashe County Schools was discussed. Dr. Beckworth asked a question regarding liability for operating a modified bus. Assistant Superintendent Phyllis Yates stated that, according to the Board attorney, the school system would be covered under governmental immunity and that attorneys from both parties are working on the final details of the agreement. This item will be placed on the January agenda.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the following *Resolution to Rescind Sequestration*. This resolution will be sent the National School Boards Association (NSBA) and representatives in Washington.

WHEREAS, a world class public education is essential for the future success of our nation and today's school children; and

WHEREAS, the Budget Control Act of 2011 includes a provision to impose \$1.2 trillion in across-the-board budget cuts to almost all federal programs including education that would become effective January 2, 2013; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts would impact school districts during the 2013/14 school year, with the exception of the Impact Aid program, with which a reduction would become effective this school year; and

WHEREAS, these across-the-board budget cuts, also known as sequestration, would impact education by a reduction in funds of 8.2 percent or more; and

WHEREAS, sequestration would impact almost every public school system in the nation and the millions of students educated through programs such as Title I grants for disadvantaged students, the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), English Language Acquisition, Career and Technical Education, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, and more; and

WHEREAS, Ashe County Schools, as well as other public schools, would be impacted nationwide by an estimated \$2.7 billion loss from just three programs alone—Title I grants, IDEA special education state grants and Head Start—that serve a combined 30.7 million children; and

WHEREAS, federal funding for K-12 programs was already reduced by more than \$835 million in Fiscal Year 2011, and state and local funding for education continues to be impacted by budget cuts and lower local property tax revenues; and

WHEREAS, states and local governments have very limited capacity to absorb further budget cuts from sequestration, as Ashe County Schools has already implemented cuts commensurate to state and local budget conditions;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ashe County Board of Education, Jefferson, North Carolina urges Congress and the Administration to amend the Budget Control Act to mitigate the drastic cuts to education that would affect our students and communities, and to protect education as an investment critical to economic stability and American competitiveness.

Information items included the following:

- Thursday, December 6—Northwest Region 7 Legislative Forum—NWRESA Center, 10:00 am
- Christmas Break—December 21 through January 1
- Wednesday, January 2—Required teacher workday
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, January 7, 2013, 7:00 pm, at the central office annex.

Chairman King thanked Dr. Reeves for the time and effort he has given to Ashe County Schools over the past three years and wished him well as Superintendent of Surry County Schools.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave approval to a short recess at 8:05 pm prior to going into closed session at 8:15 pm 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)].

The Board returned to regular session at 10:17 pm.

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

CERTIFIED**Teachers**

- Employment of Katherine Hill as art teacher at Ashe High effective January 2, 2013

CLASSIFIED**Child Nutrition**

- Reassignment of Kim Osborne from temporary cafeteria assistant at Mountain View to permanent cafeteria assistant at Mountain View effective December 4, 2012

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute custodian at Ashe County High
- Half-time teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe County Middle (based on student need)

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 10:20 pm.