

## MINUTES

### ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

March 25, 2013

The Board held a budget work session beginning at 5:00 pm with all members present. The primary purpose of the meeting was to preview the current and capital budget requests, technology needs, the State budget and the request for funding from the County Commissioners.

Technology Director Amy Walker reviewed her request for computer devices. She explained to the Board that the school system's current infrastructure is now very conducive to wireless devices. Schools are now given a choice as to whether they want iPads or laptops. It is still uncertain whether or not the upcoming State budget will provide any funding for technology.

Discussion was heard on the school system purchasing computers rather than leasing the computers for three years. Mrs. Walker was not opposed to the purchasing concept as long as it is kept on the same three-year rotating cycle. After discussing the pros and cons of each, a motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to purchasing computers on a three-year rotation cycle.

The Superintendent and Chief Financial Officer presented their recommendations on the budget requests received from principals and directors for 2013/14. The Board discussed the many bills being presented at the State level which will impact State funding and felt it was too early make local budget decisions until it becomes clearer what direction the General Assembly will take during its deliberations.

The 2013/14 budget request to the County Commissioners is due to the County Finance Office by April 5. Based on the current information from the Department of Public Instruction, the Board decided to split the discretionary reduction and the loss in textbooks and instructional materials as projected in the 2013/14 planning allotments on a pro-rate share of 50/50, which equates to a \$448,032 increase in current expense. The decision was made to request a \$200,000 increase in capital and to maintain the current allocations for the pool and technology.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 pm.