

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
October 5, 2015

The meeting was held as scheduled 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.

A motion by Vice Chairman Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on September 14, 2015.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman Jones gave unanimous approval to the requests from Ashe County Husky Choir for overnight trips to attend the following events.

- Gardner-Webb Choral Clinic, Boiling Springs NC, October 7-8, 2015
- National Music Festival, Nashville TN, April 14-17, 2016
- Music in the Parks festival in Dollywood, Pigeon Forge TN, May 6-8, 2016 (Ashe High and Ashe Middle)

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the requests from the following students for early graduation contingent upon completing all current semester requirements.

- Miranda H., Ashton L., Petronillo M., Sydney N. and Caroline T.

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

CERTIFIED

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Pam Gibbs, Alice Arledge, Morgan Price and Alice Langseth to the approved substitute teacher list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Tonya Moore, teacher for exceptional children at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about October 25, 2015 and going through January 4, 2016
- Request from Johnna Church, social studies and language arts teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about November 16, 2015 and ending on April 4, 2016 (FMLA = 12 weeks)
- Request from Cara Elliott, 1st grade teacher at Westwood, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about November 22, 2015 and ending on February 22, 2016 (FMLA = 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Abstinence education prevention counselor (part-time/Federal funds)
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED**Bus Drivers**

- Release of Jimmy Lewis, bus driver at Blue Ridge, from employment with Ashe County effective September 2, 2015
- Reassignment of Ann Clark from substitute bus driver to temporary bus driver at Blue Ridge effective September 22, 2015
- Resignation/retirement of Mary Young, child nutrition assistant and bus driver at Ashe Middle, effective January 1, 2016

Cafeteria Assistant

- Reassignment of Brittany Walters from substitute cafeteria assistant with Ashe County Schools to full-time cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle effective October 12, 2015 (prior approval)

Coach

- Addition of Andy Paton to the approved coaches list as golf coach at Ashe Middle

Teacher Assistant

- Employment of Cindy Puckett as teacher assistant for exceptional children at Ashe High effective September 21, 2015 (prior approval)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Gear Up math tutor (part-time/Gear Up funds)
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

BREMCO representative Thomas Russell and Carolina West Wireless representative Trina Hunter presented an Option and Structure Lease Agreement between Ashe County Schools and Carolina West Wireless whereas a 4G service tower would be placed beside the water tower on the Westwood site. The 25 year lease would net the school system approximately \$220,000. Mr. Russell informed the Board that zoning permits have been submitted to the Town of West Jefferson and the County of Ashe. The Board will discuss and consider this request.

The Superintendent gave an update on the Parent/Teacher Conferences for grades 7-12 held on September 28 from 11:00 am-7:00 pm. The turnout at the middle school was better than 80 percent—turnout at the high school was about 25 percent.

The Superintendent announced that October is National Principals Month and expressed appreciation to the principals and assistant principals for all they do for students and staff.

The Superintendent proposed that the school system create its own performance grading scale rather than using the State grading system that parallels poverty at 80 percent proficiency and 20 percent growth. The local scale would be based on a 50/50 growth and proficiency. Exceeding growth would add a letter grade, and meeting growth would get a +. The Board was in total agreement with this proposal.

- October 2015—National Principals Month
- Elementary Fall Festivals
 - Mountain View—Thursday, October 1, 5:00-8:00 pm
 - Blue Ridge—Thursday, October 8, 5:00-8:00 pm
 - Westwood—Thursday, October 22, 5:00-8:00 pm
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, November 2, 2015, 7:00 pm, at the Central Office annex.
- American Education Week—November 16-20, 2015

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.