

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
December 5, 2016

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

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 the Superintendent, the floor was opened for nominations for chairman. Due to health reasons, Mr. King asked to step down as chairman. Mr. King nominated C. B. Jones followed by a second by Dr. Beckworth. Unanimous approval was given to the election of Mr. Jones as Chairman. Superintendent Yates relinquished the meeting to Chairman Jones who opened the floor for nominations for vice chairman. Mr. Williams nominated Charles King to serve as vice chairman followed by a second by Mrs. Jones. Unanimous approval was given to Mr. King serving as vice chairman. A motion by Mr. King and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to continue holding Board meetings on the first Monday night of each month (unless altered by a holiday) at 7:00 pm in the annex.

Board members expressed their gratitude to Mr. King for his 22 years of service as chairman and for serving as a mentor and role model to the group as a whole.

Item 4.02 was deleted from the agenda, and a request was made to move 4.03 Personnel and the amended personnel requests until after closed session. Following these changes, the agenda was approved by general consensus.

Vice Chairman King read the response letter to the public comments from the November 2016 meeting. A copy of the response in its entirety is on file in the Office of the Superintendent.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting on November 7 and the special meetings on November 9 and November 16, 2016.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to applying for a Pre-Employment Transition Services (PETS) grant in the amount of \$330,363 as requested by Terry Richardson, Director of Exceptional Children, and Tonya Moore from Vocational Rehabilitation Services. This grant will be in partnership with Vocational Rehabilitation to improve vocational options, work skills, workplace readiness training, knowledge of post-secondary training options, relationships to employment options and improved knowledge or rights, responsibilities and accommodations for at risk and students with disabilities. The grant will also provide adequate work-based opportunities for students with disabilities at the high school.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the addition of Career Management or JROTC course as a local graduation requirement effective the 2017/18 school year. The curriculum from either of these courses will provide necessary skills for students' future success.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to restructuring a middle school career and technical education position to a career development coordinator that will serve grades 7-12 effective the 2017/18 school year.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the implementation of the Latin Honors system for the current 9th grade class who will graduate in the Spring of 2020. This system will replace the current valedictorian/salutatorian graduation recognition. The current 10th grade class will be the last class to graduate under the valedictorian/salutatorian process.

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to allowing selected administrators and teachers to attend the Model Schools Conference in Nashville, Tennessee, June 25-18, 2017.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to allowing the Academic Review Committee to investigate using a third-party vendor to help with the academic review process.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to a feasibility study on implementing a virtual high school.

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to revising the current school calendar for the purpose of professional development. One of the optional workdays at year end will be changed to a required day on January 20, 2017.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to terminating the lease between the Ashe County Board of Education and the Greater Fleetwood Preservation Organization effective this date.

Technology Director Amy Walker and Human Resources Director gave a presentation on the digital competencies for teachers and administrators as required by State law. In 2013, the NC General Assembly passed House Bill 23 which required the State Board of Education to develop digital teaching and learning competencies that would “provide a framework for schools of education, school administrators and classroom teachers on the needed skills to provide high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning”. The State Board of Education approved the competencies in June 2016 with the goal that teachers embed digital tools into their lesson planning and daily instruction. In July, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) directed local education agencies to appoint an implementation team responsible for developing a plan to coach schools through this process. Canvas, the Learning Management System, which the school system is currently moving to, will be the platform that will house both the teacher and administration competencies. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is in the process of developing competencies that will be in the form of online modules. Some school systems are currently piloting this process.

Career and Technical Education Director Joallen Lowder gave an update on the application for the Cooperative Innovative High School (CIHS). The application has been approved by the Joint Advisory Committee from the Community College and Department of Public Instruction. The next steps will be approval by the State Board of Education, the Community College Board and the NC General Assembly.

It will probably be the end of the Legislative session before the school system receives final approval and knowledge of funding.

Assistant Principal Lindsey Williams presented revisions to Policy 4316 *Student Dress Code* and Policy 7340 *Employee Dress and Appearance* as suggested by a review committee. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the January meeting.

Several policy revisions and/or updates as recommended by Board Attorney Fred Johnson were presented to the Board for consideration. Action on these policies will be taken at the January meeting as well.

Board Member Terry Williams was selected to serve on the 2017/18 School Calendar Committee.

The Superintendent commended Shea Coldiron, Transportation Director, and Randy Jones, mechanic, for keeping firetrucks fueled during the recent outbreak of fire in the Fleetwood community.

The following informational items were shared with the Board.

- Ethics training for Board members
- 2017 Legal Webinars sponsored by NCSBA
- Approval of the 2017/18 Calendar Waiver Request by the State Board of Education
- State-level school report cards released <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/src>
- Web site for Ashe Vision www.ashevision.com
- EOC testing—last five days in the 1st semester
- Due to the Christmas break, the next regular meeting of the Board has been rescheduled to Monday, January 9, 2017, at the Central Office Annex.
- Spelling Bee—Thursday, January 19, 6:30 pm, Ashe County High auditorium—snow date is Tuesday, January 24

A motion at 8:40 pm by Dr. Beckworth and Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval 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 this Board [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(6)] and real estate [N.C. General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)]. Closed session began at 8:45 pm.

The Board returned to regular session at 9:50 pm.

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

CERTIFIED

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Barbara Adams, Canzada Lyall, Shea Cullifer Testerman and Emma Houghton to the approved substitute list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Sharon Campbell, science teacher at Ashe High, for a medical leave of absence beginning on December 1, 2016 and ending on or about January 3, 2017 (FMLA eligible = 12 weeks)

- Request from Cynthia Coldiron, ESL teacher at Ashe High and Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning on November 21, 2016 and ending on or before December 10, 2016

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Drivers

- Resignation of John Ring, bus driver at Mountain View, effective end of day December 23, 2016
- Transfer of Shelby Dowell from part-time (4 hours) bus driver at Mountain View to part-time (5 hours) bus driver at Ashe Middle effective December 12, 2016

Bus Driver Substitute

- Addition of Jeffery Dishman to the approved substitute bus driver list

Cafeteria Assistants

- Reassignment of Linda Powers from substitute cafeteria assistant to part-time cafeteria assistant at Blue Ridge effective December 3, 2016

Coaches

- Addition of Joey Shepherd as assistant junior varsity boys basketball coach at Ashe High to the approved coaches list (filling TBD on August coaches list, paid position)

ESL Tutor

- Resignation of Laura McMillan, ESL tutor at Mountain View, effective end of day December 22, 2016

Employee Leaves

- Request from Kimberly Taylor, teacher assistant with ISS at Ashe High, for a parental leave of absence effective November 23, 2016 with an ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Brittany Walters, cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence effective January 3, 2017 with an ending date to be determined (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)
- Request from Susie Korevec, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, for a medical leave effective January 3, 2017 and ending on February 10, 2017 (FMLA eligible for 12 weeks)

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Interim cafeteria assistant at Ashe Middle
- Interim ISS teacher assistant at Ashe High
- ESL tutor (part-time)
- Bus drivers at Ashe High and Mountain View
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Gear Up math tutors---part-time/Gear Up grant funds

There being no other business, the Chairman immediately adjourned the meeting.