

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
April 3, 2017

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

Two items were added to the agenda—a request for an overnight trip from the middle school to attend the State Envirothon competition and a request for an employee leave of absence. Action on the submission of the local 2017/18 budget request was moved to follow closed session. The agenda was approved by general consensus.

During open comments, Arts Council Director Jane Lonon thanked the Board for its support of arts education and pointed out the K-12 Annual Young at Art Exhibits (representing 92 students) showcased around the room. She gave an overview of the upcoming arts programs—the Very Special Arts Festival and Spring Fest. This year’s theme, *Arts Around the World*, celebrates world cultures. Mrs. Lonon commended the school system for its stellar art programs. The partnership between the schools and Arts Council sponsored 31 performances for students to enjoy this school year.

Elan T., a junior at Ashe County High, was chosen from an applicant pool of 113 to be one of 28 students to travel to India this summer (all expenses paid!) with the 360+ Leadership Collective. The Leadership Collective is a three-week, fully-funded experiential learning trip to India. The trip is immersive, pushing students out of their comfort zones, challenging students to make new friends from across the United States and India and learn about the diversity and complexity of India in a hands-on, service oriented way. Board Member Polly Jones presented Elan with a certificate in recognition of his accomplishment.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to the minutes for March 6, 2017 and the special budget work session on March 20, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Brianne Thurman, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2017/18 school year.

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from the Ashe County Middle School Environ Club for an overnight trip to attend the NC Envirothon Annual Competition at Cedar Rock Park in Burlington, NC, April 28-29, 2017.

A motion by Dr. Beckworth and a second by Vice Chairman King gave unanimous approval to the submission of the 2017/18 Federal Grants to the Department of Public Instruction.

A motion Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the following personnel recommendations.

CERTIFIED

- Resignation of Zach Fulbright, band teacher at Ashe High, effective end of 2016/17 school year
- Resignation/retirement of Keith Phillips, assistant athletic director/graduation coach, at Ashe High effective July 1, 2017

Substitute Teachers

- Addition of Barbara Bryson, Emily Coggins and Jodie Lemly to the approved substitute list

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Substitute teachers

Employee Leave

- Request from Josh Church for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about April 27, 2017 and going through the end of the 2016/17 school year (FMLA = 6 weeks)

CLASSIFIED**Cafeteria Assistant**

- Resignation/retirement of Darlene Cheek, cafeteria assistant at Ashe High, effective July 1, 2017

Maintenance

- Employment of Johnny Speaks as maintenance mechanic/electrician with Ashe County Schools effective April 3, 2017 (prior approval)

Employee Leave

- Request from Miranda Brown, bus driver at Westwood, for a medical leave of absence beginning February 21, 2017 and ending on March 13, 2017 with possible extension
- Request for leave of absence from Mary Graybeal, teacher assistant at Blue Ridge, effective February 20, 2017; ending date to be determined

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Pool manager
- Lifeguards
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants
- Teacher assistant/tutor (grant funded/Innovative Approaches to Literacy Grant)

A motion by Vice Chairman King and a second by Mr. Williams gave unanimous approval to the adoption of Policy 8305 *Federal Grant Administration* as presented at the March meeting.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to the updated contract agreement with NC Driving School to provide eligible students a program and curriculum of driver education pursuant to the current regulations set forth by the Department of Public Instruction. NC Driving School has provided driver education instruction for Ashe County Schools since August 2013.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Dr. Beckworth gave unanimous approval to a resolution authorizing the disposal of personal property, namely laptop computers, pursuant to NC General Statute 115C and 160A-266 by private negotiation and sale.

As the Endowment Fund Liaison, Marcia Elledge appeared before the Board requesting approval to award Endowment grants for the 2017/18 school year. The primary purpose of the Ashe County Board of Education Endowment Fund is to provide grant funding that will enrich student learning and educational opportunities over and above the resources provided from local, state and federal funding streams. The Endowment Committee awarded 15 of the 19 grant proposals submitted amounting to \$11,986. A motion by Vice Chairman

King and a second by Mr. Williams gave 4-0 approval to awarding the grants as requested by Mrs. Elledge. Dr. Beckworth abstained.

Student Services Coordinator Jamie Little requested permission to move forward with a grant opportunity entitled *Education Without Walls*. *Education Without Walls* is a scholarship-supported program through the National Center for Outdoor and Adventure Education (NCOAE). The program has been very successful in New Hanover County with at-risk students. If Ashe County should receive the grant, 10-12 high school at-risk students would be selected to participate in a semester-long program that takes students into the outdoors for experiences that fosters critical thinking, leadership and interpersonal communication skills. Students would have monthly expeditions on weekends for the duration of the semester and later have the option to participate in a summer expedition. The Board felt this would be a beneficial opportunity for students and approved Mrs. Little moving forward with the grant process.

Revisions to Policy 7335/10335 *Employee Use of Social Media* were presented to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the May meeting.

Revisions to Policy 7920 *Professional Personnel Reduction in Force* were presented to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the May meeting.

Revisions to Policy 7950 *Probationary Teachers Nonrenewal* were presented to the Board for consideration. Pursuant to Board policy, action will be taken at the May meeting.

The Superintendent presented a Utility Easement from Blue Ridge Electric which would allow the Town of West Jefferson to install an electric vehicle (EV) charging station. The Board directed the Superintendent to get further clarification on the project.

The Superintendent informed the Board that high school graduation is scheduled for Friday, June 2, 7:00 pm.

The Superintendent commented on the quality of student art work displayed at the Ashe Arts Council at the April meeting. She also commended the Ashe High Chorus, led by student Sarah Houck, for the selection of choral music presented prior to the meeting.

The North Carolina Association of Education Office Professionals (NCAEOP) recently held its annual conference in Winston-Salem. The Board was informed that Elaine Cox, Assistant Principal at Ashe Middle, was recipient of the Katrina V. Miller State Administrator of the Year Award. Sharon Lucas, the data manager at Ashe County Middle, was installed as the 2017/18 NCAEOP State President. Geneva Spencer, Rebecca Miller and Sharon Lucas received their Professional Standards Program Certificate.

The following items of information were shared with the Board.

- Wednesday, April 12—Joint meeting with Wilkes Community College beginning at 6:00 pm in the annex—closed session pursuant to NC General Statute §143.318.11(a)(5)—real estate
- Thursday, April 13—Elementary Battle of the Books (EBOB)—Grades 4-5, 9:00 am, Ashe County High School Auditorium
- Friday, April 14—Good Friday Holiday
- Spring Break—April 17-21
- The next regular meeting of the Board is scheduled for Monday, May 1, 2017 and will be held in the annex beginning at 7:00 pm.
- Tuesday, May 9—National Teacher Day

- Special Olympics—Wednesday, May 10, Ashe County High—*rain date to be determined*
- Heart of Husky Athletic Physicals—Friday/Saturday, May 19-20—*free athletic physicals for all student athletes grades 7-12*
- DIAL 4 Kindergarten Screenings
 - Blue Ridge—April 3-5
 - Mountain View—April 25-27—*rescheduled from March 13-15 due to weather*

At 7:56 pm, the Board took 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)]. The Board went into closed session at 8:08 pm and returned to regular session at 8:30 pm.

A motion by Mr. Williams and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to submitting the 2017/18 local budget request to the County Manager. In addition to the normal requests for yearly operations, the budget will include a separate line item requesting an allotment for enhancement teachers should the Legislature not approve funding for these positions.

There being no further business, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.