

MINUTES
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
June 3, 2019

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

After adding an addendum to personnel, the agenda was approved by general consensus of the Board.

The Board recognized the achievements of the following schools and students. Each received a certificate on behalf of the Board of Education. The presenters made comments on the importance and significance of each award.

- Recognition of Ashe County Middle School, winner in the 2018/19 Vocabulary Bowl—Principal Dustin Farmer
- Recognition of Ashe High student team *High Country Feeders*—Nathaniel M., Brandon T., Ashley T. and Johnny R.—for winning the Pitch Competition at Appalachian State University—Teacher Jennifer Phipps
- Recognition of Katy R., 6th grade student at Mountain View, who was the 1st place winner of the State Soil and Water Conservation Poster Contest—Principal David Blackburn
- Recognition of Mountain View Battle of the Books Team at State Competition (came in 5th out of 9 state teams)—Director Amy Walker and Principal David Blackburn

A motion by Vice Chairman Beckworth and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the minutes for the regular meeting of the Board on May 6, 2019 and the special meeting on May 8, 2019.

A motion by Mrs. Eldreth and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Jamie Smith, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2018/20 school year.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the request from Derrick Cassidy, who resides in Ashe County, to allow his son to continue in school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the request from Robert and Lindsey Smith, who reside in Ashe County, to allow their daughter to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to the request from Angela Brock, who resides in Ashe County, to allow her son to attend school in Watauga County effective the 2019/20 school year.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Jones gave unanimous approval to rolling the Child Nutrition bids for food, produce, food supplies, ice cream, bakery, dairy, juice, water, vended snacks and isotonic beverages for the 2019/20 school year as recommended by Director Martha Turner.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the 2019/20 Local Plan for Career and Technical Education as presented by the CTE Director Joallen Lowder. This plan will be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction.

A motion by Mr. McClure and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to the administrative contract recommendation as presented by HR Director Lesia Goodman. The recommendation is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by the Vice Chairman gave unanimous approval to the 2019/20 one-year and four-year teacher contract recommendations per policy by the HR Director. A list of the recommendations is on file in the Department of Human Resources.

A motion by the Vice Chairman and a second by Mrs. Eldreth gave unanimous approval to adopting Policy 7650 *Travel* as required to meet the Federal 2CFR Part 200.474(a) and 200.474(b) guidelines as presented by Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron.

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

CERTIFIED

Central Services Support

- Employment of Roy Putman as Director of Human Resources effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)
- Promotion of Julie Taylor from Literacy/AIG/Curriculum Specialist at Ashe Middle to Director of K-12 Curriculum and Federal Programs effective July 1, 2019 (prior approval)

Teachers

- Employment of Mazie Sullivan as music teacher at Westwood effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Employment of Mitchell Reedy as math teacher at Ashe High effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Employment of James Ashley as math teacher at Ashe Early College effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Employment of Mallory Weeks as English language arts/social studies teacher at Ashe Middle effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Reassignment of Fran Franca from substitute teacher to speech language pathologist at Westwood effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Transfer of Hannah Betsch from social studies teacher at Ashe High to social studies teacher at Ashe Early College effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year (prior approval)
- Employment of Mollie Davis as 3rd grade teacher at Westwood effective the beginning of the 2019/20 school year contingent upon pre-employment screening (prior approval)
- Resignation of Amy Simmons, 6th grade teacher at Mountain View, effective end-of-day June 7, 2019
- Resignation of Trey Simmons, math teacher at Ashe High, effective end-of-day June 7, 2019
- Resignation/retirement of Charlene Goodman, kindergarten teacher at Westwood, effective August 1, 2019

Non-Instructional Support

- Approval of two-year contract for Tammy Craine as school nurse at Blue Ridge effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021
- Approval of two-year contract for Robin Goss as school nurse at Ashe High effective July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2021

Substitute Teacher

- Addition of Emily Sheets, Valeri Angles and Donald Conrad to the approved teacher substitute list

Employee Leaves

- Request from Katrina Miller, math teacher at Ashe Middle, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about August 12, 2019 and ending on November 4, 2019
- Request from Megan Lawrence, teacher for exceptional children at Mountain View, for a parental leave of absence beginning on or about October 9, 2019 and ending January 1, 2020

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Certified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Substitute teachers

CLASSIFIED

Bus Driver

- Resignation of Anthony Lambert as school bus driver at Mountain View Elementary effective May 23, 2019

Coaches

- Addition of Bradley Lyall as assistant varsity men's soccer coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (volunteer)
- Addition of Christina Forsythe as assistant cheerleading coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (volunteer)
- Addition of Madison Roberts as women's head golf coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (paid)
- Addition of Paul Winterton as men's head soccer coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (paid)
- Addition of Korranda Treadway as head JV cheerleading coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (paid)
- Addition of Anna Corley as assistant women's tennis coach at Ashe High effective 2019/20 season (volunteer)
- Resignation of Susan Poe as swim coach at Ashe High effective May 27, 2019

Custodian

- Employment of James Yates as 2nd shift custodian (10-months, 35 hours per week) at Ashe High effective June 24, 2019

Lifeguards

- Re-employment of Lauren Robinson as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 7, 2019 (summer employment)
- Re-employment of Travis Hartsoe as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 7, 2019 (summer employment)

- Re-employment of Jordan Avery as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 7, 2019 (summer employment)
- Re-employment of Mason Shumate as lifeguard at Ashe Middle effective May 7, 2019 (summer employment)

Teacher Assistants

- Resignation of Donald Conrad as teacher assistant with ISS at Ashe High effective June 7, 2019
- Reassignment of Jelynn Richie from temporary teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View to teacher assistant for exceptional children at Mountain View effective beginning of the 2019/20 school year

Prior approval to employ the following vacant positions

- Classified staff to begin the 2019/20 school year
- Lifeguards
- Substitute bus drivers
- Substitute cafeteria assistants

A motion by Mrs. Jones and a second by Mr. McClure gave unanimous approval to the adoption of two school calendars for the 2019/20 school year—one aligns with the start of Wilkes Community College for students on August 15, and the other aligns with the current school calendar law for the student start date of August 19. A final calendar will be selected once the General Assembly decides if it will change the current school calendar law.

Dr. Kurt Michael and Clinical Psychologist Whitney VanSant from Appalachian State University gave an update on the progress of the Assessment, Support and Counseling Center (ASC) in grades 7-12 for the current school year. Dr. Michael highlighted several notable trends in the mental health of high school students. A total of 129 students, or approximately 14 percent of the 9-12 student body, were served. Of the 129 students, 35 were involved in individual treatment—75 percent of these students were freshmen or sophomores. During the current year, the ASC Center served 39 students via crisis intervention. Mrs. VanSant provided peer supervision and consultation to the middle school team approximately once per week or about 60 hours of consultation time. Both Dr. Michael and Mrs. VanSant stressed that the ASC Center at the high school would not be successful without the hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff. They also noted that the Youth Outcome Questionnaire (YOQ) is used by the ASC Center to track mental health symptoms reported by students over time. A score of at or above 29 means that the student experiences significantly more mental health symptoms than other students in the same age range. The Behavioral Assessment System for Children (BASC-3) measures a variety of behavioral and emotion symptoms in youth. This year, the most common elevated clinical scales included depression, anxiety, somatization and interpersonal relations. Vice Chairman Beckworth commented how fortunate Ashe County is to have this program.

Student Services Director Jamie Little gave a quick overview of the *Read to Achieve Summer Reading Camp* for 2019. A camp will be held Monday-Thursday at each elementary school June 10-June 27 from 7:30-3:00 pm for students in grades 1-3. Students will receive a free breakfast and lunch through the Summer Feeding Program. Two buses per school will provide transportation—most students will be provided door to door transportation. Mrs. Little will give another update at the conclusion of the program.

Amy Walker gave an update on the *Heart of a Husky* program held May 18-19 for all 7-12 athletes, band members or JROTC members. Between Friday night and Saturday, a total of 558 students were screened. There were 34 high school students and 16 middle school students flagged for further evaluation—not all of the flagged incidents were cardiac issues. Many were for high blood pressure, orthopedic issues, vision issues and a few for follow-up on concussion symptoms. The number of medical providers, Ashe Memorial Hospital staff, Ashe Medics, Blue Ridge Electric, coaches, students, school personnel and community volunteers was tremendous this year. The cardiologist, Dr. Fern, recently relocated from Chapel Hill to Florida, but she came back to participate in Heart of a Husky. The goal for next year is to add an echocardiogram (ECHO), which is the test that follows an abnormal EKG. If an ECHO machine can be secured, along with a qualified technician to perform the test, the HOH program would be able to spare parents and families the expense of traveling to a pediatric cardiologist and the expense of the ECHO.

HR Director Lesia Goodman gave an update on the *Literacy Express*. The bus will be at each of the elementary schools during the Read to Achieve Reading Camps, and each participant will receive eight-ten age-level books to keep and take home. Mrs. Goodman shared that the bus has been updated to provide STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) activities for students throughout the summer. Four camps serving grades PreK-12 will be ongoing throughout the county.

Thursday, June 27, was established as the date for the June/July Board meeting.

The Superintendent commented on the following.

- Senior Scholarship Banquet on May 14
- Graduation Ceremony and Project Graduation
- Board training session—directors, principals and assistant principals required to attend as well—*Tuesday, June 4—dinner at 4:30 pm*

The following information items were shared with the Board.

- Monday-Friday, June 3-7—required teacher workdays
- June 10-27—Monday-Thursday of each week—Read to Achieve Summer Camps @ each elementary school—7:30-3:00
- Thursday, July 18—Endowment Golf Tournament—Mountain Aire—*save the date!*
- Monday, August 5—regular meeting of the Board

At 8:10 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 8:25 pm and returned to regular session at 10:01 pm. No action was taken.

Upon return to regular session, the Chairman immediately declared the meeting adjourned.