



**Alleghany County Board of Education**  
**Regular Board Meeting Minutes**  
**Alleghany County Board of Education, Central Office Conference Room**  
**85 Peachtree St, Sparta, NC 28675**  
**January 12, 2021**

**Present:** Amy Bottomley, Jason Carpenter, Steve Carpenter, Donna Rea, and Jason Williams.  
**Staff members present and participating:** Chad Beasley; Superintendent, Scott Carter; Associate Superintendent, Fred Johnson; Board Attorney.

**I. Moment of Silence.**

**II. Call to Order.** Donna Rea, Board Chair called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

**III. Pledge of Allegiance** – Donna Rea, Board Chair asked Jason Carpenter, Board Member to lead everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**IV. Public Comments** – Mrs. Rea called for public comments. There were none.

**V. Approval of Agenda.** Mr. Steve Carpenter made a motion to approve the agenda. Jason Williams seconded the motion. The board approved 5-0.

**VI. Approval of Minutes.** Jason Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for December 8, 2020. Jason Williams seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by vote of 5-0.

**VII. Announcements-Reports**

**A. Superintendent's Report—Mr. Beasley**

1. Recognition - Bright Idea Winners. Mr. Beasley introduced the Bright Ideas Winners and they each gave a description of their grant.

India Sturgill Souther won a grant for \$532. Her grant was titled Character Through the Global Competencies. The grant will purchase a social, emotional learning curriculum. The goal is to encourage students to expand character traits such as empathy and respect for differences and to open students' horizons to a global view of each character trait.

Maggie Murphy won a grant for \$837. Her grant was titled Kindness is Global Year 3. This grant helps prepare students to diversity outside of 'their' world by bringing the world to them through global books and artifacts.

Donna Link-Williams won a grant for \$1,000. Her grant was titled Drawing on Experience.

The grant will purchase electronic drawing pads to be used in classroom and in the homes of students who are doing remote learning. They will be used in social studies and art and will be a bonus to student's education and a new, fulfilling way to convey content and skills. The students can view Mrs. Link drawing and giving instruction and follow along.

Cecilia Hampton won a grant for \$1,470. Her grant was titled Secrets of Vesuvius Explode into History. This grant will allow students to explore the world of Pompeii through reading, math, science, and social studies. The grant will help students collaborate together and create projects together. This is Mrs. Hampton's eleventh Bright Ideas Grant that she has won for Alleghany County Schools.

Susanne Murphy won a grant for \$1,000. Her grant was titled No Worksheets Here!

This grant will fund a project which will provide resources needed for PreK teachers to better support their students' early writing skills. Mrs. Murphy is sharing her grant with the other preschool classrooms in the county.

2. Recognition - ACS Outstanding Graduation Rate. Mr. Beasley read a letter from Mark Johnson, congratulating Alleghany County Schools for being in the top 10 school districts in North Carolina with a graduation rate of 95.2 percent. Mr. Beasley added that the award is for all of the schools and will be shared with all of the schools and principals.

3. Earthquake Damage. Mr. Carter updated the board on the cost to repair Sparta School Gym. The estimate they received is around \$130,000. This includes tying metal together, repair damage and painting the gym. They hope to start around the end of February or the first of March. All of the

bleachers in the visitor's section has been removed. Gravel was put down and temporary bleachers are being used for soccer and football. Mr. Williams asked if we had received bids for the project. Mr. Carter noted that they contacted multiple contractors and Vannoy's was the only contractor to come and give an estimate. Mr. Johnson added that a one-week advertisement would satisfy the requirements to get bids. If the cost is less than \$500,000 and the project is advertised, we are not required to continue advertising to get multiple bids. The bids need to be site specific.

4. COVID Update. We currently have no staff members who are positive or under quarantine. There is one student positive and eleven under quarantine. Mr. Beasley added that a survey was sent to employees to see how much interest there was in receiving the vaccine. We are hoping to work with App Health to get vaccines the Education workers in the next couple of months. Mr. Williams ask what the procedure is if students do not show up for remote sessions or to school. Mr. Carter informed the board that Leigh Ann Dixon, Remote Instruction Coordinator is working to get in touch with the parents individually. Mr. Beasley added that the SRO's have gone into the community for some safety checks.

5. Remote Update. Mr. Heath Vogler gave an update on remote learning, testing, and teachers. As of January 8<sup>th</sup>, there were 166 students K-12 who are returning to Plan B. K-8 there are 146 students who chose to stay fully remote and 72, 9<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> graders who chose to stay fully remoter. Average Class size for Piney Creek is 8 with the maximum number of students at 11. Glade Creek has an average class size of 10 with the maximum number of students at 12 and Sparta School has an average class size of 9 with the maximum number of students at 12 and AHS with an average of 10 and a maximum of 12. A lot of the numbers have to do with the size of the classrooms. Mr. Vogler added that teachers and administrators are working with students who are struggling or who need additional assistance.

6. Testing Updates. Mr. Hall shared testing results from the fall. Mr. Hall added that all students had to be tested within the last five days of school. We were able to work with all the remote students and made them feel comfortable to come in and test. A lot of the students were tested in a one on one environment. Biology- Tested 41 out of 42 Students = 98% tested, English II- Tested 43 out of 45 Students = 96% tested, NC Math I- Tested 49 out of 50 Students = 98% tested, NC Math III- Tested 46 out of 47 Students = 98% tested. Testing results show that in Biology we had eighteen who were not proficient. English II, fourteen who were not proficient, NC Math I, 22 students who were not proficient and NC Math III, twenty-nine who were not proficient. Some of these students could have missed level three by one point. We will not get the breakdown until the scores are certified. Mr. Hall added that Alleghany County Schools continue to support EOG and EOC state testing. We will use this data to plan and prepare for closing any learning gaps due to the pandemic. He asked the board to keep in mind that we were one of a few districts that began on Plan B and have had much success thus far. With many districts just now bringing students back to face-to-face learning, Alleghany County Schools again is a leader in the state.

7. FY21-22 Budget Proposals for Local & Capital Outlay Funds. Cindy Holder, Finance Officer, informed the board that the proposals presented were a result of working with the Principals, Directors and Administrators. The proposal is due to the County Commissioners by February 19<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Holder added that the budget will not be finalized until after July. Mr. Beasley asked the board members to review before next month and to let him know if they have any questions or concerns.

## **VIII. New Business**

**A. Approval of FY 2019-20 Audit Report & Financial Statements.** Ms. Holder introduced Mr. Hammer and Mr. Lowdermilk to present the Audit Report and Financial Statements for 2019-2020. Mr. Lowdermilk added that the report showed an unqualified opinion. Mr. Hammer added that the report was sent to the Local Government Commission. There were no findings in the audit. Mr. Hammer went over some of the highlights of the audit. Total assets were \$4,696,790 minus total liabilities of \$1,576,675 for a total fund balance of \$3,118,115. There was a decrease in the fund balance of \$72,408 for the 2019-2020 year. The school food service had a net income of \$87,380 after receiving all grants. Mr. Lowdermilk added that there was a notation added in the audit about the earthquake. Mr. Lowdermilk asked for any questions, there were none.

Jason Williams made a motion to approve the FY 2019-2020 Audit Report and Financial Statement. Mr. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved 5-0.

**B. Beginning Teacher Plan Approval.** Missey Weaver gave the highlights of the Beginning Teacher Plan. The plan gives support to new teachers for three years. Mrs. Weaver added that we currently have

seventeen beginning teachers. The plan has been approved by NCDPI. The plan had to include specific plans to work with teachers to support, train and retain the beginning teachers.

Jason Williams made a motion to approve the Beginning Teacher Plan. Jason Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved 5-0.

**IX. Closed Session.** Jason Williams made a motion to go into closed session. Jason Carpenter seconded the motion. The board voted 5-0 to enter closed session at 6:18pm for the following purposes: to prevent the disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential under state or federal law, including but not limited to N.C.G.S. 115C-3129, N.C.G.S. 115C-402, and the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (1); to consult with its attorney in order to preserve the attorney client privilege, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11 (a) (3); to consider the qualification, competence, performance, character, fitness, conditions of appointment, or conditions of employment of an individual public officer or employee, or prospective public officer or employee, pursuant to N.C.G.S. 143-318.11(a) (6). The closed session will also include discussion with legal counsel of the law suit currently pending in NC district court Kerry Miller v. Alleghany County Board of Education; W.D.N.C. File No. 5:20-cv-00004.

**X. Open Session.** Amy Bottomley made a motion to enter Open Session at 8:19pm. Jason Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved the motion to enter open session 5-0.

**A. Personnel Report.** On a motion by Steve Carpenter, seconded by Jason Williams, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the personnel report as presented:

New Hires Recommendations:

Amy Evans - AHS Cafeteria Manager

Angela Parlier - Gear Up Coordinator

Transfers:

Pam Richardson - AHS Cafeteria Manager to PCS Cafeteria Manager

Driver Education:

Heath Vogler

Mike Lyons

Jill Gambill

Volunteer:

Daniel Bright - Volunteer Middle School Basketball

**XI. Adjourn.** Jason Carpenter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jason Williams. The board approved the motion 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

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Chairman

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Secretary