



**Alleghany County Board of Education
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
Alleghany County Board of Education, Central Office Conference Room
85 Peachtree St, Sparta, NC 28675
February 16, 2021**

Present: Amy Bottomley, Steve Carpenter, Donna Rea, and Jason Williams. Board member Jason Carpenter could not attend due to a work emergency.

Staff members present and participating: Chad Beasley; Superintendent, Scott Carter; Associate Superintendent, Fred Johnson; Board Attorney joined by phone conference.

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 Board Member Steve 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 4-0.

VI. Approval of Minutes. Steve Carpenter made a motion to approve the minutes as presented for January 12, 2021. Jason Williams seconded the motion. The board approved the motion by vote of 4-0.

VII. Announcements-Reports

A. Superintendent's Report—Mr. Beasley

1. Recognition of Leigh Ann Dixon. Mr. Beasley introduced Leigh Ann Dixon as winner of The Outstanding Young Educator Award presented by NCASCD. Mr. Beasley read the award information that was presented during a zoom awards presentation: The Outstanding Young Educator Award is presented to an education professional, 40 years of age or younger, who demonstrates exemplary commitment and exceptional contribution to our profession. Leigh Ann Dixon has been in education for 14 years. During this time, she served as a primary education teacher and after being named 2015 district teacher of the year she became an Instructional Coach serving grades K-8 for the district. She currently supports K-12 ELA/Social Studies and due to the current COVID-19 pandemic she has taken on the role of District Remote Instruction Coordinator. Leigh Ann has impacted student growth through our district MTSS initiative. She serves as the district MTSS Coordinator guiding data teams using data walls, while supporting core instruction and tiered interventions through modeling, mentoring, and data analysis. In her current role as K-12 Instructional Coach/MTSS Coordinator she supports student growth in every school and at every grade level in our district. While all of these accolades stand out, perhaps her most important role since the pandemic is that of the District Remote Instruction Coordinator. She has risen to the challenge of this position through her leadership and support of staff, students, and parents. At the beginning of the 2020-2021 school year 25% of our student population chose to attend virtual instruction creating the need for a leadership role in this area. In this role she serves as an administrator and coordinates services for students and staff, supports instructional needs, serves as a liaison between virtual services and district administration, and manages data analysis of virtual services. Mr. Beasley presented Leigh Ann with a certificate. Leigh Ann thanked Mr. Beasley and added how much she loved her position and she felt like she was invested in every child in the county.

2. Coding Academy – Wilkes Community College. Mr. Beasley welcomed Dr. Jeff Cox, President of Wilkes Community College, Zach Barricklow, Vice President of Strategy and Susan Nilo, Alleghany Campus Director for Wilkes Community College who joined by zoom link. Dr. Cox noted that they have been looking for a way to take advantage of the excellent broad band in Ashe, Alleghany and Wilkes counties. Zach Barricklow informed the board that they have submitted a \$1.5 million grant to Golden Leaf that would focus on work force training and developing a tech

and coding academy that would engage students as early as sixth grade. The tech academy would allow students to come out of Wilkes Community College with a degree and would place them in a work-based learning program. The grant is in the beginning stages. Dr. Cox added one benefit would be that the jobs would be remote so that students do not have to leave Alleghany County to work for these companies. Mr. Beasley added that it would be a great opportunity for Alleghany County if we are awarded the grant.

3. Mental Health Report. Cindy Holder presented the Mental Health Report. This report displays the total number of school mental health support personnel, for FY2020-21, as of December 31, 2021: School psychologist – 1, School counselors – 3, School social worker – 1, and School nurses – 2. This report also displays any differences from the same data for FY2019-20. Staffing for each category of school mental health support personnel remained the same for FY2020-21 as for FY2019-20, except for the category of school counselors. ACS employed three school counselors, as of December 31, for FY2020-21. This represents a decrease of one school counselor from FY2019-20, as four school counselors were employed at December 31 of FY2019-20. This decrease was due to staff attrition. ACS is currently recruiting to rehire the fourth school counselor position. In the interim, ACS is contracting with a retired school counselor to provide needed support services.

4. COVID Update. Mr. Carter presented the COVID update. We currently have three positive staff members and four positive students. We have seven staff members quarantined and sixteen students who are quarantined. Most of those are at the end of their quarantine. Vannoy Construction estimates \$170,000 to fix the gym at Sparta to meet standards set by the engineer. We plan to start construction around the end of February or first of March when Basketball season is over. We have one quote for the bleachers that is \$93,000. That is with adjustment for track and ADA ramp. We are waiting on the estimate from two other companies. That does not include the cost of footings and piers. Amy Bottomley asked if it would possible to get one provider to test everyone in case of another outbreak in a sports team. Mr. Carter is looking into it and has asked the Athletic Trainer to check on this.

5. 2021-2022 School Calendar. Some suggestions from teachers were to have spring break before the Easter Holiday since it falls late in April. This will give more time to prepare for testing. Some of the workdays that are typically added at the end for snow days have been moved before school starts in August. Mr. Beasley added that they have not received finalized guidelines from the state. We have very few Optional Workdays in the first semester in order to get exams in before Christmas. One school asked for more workdays after the Christmas Break. Mr. Beasley added that they are getting Principal and teacher feedback and the calendar will be submitted in March for approval.

6. Dates for Joint Meeting with County Commissioners. Mark Evans contacted Mr. Beasley to see if the boards could have a joint meeting. He is going to get dates from the other county commissioners and get back with Mr. Beasley. The board was in agreement that a joint meeting would be beneficial.

VIII. Consent Agenda

A. FY20-21 Amendments #1 - State, Federal, Special Revenue

B. Amended Beginning Teacher Plan Approval

The above items were approved by Consent Agenda.

IX. New Business

A. FY21-22 Local and Capital Outlay Budget Proposals Approval

Attached for Board consideration are the FY21-22 budget proposals for the Local & Capital Outlay funds. There have been no changes to either budget proposal since the presentation to the Board at the January Board meeting. Both budget proposals are the result of an extensive budget preparation process that began in November 2020 and involved school-level personnel, as well as our district Finance Committee. These proposals represent the recommendations of the Finance Committee. Ms. Holder added that the county will likely not give them everything they have requested so they will have to get back together to make our budget balance the amount received from the county.

Jason Williams made a motion to approved the FY 2021-2022 Local and Capital Outlay Budget

Proposals. Amy Bottomley seconded the motion. The board approved 4-0.

IX. Closed Session. Steve Carpenter made a motion to go into closed session. Jason Williams seconded the motion. The board voted 4-0 to enter closed session at 6:16pm 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).

X. Open Session. Jason Williams made a motion to enter Open Session at 7:15pm. Steve Carpenter seconded the motion. The board approved the motion to enter open session 4-0.

A. Personnel Report. On a motion by Jason Williams, seconded by Amy Bottomley, the Board voted 4-0 to approve the personnel report as presented:

New Hires Recommendations:

Hannah Parsons Part-time CO cleaning

Sondra Parsons Part-time CO cleaning

Transfers:

Freda Davis Accounts Payable

Benefits Specialist/ Teacher Match

Melanie Edwards SFS

Accounts Payable

Volunteer:

Andrew Kakas Drumline - Band

XI. Adjourn. Steve Carpenter made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Jason Williams. The board approved the motion 4-0. The meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.

Chairman

Secretary