

Williston School District 29 Board of Trustees
Regular Monthly Board Meeting
Tuesday, October 18, 2016
7:00 p.m.
District Board Room
12255 Main Street
Williston, South Carolina 29853

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Russell J. Overton called the October 18, 2016, regular monthly board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Members present: Chairman Russell J. Overton, Vice-Chair Ferlecia A. Cuthbertson, Secretary Michael L. Hutto, and Member Doris B. Young.

Members absent: None

Noting a quorum was present.

Media: Jonathan Vickery, *The People Sentinel*

Administration present: Superintendent Dr. Missoura G. Ashe, Director of Student and Special Services Dr. Tasha Louis-Nance, Director of Finance Rose Anderson, Director of Transportation/Medicaid Clerk Chantane Tobin, Director of Technology Don Wical, Principals Nakeisha Baxley, Greg Sweet, and Alison Brady, Recording Secretary Debbie McNeil and approximately 13 guests.

Also present for the meeting was Attorney Shirley Fawley with Childs and Halligan Law Firm.

2. Invocation/Pledge Allegiance to the American Flag

The Invocation was given by Mrs. Cuthbertson followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the American flag.

3. Approval of Agenda

Mr. Overton called for a motion to approve the agenda as written.

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mr. Hutto

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

4. Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Overton called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2016, regular board meeting.

MOTION: Mrs. Cuthbertson SECOND: Mrs. Young

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

5. Achievements & Recognitions

The following groups were recognized for their outstanding achievements.

- Williston-Elko High School October Rotary Students of the Month:
 - 1) Jasmine Jeter
 - 2) Tywan Wright

- Williston-Elko High School October Students of the Month:
 - 1) Elaysha Brown
 - 2) Madison Campbell
 - 3) Shala Fail
 - 4) Jasmine Jeter
 - 5) Hannah May
 - 6) Brandon Nix
 - 7) Andrew Willis

- National Leadership Forum Delegate
 - 1) Chanyah Tyler

6. **Citizen's Participation**

None presented at this time.

7. **Superintendent's Report**

Dr. Ashe thanked the following support personnel for their participation and hard work done during and after Hurricane Matthew.

- Maintenance Supervisor Ronnie Neville
- Athletic Director Derek Youngblood
- Director of Transportation/Medicaid Clerk Chantane Tobin
- District Technology Coordinator Amy Nix
- Director of Technology Don Wical

Next, Dr. Ashe updated the Board on weather related school closings with a handout from the South Carolina Department of Education. In the handout, Dr. Ashe reported, it states that for days 1-3, the district must use the built in days in the district calendar as make-up days. For days 4-6, these days can be waived by bringing it to the Board for majority vote. For days 7-9, those days can be waived by bringing a request for waiver to the State Department of Education.

Dr. Ashe also reported to the Board that Steven Brown, President of DIG, is working on the 21st Century Learning Grant. The information for this grant is due to Steven by the end of this week and then on to the State Department. Dr. Ashe reported that the District is committed to providing transportation, with the grant paying for all drivers as well as fuel for the buses that will be needed.

Dr. Ashe also reminded the Board that Parent/Teacher conferences will be held this Thursday and Friday, October 20th and 21st.

8. **Continuing Business**

8.1 Curriculum, Instruction, and Accountability

- AdvancED/Strategic Plan

In Mrs. McCord's absence, Dr. Ashe presented a power point presentation provided by Mrs. McCord. Some things Mrs. McCord discussed in her power point were the 2016-2021 Strategic Plan goals, uniform lesson plan templates, standards correlation, curriculum development, and promoting positive behaviors. Some questions were asked.

- State Assessment

Due to Mrs. McCord's absences, no state assessment report was given at this time.

8.2 Finance Department

- Financial Update

Mrs. Rose Anderson, Director of Finance, gave the Board a budget status report for the month of August 2016. Some questions were asked.

- Safety Grant

Mrs. Anderson reported that for the past month, the finance department had been working on a worker's compensation risk control grant that was based on the walk through safety audits that have been conducted in the District, safety committee meetings that have taken place, and the attendance at the Risky Business conference that some of the district's personnel attended. This year the district was awarded \$5,820.06. Mrs. Anderson told the Board that this money will be used to purchase safety items such as non-slip mats. This money will also be used to purchase the Safe Schools Training Program software. Some questions were asked.

8.3 Policies

- **AR GCQF-R: Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff**

In the absence of Mrs. Stephanie Alford, Human Resource Coordinator, Dr. Ashe presented policy AR GCQF-R, Discipline, Suspension and Dismissal of Professional Staff for final reading. After some discussion about the changes made and additions added, a vote was called.

MOTION: Mrs. Cuthbertson SECOND: Mrs. Young

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

- **BBBE: Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies**

Dr. Ashe presented policy BBBE, Unexpired Term Fulfillment/Vacancies, for final reading. Dr. Ashe introduced Ms. Shirley Fawley, of Childs and Halligan Law Firm, who spoke to the Board about this policy and how the Board could move forward. Mrs. Fawley told the Board that after looking at policy BBBE, from a legal perspective, the first thing she did was check with state law and local legislation to see how that lined up with this policy. She told the Board that the current BBBE policy does not site local legislation and the District does have legislation but it comes from 1947 but it is still law. The specifics of this law states that in any instance where it becomes necessary to fill an unexpired term of any trustee, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the remaining trustees of said district. Mrs. Fawley told Dr. Ashe and the Board that with their permission she would like to reword the policy to make it in accord with law and have Dr. Ashe bring it back at a later date for Board approval. The Board decided to table policy BBBE until revisions could be made.

9. New Business

9.1 Unexpired Term Fulfillment

The Board tabled the unexpired term fulfillment until the approval of policy BBBE, Unexpired Term Fulfillment.

9.2 Overnight/Out of State Field Trip Requests

Dr. Ashe presented the following out of state field trip request for Board approval.

- W-E Band: Athens, Ga. 12/01/2016

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mr. Hutto

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Dr. Ashe presented the following overnight field trip request for Board approval.

- W-E Band: Gaffney, SC. 11/17-11/19/2016

MOTION: Mr. Hutto SECOND: Mrs. Cuthbertson

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Dr. Ashe presented the following overnight field trip request for Board approval.

- WEMS Junior BETA Club: Myrtle Beach, SC 01/11-01/13/2017

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mr. Hutto

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Before the Board went into executive session, Dr. Ashe recognized Mrs. Jess Wilbanks with the Barnwell County United Way. Mrs. Wilbanks was to present during agenda item #5, Achievements & Recognitions. However, after arriving after the Achievements & Recognitions, Dr. Ashe recognized her at this time. Mrs. Wilbanks presented the District with a check in the amount of \$400.00 from Stuff the Bus.

CLOSED SESSION

10. Executive Session: Employment Matters and Superintendent's Evaluation

At 7:54 pm, Mrs. Cuthbertson made a motion that the Board enter into executive session for the purpose of employment matters and superintendent's evaluation. Mrs. Young seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

At 10:25 pm, Mrs. Young made a motion that the Board adjourn executive session. Mr. Hutto seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

OPEN SESSION

11. Action on matters discussed in Executive Session

11.1 Employment Matters

Mr. Hutto made a motion to accept the superintendent's recommendations for the hiring of Ms. Susie Runnels as Career Development Facilitator at the middle school for the 2016-17 school year. Mrs. Young seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

11.2 Superintendent's Evaluation

Mr. Overton read the following public statement in reference to the superintendent's annual Board evaluation.

This evening, the Board of Trustees met in Executive Session to conduct its initial annual job performance evaluation of Superintendent Missoura Ashe. As most people are aware, the 2015-16 school year was Dr. Ashe's first full year as our school system's educational leader. As chairman, on behalf of my fellow Board members, I wish to announce that Dr. Ashe received an overall "Commendable" evaluation. The Board believes it is very fortunate to have her as our Superintendent.

Under her strategic leadership over the past year, we feel the District has been rebuilding its solid foundation of academic progress and working diligently to prepare students with the skills, abilities, and core values for pursuing a college degree, moving into the 21st Century workforce, or building a home for themselves. In the Board's opinion, Dr. Ashe is an energetic leader and promoter of team work. She has a clear vision for students' educational needs and has motivated others-teachers, support staff members, and administrators.

In 2015-16 the Board wishes to cite as attainments the following:

1. a significant increase in positive community and school relations,
2. an emphasis on student and teacher recognition,
3. the professional manner in which she has handled a number of adverse situations, and
4. the restructuring of the District's educational team at all levels.

My colleagues and I want to commend Dr. Ashe for the countless hours she spent in 2015-16 getting to know business and community leaders and leaders of the faith community.

As a result of a commendable evaluation, is there a motion regarding the Superintendent's employment agreement?

Mrs. Young made a motion that the Board extend Dr. Ashe's contract for one year to June 30, 2019 and increase her salary by the same cost of living increase as provided to other District employees by the percentage rate of 4%. Mrs. Cuthbertson seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

12. Items for Information Only

Dr. Ashe informed the Board that at their desk was the legislative updates as well as information regarding the upcoming legislative meeting in December.

13. Adjournment

At 10:30 pm, Mr. Overton called for a motion to adjourn.

MOTION: Mrs. Young SECOND: Mrs. Cuthbertson

ACTION: Motion passed unanimously by a show of hands.

Respectfully submitted: _____
Russell J. Overton, Board Chair

Debra W. McNeil, Recording Secretary