

# **Ashe County**

*150 Government Circle  
Jefferson, NC 28640*



## **Meeting Minutes - Draft**

**Tuesday, December 15, 2020**

**12:00 PM**

**Special Meeting - Joint Meeting with the Board of Education**

**Board of Education Annex Building**

### **County Commission**

*Chairperson Todd McNeill  
Vice Chair William Sands  
Commissioner Chuck Olive  
Commissioner Jerry D. Powers  
Commissioner Jonathan Jordan*

**BUSINESS SESSION****I. 12:00 PM - Meeting Called to Order at the Ashe County Board of Education Annex**

*Chairman McNeill called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Annex. The purpose of the meeting was to review plans for and progress on the construction of the new Ashe County Middle School with architect Larry Greene.*

*Commission Board Members present: Chairman McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Olive, Commissioner Jordan, and Commissioner Powers. Ashe County staff present: County Manager Adam Stumb, Deputy Clerk to the Board Barbara McCoy (attending virtually via Zoom).*

*School Board Members present: Josh Roten, Polly Jones, Keith McClure, Dianne Eldreth, and Kim Simmons (attending virtually via Zoom). Ashe County Schools staff present: School Superintendent Dr. Eisa Cox, Middle School Principal Dustin Farmer (attending virtually via Zoom), Finance Officer Amanda Coldiron, Director of Technology Amy Walker (attending virtually via Zoom), and Architect Larry Greene (attending virtually via Zoom).*

*Architect Larry Greene presented a summary of progress on plans for the new middle school, including information about alterations and delays encountered. Alterations included the change from a one-story to a two-story school building design, as well as an enlarged auditorium, added health clinic, and increased instructional space on each wing. Mr. Greene also discussed the potential timeline for completion. He hoped to have the construction bid awarded by early June, with the contractor on the site by the end of June or early July. Mr. Greene estimates that construction will take almost two years to complete and should be finished by early 2023.*

*Commissioners Jordan and Olive raised questions about plans for traffic flow, and County Manager Adam Stumb reported that DOT was not planning to make significant improvements surrounding the site but wanted to be kept apprised of the situation. Chairman McNeill offered assistance in reaching back out to DOT to facilitate further discussion. Ashe County Middle School Principal Dustin Farmer noted that in past conversations, DOT did not anticipate conflicts with traffic to/from AEV due to the differences in entrance and exit times.*

*Dianne Eldreth noted the increase in costs of building materials in 2020 and suggested that the Board of Education revisit hiring a construction manager at-risk (CMR) at the next Board of Education meeting. Chairman McNeill encouraged Dr. Cox to discuss with County Manager Adam Stumb and County Finance Officer Sandra Long the potential implications of hiring a CMR prior to a vote by the Board of Education.*

**Present:** 5 - Commissioner Chuck Olive, Chairperson Todd McNeill, Vice Chairman William Sands, Commissioner Jerry D. Powers and Commissioner Jonathan Jordan

**II. Adjournment**

*Vice Chairman Sands made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 p.m. Commissioner Olive seconded the motion. The motion passed with unanimous approval.*

**Approved**

**For:** 5 - Commissioner Olive, Chairperson McNeill, Vice Chairman Sands, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Jordan

Citizens with disabilities requiring special needs to access the services or public meetings of Ashe County Government should contact the County Manager's Office three days prior to the meeting by calling (336) 846-5501.

**PUBLIC NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING  
ASHE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

The Ashe County Board of Commissioners and the Ashe County Board of Education will hold a joint meeting at 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at the administrative offices annex of the Ashe County Schools, 320 South Street, Jefferson, North Carolina. The purpose of this meeting is to review the new middle school architecture drawings with architect, Larry Greene.

In compliance with the COVID-19 State of Emergency declarations affecting the number of persons who may physically attend a gathering, seating may be limited. Therefore, a livestream will be made available: <https://www.asheschools.org/Page/6117>

This, the 10<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2020.