ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING

Administrative Offices - Board Room

Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on Monday, January 12, 2026, at 5:00 PM at the Administrative Offices - Board Room at 85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina, where and when the following business was transacted.

Page

1. REGULAR MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

5:00 PM

Equity Statement:*In Asheville City Schools we are committed to equity and anti-racist policies for all students and staff to learn and thrive. We recognize that our positions come with power, responsibility, and public service for the entire ACS community. We will model our commitment to equity through our practices and decisions. During this meeting, we invite a pause if harm has taken place, a moment to name the harm, and space to practice repair.*

1.2 QUORUM DETERMINATION - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Sarah Thornburg

Rebecca Strimer

Pepi Acebo

Liza Kelly

Amy Ray

George Sieburg

Jesse Warren

1.3 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

1.4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Motion to approve the agenda.

Moved by: George Sieburg
Seconded by: Pepi Acebo

Aye George Sieburg, Amy Ray, Sarah Thornburg, Rebecca Strimer, Jesse Warren, Liza Kelly, and Pepi Acebo

Carried 7-0

2. GOOD NEWS - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff

The following district events and celebrations were recognized during the Good News:

- School Board Recognition Month
- Holiday Dream Project
- Alumni Spotlight: Melissa McDonald
- $875,695 in Grant Awards in the 2025-2026 School Year
- Open Enrollment

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Public Comment Guidelines

In-Person and Virtual Public Comment Guidelines can be found by clicking the link above.

The Board of Education greatly appreciates your interest in the Asheville City Schools (ACS) and we welcome your comments to the Board. Please be mindful of the following guidelines (per policy 2310):

Personnel and student matters are confidential and are therefore not appropriate for public comment. If you have a concern about an employee or a student matter, please contact or see the superintendent after the meeting.

3.1 In-Person Public Comment

1. Katie Williams
2. Guin Hatman

3. April Wilson
4. Christine Shimrock

3.2 Virtual Public Comments

No Virtual Comments

4. CONSENT ITEMS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

4.1 Student Releases to Buncombe County Schools - Tanya Presha, Special Assistant to the Superintendent

4.2 Draft Minutes

WORK SESSION - Dec 01 2025 - Minutes

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - December 1, 2025

CLOSED SESSION MINUTES - December 8, 2025

REGULAR MEETING - Dec 08 2025 - Minutes

4.3 2026 - 2027 Board Calendar - Dr. Maggie Fehrman, Superintendent 9

BOE 2026-2027 ACS Calendar - Google Sheets.pdf

4.4 Amended 2026-2027 School Calendar - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff 10

Proposed Voting Poll Change_ 2026-2027 ACS Calendar - 2026-2027 ACS Calendar.pdf

4.5 Contracts and MOUs - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff

Maxim Healthcare Services, Amergis Healthcare Staffing - EC Staffing

Republic Services of NC- Waste and Recycling Collection

4.6 Policies Second Read - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff

Policy Code: 1740/4010 Student and Parent Grievance Procedure

Policy Code: 1750/7220 Grievance Procedure for Employees

Policy Code: 2125/7315 Confidential Information

Policy Code: 2310 Public Participation at Board Meetings

Policy Code: 3101 Dual Enrollment

Policy Code: 3220 Technology in the Educational Program

Policy Code: 3225/4312/7320 Technology Responsible Use

Policy Code: 3226/4205 Internet Safety

Policy Code: 3227/7322 Web Page Development

Policy Code: 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress

Policy Code: 3460 Graduation Requirements

Policy Code: 4050 Children of Military Families

Policy Code: 4120 Domicile or Residence Requirements

Policy Code: 4240/7312 Child Abuse and Related Threats to Child Safety

Policy Code: 4270/6145 Concussion and Head Injury

Policy Code: 5150 Reporting to External Agencies

Policy Code: 6310 Organization of Student Transportation Services

Policy Code: 7555 Disaster Relief and Emergency Compensation

Policy Code: 7910 Retirement

Motion to Approve the Consent Agenda

Moved by: Pepi Acebo
Seconded by: Amy Ray

Aye	George Sieburg, Amy Ray, Sarah Thornburg, Rebecca Strimer, Jesse Warren, Liza Kelly, and Pepi Acebo

The motion passed 7-0

5. DISCUSSION

5.1 Funding Formula - Heidi Kerns, Chief Finance Officer

For the past two years, the County and LEA finance staff (including Asheville City and Buncombe County Schools) have worked to move away from a "contentious and drawn-out" annual budget process. The goal is to establish a predictable, long-range planning tool that removes the district from "ground zero" negotiations every spring.

The proposal moves the district to a percentage-based model rather than a flat-dollar request.

- **The Percentage:** The district is slated to receive **37.76%** of a defined "Gross Revenue" bucket. This is an increase from the current year's 37.18%.
- **The "Actuals" Rule:** Funding for the upcoming school year will be based on the actual collections from the prior 12 months (ending February 28/29). This ensures the district benefits from over-collections, which were previously retained by the County.
- **The Timeline:** A firm funding number will be provided by March 15th each year.
- **Enrollment Adjustments:** A "dead band" exists where funding remains stable unless total combined enrollment (ACS, BCS, and Charters) shifts by more than 2% (approx. 583 students).
- **Inflation:** Board members raised concerns that using "prior year actuals" does not automatically account for CPI or construction inflation, potentially eroding purchasing power if costs rise faster than tax revenue.
- **The "Helene" Effect:** There is concern that the economic impact of Hurricane Helene will depress the revenue pool for the first year of the agreement. However, Finance noted that current unrestricted growth estimates remain positive at 1.89%.
- **Tax Authority:** While the district gets a fixed percentage of the "pie," the County retains the power to change the size of that pie by adjusting tax rates.
- **Shifting Advocacy:** The Board clarified that this agreement does not stop advocacy. Instead of fighting for a *number*, the district will advocate for *revenue*

levels (tax rates) or renegotiate the *base percentage* during the designated windows.

- **Termination Clause:** To protect future leadership, the agreement allows any newly elected Board a window (Jan 15, 2027) to terminate or modify the agreement.

Key Action Items & Next Steps

- **Legal Clarifications:** The Board Chair will work with attorneys to formally define "ADM" (Average Daily Membership) versus "Certified Enrollment" to ensure the 2% trigger is accurate.
- **Revenue Projections:** The Board requested a "best guess" projection from the County regarding the March 15th dollar amount to help weigh the immediate impact.
- **Community Input:** The Board will hold a final window for public comment and hear from the ACAE and MCC before a formal vote in February.

6. ACTION ITEMS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

No Action Items

7. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT - Dr. Fehrman

Dr. Fehrman gave an update on the following:

1. Superintendent Goals 1 and 2

- Lippit-Knoster Model for Managing Complex Change
- Leadership On The Line - Leading Adaptive Change Study Book

2. Strategic Plan

- You Can Get It All In Asheville City Schools
- Timeline - Phases 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5

8. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Board Chair's Update & Community Relations

- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Meetings are ongoing with representatives from **FACS** (Families of Asheville City Schools) and **ACAE** (Asheville City Association of Educators), as well as leadership from the Buncombe County School Board and the County Commissioners.
- **Stevens-Lee Alumni Association:** The Board Chair will meet next

week with the Alumni Association president to discuss the commemorative plaque at the middle school.
- Meet Collaborate Confer will meet on Wednesday at 4:30 PM

A point of discussion arose regarding public requests for the entire Board to attend the upcoming MCC meeting on Wednesday at 4:30 PM.

- **Attendance Limits:** Due to public meeting laws, only three Board members may attend at one time. If four or more attend, it triggers a formal "public meeting notice" requirement, which changes the logistical nature of the session.
- **Observational Capacity:** Board members attend as observers to watch the collaborative process between administrators and staff; they do not participate in the decision-making during these sessions.
- **Communication Policy:** The Board noted a high volume of identical emails regarding the MCC. Per Board norms, members do not respond individually to mass emails, but they emphasized that a lack of a reply does not indicate a lack of interest or support for the process.

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETINGS -

Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Early Dismissal

Friday, January 16, 2026

12:00 Noon K-5

1:00 PM 6-12

Holiday - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Monday, January 19, 2026

No school for students and staff

Work Session

Monday, February 2, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

Regular Meeting

Monday, February 9, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

2025-2026 ACS Board of Education Meeting Schedule

10. ADJOURNMENT - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Amy Ray
Seconded by: Liza Kelly

Aye George Sieburg, Amy Ray, Sarah Thornburg, Rebecca Strimer, Jesse Warren, Liza Kelly, and Pepi Acebo

The motion passed 7-0

Dr. Maggie Fehrman

Dr. Maggie Fehrman,
Superintendent

Sarah Thornburg

Board Chair, or Designee

2026-2027 Calendar

Board Meeting Dates are in Pink.
Work Sessions are the first Monday of the month, with the exception of September. The work session will be 8/31.
Regular Board meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each month.
Board Retreat dates are 9/22 and 3/18 from 12pm - 4pm.

JULY
3 Holiday

AUGUST
13, 14 Optional Teacher Workday
17-21 Required Teacher Workday
18 District Convocation
19 District Required PD, 8am-12pm
24 First Day of School

SEPTEMBER
7 Holiday
21 Optional Teacher Workday

OCTOBER
5 Required Teacher Workday, District PD
6 Parent Teacher Conference Day
23 End of Q1
26 Optional Workday

NOVEMBER
11 Holiday
25 Annual Leave
26, 27 Holiday

DECEMBER
18 Early Release
21 Optional Teacher Work Day
22-24 Annual Leave
24,25, 28,29 Holiday
30,31 Annual Leave

JANUARY
1 Holiday
11-15 High School Semester 1 Exams
15 End of Q2, End of Semester 1
18 Holiday
19 Required Teacher Workday, District PD 8am-12pm

FEBRUARY
12 Early Release
15 Spring Parent Teacher Conference Day

MARCH
1 Required Teacher Workday, District PD
26 End of Q3
March 29-April 2 Spring Break, Annual Leave

April
5 Optional Teacher Workday

MAY
May 7 Early Release
May 28-June 4 EOG/EOC Testing
28 Early Release
31 Holiday

JUNE
4 Last Day of School, Early Release, End of Q4, Graduation
7, 8 Required Teacher Workday
9 Optional Teacher Workday

First/Last Day for Students | Parent-Teacher Conference Day
Holiday | Optional Teacher Workday | Annual Leave
Early Dismissal 12:00 NOON (K-5), 1:00 PM (6-12) | Required Workday

** Students should NOT report to school on Parent-Teacher Conference Days, Workdays, Annual Leave Days or Holidays**

215 Day Calendar 175 School Days 1,051 Hours (Elem)
12 Holidays 10 Annual Leave 11 RWD 6 OWD 2 PTC 5 Early Dismissal

INCLEMENT WEATHER MAKE-UP DAYS:
January 19, 2027 February 15, 2027
March 1, 2027 March 26, 2027 June 7, 2027

JULY 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3 H	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

AUGUST 2026

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23	24 1	25 2	26 3	27 4	28 5	29
30	31 6					

SEPTEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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20	21 OW	22 20	23 21	24 22	25 23	26
27	28 24	29 25	30 26			

OCTOBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 27	2 28	3
4	5 RWD	6 PTC	7 29	8 30	9 31	10
11	12 32	13 33	14 34	15 35	16 36	17
18	19 37	20 38	21 39	22 40	23 41	24
25	26 OW	27 42	28 43	29 44	30 45	31

NOVEMBER 2026

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1	2 46	3 47	4 48	5 49	6 50	7
8	9 51	10 52	11 H	12 53	13 54	14
15	16 55	17 56	18 57	19 58	20 59	21
22	23 60	24 61	25 AL	26 H	27 H	28
29	30 62					

DECEMBER 2026

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1 63	2 64	3 65	4 66	5
6	7 67	8 68	9 69	10 70	11 71	12
13	14 72	15 73	16 74	17 75	18 76	19
20	21 OW	22 AL	23 AL	24 H	25 H	26
27	28 H	29 H	30 AL	31 AL		

JANUARY 2027

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31						

FEBRUARY 2027

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14	15 PTC	16 105	17 106	18 107	19 108	20
21	22 109	23 110	24 111	25 112	26 113	27
28						

MARCH 2027

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7	8 118	9 119	10 120	11 121	12 122	13
14	15 123	16 124	17 125	18 126	19 127	20
21	22 128	23 129	24 130	25 131	26 132	27
28	29 AL	30 AL	31 AL			

APRIL 2027

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				1 AL	2 AL	3
4	5 OW	6 133	7 134	8 135	9 136	10
11	12 137	13 138	14 139	15 140	16 141	17
18	19 142	20 143	21 144	22 145	23 146	24
25	26 147	27 148	28 149	29 150	30 151	

MAY 2027

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JUNE 2027

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20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29				

2026-2027 Calendar w. Proposed Change

Elementary School Day:
8:00 AM—2:35 PM
Secondary School Day:
8:30 AM - 3:30 PM

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AUGUST 2026

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SEPTEMBER 2026

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OCTOBER 2026

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NOVEMBER 2026

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22	23 60	24 61	25 AL	26 H	27 H	28
29	30 62					

DECEMBER 2026

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13	14 72	15 73	16 74	17 75	18 76	19
20	21 OW	22 AL	23 AL	24 H	25 H	26
27	28 H	29 H	30 AL	31 AL		

JANUARY 2027

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MARCH 2027

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28	29 AL	30 AL	31 AL			

APRIL 2027

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MAY 2027

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JUNE 2027

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