ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Administrative Offices - Board Room
85 Mountain Street, Asheville, North Carolina
Monday, February 9, 2026, 5:00 PM

Board of Education Members:
Sarah Thornburg, Board Chair
Rebecca Strimer, Vice-Chair
Pepi Acebo, Member
Liza Kelly, Member
Amy Ray, Member
George Sieburg, Member
Jesse Warren, Member
Superintendent: Dr. Maggie Fehrman

The Vision of Asheville City Schools is to Empower and Engage every child to Learn, Discover, Thrive.

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

The meeting will be available for viewing via the
Asheville City Schools YouTube page.
Information about Public Comments can be found below.

Page

1. REGULAR MEETING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg
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

1.3 PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

1.4 APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg
Motion to approve the agenda.

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

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

3.2 Virtual Public Comments

4. CONSENT ITEMS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

4.1 Draft Minutes

WORK SESSION - Jan 05 2026 - Minutes

REGULAR MEETING - Jan 12 2026 - Minutes

4.2 Budget and Expenditure Report and Budget Amendment - Heidi Kerns, Chief Finance Officer 5 - 13

2025-2026 Budget and Expenditure Report 01-28-26.pdf

Budget Amendment #2 Cover Sheet - 2-2-26.pdf

2025-2026 Budget Amendment 02-02-26.pdf

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

Policy Code: 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations

Policy Code: 7503 Teleworking

4.4 Contracts/MOUs - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff

1. Daikin Applied - AHS Chiller Replacement
2. ERC Boardband - Dark Fiber Services

The two contracts below are pending attorney review.

1. Tyco Technology GmbH DBA Johnson Controls - Surveillance

Camera and Door Access Additions, Districtwide

2. Trafera - Purchase of Staff Chromebooks

4.5 Personnel Report February

Motion to approve the Consent Items as presented.

5. ACTION ITEMS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

5.1 Funding Formula - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg 14 - 25

Funding Agreement V.4 (draft) (00144426xBC088)[58][64][71].docx

Funding Agreement V.4 (draft) (00144426xBC088)[58].pdf

Motion on Action Item

5.2 2026-2027 District School Calendar - Dr. Kim Dechant, Chief of Staff

2026-2027 District School Calendar Presentation

Motion on Action Item

Motion on Action Item

6. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT 26 - 53

February 2026 Superintendent Remarks.pdf

7. BOARD CHAIR COMMENTS

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS/FUTURE MEETINGS - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Parent Teacher Conference Day - No School for Students

Friday, February 13, 2026

Work Session

Monday, March 2, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

Regular Meeting

Monday, March 9, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

1/2 Day Board Retreat

Thursday, March 19, 2026, from 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Wrong Way River Lodge & Cabins

9 Midnight Drive, Asheville, NC 28806

2025-2026 ACS Board of Education Meeting Schedule

9. ADJOURNMENT - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Subscribe to receive notifications about upcoming meetings

Budget Summary & Board Report

Date Range 07/01/2025 - 06/31/2026

Purpose Descr	(All)
Purpose	(All)
2 Digit Obj Des	(All)
2 Digit Obj	(All)
1 digit Obj Des	(All)
1 digit Obj	(All)
Fund Descripti	(All)
Obj Desc	(All)
PRC Desc	(All)
Program	(All)
Object	(All)
Location	(All)
User 1	(All)
User 2	(All)
Full Acct Code	(All)
Postable?	(All)
Type of Accou	(All)
Full Acct Code	(All)
Short Acct Cod	(All)

Fund	1 digit Purp	1 digit Purp Desc	Beginning Budget/Beg Balance	Budget Adjustments	Current Budget/Balance	Year-to-Date Exp/Rev	PO's & Encumbrances Outstanding	Remaining Balance	Escrow	Balance Including Escrow	Percent Spent
1	5XXX	Instructional Services	$26,963,486.00	$373,180.71	$27,336,666.71	$15,350,105.41	$116,151.00	$11,870,410.30	$0.00	$11,870,410.30	56.58%
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	$2,854,230.00	$287,549.00	$3,141,779.00	$2,147,430.42	$100,892.29	$893,456.29	$0.00	$893,456.29	71.56%
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	$195,000.00	$0.00	$195,000.00	$90,709.37	$0.00	$104,290.63	$0.00	$104,290.63	46.52%
1 Total			**$30,012,716.00**	**$660,729.71**	**$30,673,445.71**	**$17,588,245.20**	**$217,043.29**	**$12,868,157.22**	**$0.00**	**$12,868,157.22**	**58.05%**
2	5XXX	Instructional Services	$13,310,000.00	$525,000.00	$13,835,000.00	$8,235,221.48	$740,138.21	$4,859,640.31	$0.00	$4,859,640.31	64.87%
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	$14,402,468.00	$140,000.00	$14,542,468.00	$6,953,850.48	$3,560,986.12	$4,027,631.40	$0.00	$4,027,631.40	72.30%
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	$970,000.00	($565,000.00)	$405,000.00	$89,109.24	$12,170.32	$303,720.44	$0.00	$303,720.44	25.01%
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	$3,100,000.00	($100,000.00)	$3,000,000.00	$1,157,731.36	$0.00	$1,842,268.64	$0.00	$1,842,268.64	38.59%
2 Total			**$31,782,468.00**	**$0.00**	**$31,782,468.00**	**$16,435,912.56**	**$4,313,294.65**	**$11,033,260.79**	**$0.00**	**$11,033,260.79**	**65.29%**
3	5XXX	Instructional Services	$3,409,225.87	$143,537.85	$3,552,763.72	$1,269,983.12	$60,756.24	$2,222,024.36	$0.00	$2,222,024.36	37.46%
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	$358,280.76	$116.20	$358,396.96	$189,399.29	$4,337.69	$164,659.98	$0.00	$164,659.98	54.06%
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	$174,843.91	$4,705.62	$179,549.53	$50,297.19	$106,403.94	$22,848.40	$0.00	$22,848.40	87.27%
3 Total			**$3,942,350.54**	**$148,359.67**	**$4,090,710.21**	**$1,509,679.60**	**$171,497.87**	**$2,409,532.74**	**$0.00**	**$2,409,532.74**	**41.10%**
4	5XXX	Instructional Services	$1,400,000.00	$0.00	$1,400,000.00	$551,383.85	$47,278.68	$801,337.47	$0.00	$801,337.47	42.76%
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	$1,075,000.00	$200,000.00	$1,275,000.00	$511,818.55	$290,023.96	$473,157.49	$0.00	$473,157.49	62.89%
	9XXX	Capital Outlay	$4,246,992.00	($200,000.00)	$4,046,992.00	$591,059.24	$0.00	$3,455,932.76	$0.00	$3,455,932.76	14.60%
4 Total			**$6,721,992.00**	**$0.00**	**$6,721,992.00**	**$1,654,261.64**	**$337,302.64**	**$4,730,427.72**	**$0.00**	**$4,730,427.72**	**29.63%**
5	7XXX	Ancillary Services	$2,213,000.00	$0.00	$2,213,000.00	$1,105,165.61	$597,486.07	$510,348.32	$0.00	$510,348.32	76.94%
5 Total			**$2,213,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,213,000.00**	**$1,105,165.61**	**$597,486.07**	**$510,348.32**	**$0.00**	**$510,348.32**	**76.94%**
8	5XXX	Instructional Services	$7,530,058.59	$551,192.00	$8,081,250.59	$3,706,232.96	$401,393.93	$3,973,623.70	$0.00	$3,973,623.70	50.83%
	6XXX	System-Wide Support Services	$1,840,796.00	$11,000.00	$1,851,796.00	$994,575.65	$155,106.05	$702,114.30	$0.00	$702,114.30	62.08%
	7XXX	Ancillary Services	$247,527.18	$0.00	$247,527.18	$80,535.48	$0.00	$166,991.70	$0.00	$166,991.70	32.54%
	8XXX	Non-Programmed Charges	$98,778.71	$60,000.00	$158,778.71	$0.00	$158,778.71	$0.00	$0.00	$0.00	100.00%
otal			**$9,717,160.48**	**$622,192.00**	**$10,339,352.48**	**$4,781,344.09**	**$715,278.69**	**$4,842,729.70**	**$0.00**	**$4,842,729.70**	**53.16%**
and Total			**$84,389,687.02**	**$1,431,281.38**	**$85,820,968.40**	**$43,074,608.70**	**$6,351,903.21**	**$36,394,456.49**	**$0.00**	**$36,394,456.49**	**57.59%**

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

Learn. Discover. Thrive.

Board of Education

Sarah Thornburg, *Chair*
Rebecca Strimer, *Vice Chair*
Amy Ray
Jesse Warren
George Sieburg
Liza Kelly
Pepi Acebo

Office of the Superintendent

Dr. Maggie Fehrman, *Superintendent*

Kimberly Jones, *Executive Assistant to the Superintendent*

Budget Amendment Cover Sheet

Board Meeting Date: 02/02/26

Budget Amendment Number: 2

Amendment Total: $ 1,094,165

Reason for Amendment: Allotment adjustments, new grants and minor line item adjustments.

Section 1 - State Public School Fund: EC funding application approvals, annual bonus funding.

Section 2 - Local Current Expense Fund: Line item adjustments as budget development continues - net change $-0-.

Section 3 - Federal Grant Fund (NCDPI-administered): Minor allotment adjustments and 21st Century grant allotment installment.

Section 4 - Capital Outlay Fund: Minor line item adjustments - net change $-0-.

Section 5 - School Nutrition Fund: No change needed at this time.

Section 6 - Other Special Revenue Fund: Additional preschool funding and new local grant funding.

ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS
BUDGET RESOLUTION & AMENDMENTS
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JULY 1, 2025 AND ENDING JUNE 30, 2026

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION:

Section 1 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the State Public School Fund – Fund 1. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the State Public School Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	30,012,716	325,130	335,600	-	-	30,673,446
4000 - Local & Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total State Public School Fund Revenues	**$ 30,012,716**	**$ 325,130**	**$ 335,600**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 30,673,446**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	26,963,486	37,581	335,600	-	-	27,336,667
6000 - System-Wide Support	2,854,230	287,549	-	-	-	3,141,779
7000 - Ancillary Services	195,000	-	-	-	-	195,000
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
9000 - Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total State Public School Fund Appropriation	**$ 30,012,716**	**$ 325,130**	**$ 335,600**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 30,673,446**

Section 2 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Local Current Expense Fund – Fund 2. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Local Current Expense Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	-	-	-	-	-	-
4000 - Local & Other	29,782,468	-	-	-	-	29,782,468
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	2,000,000
Total Local Current Expense Fund Revenues	**$ 31,782,468**	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 31,782,468**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	13,310,000	-	525,000	-	-	13,835,000
6000 - System-Wide Support	14,402,468	-	140,000	-	-	14,542,468
7000 - Ancillary Services	970,000	-	(565,000)	-	-	405,000
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	3,100,000	-	(100,000)	-	-	3,000,000
9000 - Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Local Current Expense Fund Appropriation	**$ 31,782,468**	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ -	**$ 31,782,468**

Section 3 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Federal Grants Fund – Fund 3. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Federal Grants Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	3,942,351	11,986	136,373	-	-	4,090,710
4000 - Local & Other	-	-	-	-	-	-
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Federal Grants Fund Revenues	**$ 3,942,351**	**$ 11,986**	**$ 136,373**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 4,090,710**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	3,409,226	11,530	132,008	-	-	3,552,764
6000 - System-Wide Support	358,281	-	116	-	-	358,397
7000 - Ancillary Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	174,844	456	4,249	-	-	179,549
9000 - Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Federal Grants Fund Appropriation	**$ 3,942,351**	**$ 11,986**	**$ 136,373**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 4,090,710**

Section 4 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Capital Outlay Fund – Fund 4. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Capital Outlay Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	250,000	-	-	-	-	250,000
4000 - Local & Other	3,471,992	-	-	-	-	3,471,992
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	3,000,000	-	-	-	-	3,000,000
Total Capital Outlay Fund Revenues	**$ 6,721,992**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 6,721,992**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	1,400,000	-	-	-	-	1,400,000
6000 - System-Wide Support	1,075,000	-	200,000	-	-	1,275,000
7000 - Ancillary Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
9000 - Capital	4,246,992	-	(200,000)	-	-	4,046,992
Total Capital Outlay Fund Appropriation	**$ 6,721,992**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 6,721,992**

Section 5 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the School Nutrition Fund – Fund 5. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the School Nutrition Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	1,395,000	-	-	-	-	1,395,000
4000 - Local & Other	818,000	-	-	-	-	818,000
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total School Nutrition Fund Revenues	**$ 2,213,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 2,213,000**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	-	-	-	-	-	-
6000 - System-Wide Support	-	-	-	-	-	-
7000 - Ancillary Services	2,213,000	-	-	-	-	2,213,000
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	-	-	-	-	-	-
9000 - Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total School Nutrition Fund Appropriation	**$ 2,213,000**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 2,213,000**

Section 6 - The following revenues are estimated to be available to the Other Special Revenue Fund – Fund 8. The following expenditure amounts are hereby appropriated at the purpose level for the operation of the school administrative unit in the Other Special Revenue Fund for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 and ending June 30, 2026.

	Budget Resolution	Amendment #1	Amendment #2	Amendment #3	Amendment #4	Amended Budget
Revenue						
3000 - State & Federal	1,717,515	-	10,192	-	-	1,727,707
4000 - Local & Other	6,330,595	-	612,000	-	-	6,942,595
4910 - Fund Balance Appropriated	1,669,050	-	-	-	-	1,669,050
Total Other Special Revenue Fund Revenues	**$ 9,717,160**	**$ -**	**$ 622,192**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 10,339,352**
Expenditures						
5000 - Instructional Services	7,530,058	-	551,192	-	-	8,081,250
6000 - System-Wide Support	1,840,796	-	11,000	-	-	1,851,796
7000 - Ancillary Services	247,527	-	-	-	-	247,527
8000 - Non-Programmed Charges	98,779	-	60,000	-	-	158,779
9000 - Capital	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Other Special Revenue Fund Appropriation	**$ 9,717,160**	**$ -**	**$ 622,192**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 10,339,352**
Grand Total - All Funds	**$ 84,389,687**	**$ 337,116**	**$ 1,094,165**	**$ -**	**$ -**	**$ 85,820,968**

Section 7 - The Superintendent and Finance Officer are hereby authorized to transfer appropriations as contained herein under the following conditions:

A. All appropriations shall be paid first from revenue restricted as to use, and second from general unrestricted revenues.
B. The Superintendent may transfer monies from one appropriation to another within the same fund with proper justification.

C. The Board of Education may amend the budget to transfer money to or from the capital outlay fund to or from any other fund, with the approval of the Board of County Commissioners, to meet emergencies unforeseen and unforeseeable at the time the budget resolution was adopted.

D. Each local school administrative unit shall operate under an annual balanced budget resolution. A budget resolution is balanced when the sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances is equal to appropriations.
E. Fund Balance may be needed to satisfy actual expenditures during the fiscal year. The allocation of fund balance appropriated in the Budget Resolution is anticipatory only. Fund Balance is accounted for on the district's balance sheet and is adjusted at the end of the fiscal year. The actual amount of Fund Balance allocated for each fund, if any, will be reflected in the annual audit report.

AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL

THIS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is by and between Buncombe County Board of Education, the Asheville City Board of Education (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "School Systems" or the "School Boards") and Buncombe County, a North Carolina body corporate and politic (the "County").

WHEREAS, the County provides funding for the School Systems each year upon approval of the County's budget, which includes appropriations for operating and capital expenses; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish uniformity and consistency in the funding of the Schools, the School Systems and the County have agreed to establish a budget process that is consistent, transparent, and predictable.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and covenants of the parties contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE. This Agreement sets forth the manner in which the County will provide funding to the School Systems for the operation and management of Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools for the term of the Agreement, commonly referred to as the "local current expense".

2. TERM. This Agreement shall be for a term of three fiscal years (i.e. FY 2027, 2028, and 2029) subject to the following:

a. By December 31st of each year, each Board will determine the effectiveness of the Agreement and communicate in writing the Board's determination to the other parties.

b. All Parties understand that funding public schools is a legislative function and that future boards cannot be bound by a current board. In addition, it is the desire of all Parties to continue this Agreement so long as all Parties agree that it is effective, in their discretion. Each Board will take official action to affirm this agreement or submit a written notice to the other Parties terminating the Agreement effective for the following fiscal year. If a party terminates this Agreement, notice of its official action shall be provided to the other parties no later than January 15th of the current fiscal year.

c. This Agreement may be amended or modified at any time by written agreement of all Parties. At the end of FY 2029, this Agreement shall renew for an additional two (2) fiscal years subject to the same terms and conditions as the initial three (3) year term.

3. CALCULATION OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUE. During the County's budget process, the County Manager, together with the County Budget Director, shall calculate

the gross revenue received by the County during the twelve months preceding March 1st ("Gross Revenue"). The Gross Revenue shall be calculated by March 15 of each year. The Gross Revenue calculation shall specifically consist of the revenue in the following accounts:

Account No.	Account Description
	Ad Valorem Taxes (to include interest earned and vehicle taxes)
	Tax Interest, Penalties, Misc. Fees
	Sales Tax (Article 39) *Less 50% allocated to school capital*
	Sales Tax (Article 40) *less 30% allocated to school capital*
	Sales Tax (Article 42) *less 60% allocated to school capital*

Ad valorem taxes include all property as defined by N.C.G.S. § 105-274. The Article 39, Article 40, and Article 42 sales tax amounts shall include only those amounts received by the County. The Article 39, Article 40 and Article 42 sales tax amounts specifically excluded above shall be appropriated to the capital outlay funds for the respective school systems in accordance with existing law. Notwithstanding Session Law 2025-32, all such amounts shall be allocated to school capital outlay during the term of this Agreement.

4. CALCULATION OF BASELINE FUNDING AMOUNT. Following the calculation of the Gross Revenue, the County Manager, together with the Budget Director, shall determine the Baseline Funding Amount to be distributed to the school systems for the upcoming fiscal year. The Baseline Funding Amount will be 37.76% (Base Funding Percentage) of the Gross Revenue for the previous year.

The Baseline Funding Amount will be shared with the School Systems' Superintendents and Finance Officers for review and comment prior to the approval of these amounts by the County Commissioners.

The County shall remit the Baseline Funding Amount to the School Systems on, or by, the 15th day of each month.

5. ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT INCREASE/DECREASE. On or before February 15th of each year, Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools will complete a joint verification and certification of enrollment for all students within the two school districts and those attending charter schools that reside in Buncombe County. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction certifies enrollment for all K-12 students in the two school districts. If NC DPI has certified enrollment by February, 15, the certified enrollment number by NC DPI will be used in the verification and certification process for the enrollment of Asheville City School and Buncombe County Schools. If the percentage change between the prior year's certified enrollment and the current year's certified enrollment increases or decreases by two percent (2%) or more, then the upcoming year's Base Funding Percentage will increase or decrease, respectively, by one-half percent.

For purposes of this Agreement certified enrollment is the aggregate enrollment of Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and the number of students attending a North Carolina charter school that reside in Buncombe County.

6. PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS. This Agreement shall not terminate or invalidate any Memorandum of Agreement between the School Systems and County (or its respective agencies) regarding direct services.

7. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(A) Amendment to Agreement. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be effective only when reduced to writing and adopted in the same manner as this contract is required to be adopted.

(B) Notice. All notices given pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered in person or transmitted by regular, certified, or electronic mail , to the following entities and persons, or their successor:

For Asheville City Schools:
Superintendent Maggie Fehrman
85 Mountain Street
Asheville, NC 28801
maggie.fehrman@acsgmail.net

For Buncombe County:
County Manager Avril Pinder
200 College Street
Suite 300
Asheville, NC 28801
Avril.Pinder@buncombenc.gov

For Buncombe County Schools:
Superintendent Rob Jackson
175 Bingham Road
Asheville, NC 28806
robert.jackson@bcsemail.org

(C) Entire Agreement. This Agreement embodies the entire agreement between the parties in connection with this transaction, and there are no oral or parole agreements, representations or inducements existing between the parties relating to this transaction, which are not expressly set forth herein and covered hereby.

(D) Governing Law. This Agreement shall be governed by and interpreted in accordance with the laws of the State of North Carolina.

(E) Mutual Negotiation. Both the County and the School Systems acknowledge and stipulate that this Agreement is the product of mutual negotiation and bargaining and that it has been drafted by respective counsel for both the County and the School Systems. As such, the doctrine of construction against the drafter shall have no application to this Agreement.

(F) Severability. If any provision under this Agreement or its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity does not affect any other provision of this Agreement or its application that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

(G) Emergencies. Nothing in this Agreement shall prohibit the School Systems from requesting additional funds to address emergencies or other unforeseen circumstances. "Emergency" is defined as a sudden, unexpected, or extraordinary event or a series of events that poses an immediate threat to the financial ability of any party to meet legal obligations, and which is beyond the capacity of operational resources to address effectively. These may include exigent circumstances (after the time during which the normal budget process occurs), unforeseen circumstances (outside the scope of the typical purview of the K-12 budgets), and urgent and unpredictable expenditures impacting the health, safety, and well-being of students or staff.

(H) Dispute Resolution. In the event of a dispute arising from this Agreement, the parties agree to take the following actions as conditions precedent to any party hereto filing an action arising from the Agreement:

(1) The School System Superintendent(s) and the County Manager shall meet in an attempt to informally mediate the dispute; and

(2) If said Superintendent and Manager are unable to successfully mediate said dispute, the School Systems Superintendent(s) and Chair(s) of the respective School Boards shall attempt to mediate the dispute with the County Manager and the Chair of the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners.

~~**(3)** If the parties, after taking the steps provided hereinabove, are unable to successfully mediate their dispute, then either party may file an action in the Buncombe County Superior Court for a determination of the parties' respective rights and liabilities therein.~~

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have used this Agreement to be executed the day and year last written below.

SIGNATURES TO APPEAR ON FOLLOWING PAGE

BUNCOMBE COUNTY, a North Carolina body corporate and politic

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Amanda Edwards Date Executed
Title: Chair of the Board of County Commissioners

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Avril Pinder Date Executed
Title: County Manager

Approved as to form.

_____ _____
Curt Euler, County Attorney Date Executed

This instrument has been pre-audited in the manner required by the Local Government Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

_____ _____
Buncombe County Finance Director Date Executed

BUNCOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Rob Elliot Date Executed
Title: Chair

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Rob Jackson Date Executed
Title: Superintendent

Approved as to form.

_____ _____
K. Dean Shatley II, Attorney for Board of Education Date Executed

ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Sarah Thornburg Date Executed
Title: Chair

By: _____ (SEAL) _____
Name: Maggie Fehrman Date Executed
Title: Superintendent

Approved as to form.

_____ _____
Anna Gillespie, Attorney for Board of Education Date Executed

AGREEMENT FOR SCHOOL FUNDING MODEL

THIS AGREEMENT (the "Agreement") is by and between Buncombe County Board of Education, the Asheville City Board of Education (hereinafter collectively referred to as the "School Systems" or the "School Boards") and Buncombe County, a North Carolina body corporate and politic (the "County").

WHEREAS, the County provides funding for the School Systems each year upon approval of the County's budget, which includes appropriations for operating and capital expenses; and

WHEREAS, in order to establish uniformity and consistency in the funding of the Schools, the School Systems and the County have agreed to establish a budget process that is consistent, transparent, and predictable.

NOW THEREFORE, in consideration of the promises and covenants of the parties contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. PURPOSE. This Agreement sets forth the manner in which the County will provide funding to the School Systems for the operation and management of Asheville City Schools and Buncombe County Schools for the term of the Agreement, commonly referred to as the "local current expense".

2. TERM. This Agreement shall be for a term of three fiscal years (i.e. FY 2027, 2028, and 2029) subject to the following:

a. By December 31st of each year, each Board will determine the effectiveness of the Agreement and communicate in writing the Board's determination to the other parties.

b. All Parties understand that funding public schools is a legislative function and that future boards cannot be bound by a current board. In addition, it is the desire of all Parties to continue this Agreement so long as all Parties agree that it is effective, in their discretion. Each Board will take official action to affirm this agreement or submit a written notice to the other Parties terminating the Agreement effective for the following fiscal year. If a party terminates this Agreement, notice of its official action shall be provided to the other parties no later than January 15th of the current fiscal year.

c. This Agreement may be amended or modified at any time by written agreement of all Parties. At the end of FY 2029, this Agreement shall renew for an additional two (2) fiscal years subject to the same terms and conditions as the initial three (3) year term.

3. CALCULATION OF UNRESTRICTED REVENUE. During the County's budget process, the County Manager, together with the County Budget Director, shall calculate

the gross revenue received by the County during the twelve months preceding March 1st ("Gross Revenue"). The Gross Revenue shall be calculated by March 15 of each year. The Gross Revenue calculation shall specifically consist of the revenue in the following accounts:

Account No.	Account Description
	Ad Valorem Taxes (to include interest earned and vehicle taxes)
	Tax Interest, Penalties, Misc. Fees
	Sales Tax (Article 39) *Less 50% allocated to school capital*
	Sales Tax (Article 40) *less 30% allocated to school capital*
	Sales Tax (Article 42) *less 60% allocated to school capital*

Ad valorem taxes include all property as defined by N.C.G.S. § 105-274. The Article 39, Article 40, and Article 42 sales tax amounts shall include only those amounts received by the County. The Article 39, Article 40 and Article 42 sales tax amounts specifically excluded above shall be appropriated to the capital outlay funds for the respective school systems in accordance with existing law. Notwithstanding Session Law 2025-32, all such amounts shall be allocated to school capital outlay during the term of this Agreement.

4. CALCULATION OF BASELINE FUNDING AMOUNT. Following the calculation of the Gross Revenue, the County Manager, together with the Budget Director, shall determine the Baseline Funding Amount to be distributed to the school systems for the upcoming fiscal year. The Baseline Funding Amount will be 37.76% (Base Funding Percentage) of the Gross Revenue for the previous year.

The Baseline Funding Amount will be shared with the School Systems' Superintendents and Finance Officers for review and comment prior to the approval of these amounts by the County Commissioners.

The County shall remit the Baseline Funding Amount to the School Systems on, or by, the 15th day of each month.

5. ADJUSTMENTS BASED ON SIGNIFICANT ENROLLMENT INCREASE/DECREASE. On or before February 15th of each year, Buncombe County Schools and Asheville City Schools will complete a joint verification and certification of enrollment for all students within the two school districts and those attending charter schools that reside in Buncombe County. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction certifies enrollment for all K-12 students in the two school districts. If NC DPI has certified enrollment by February 15, the certified enrollment number by NC DPI will be used in the verification and certification process for the enrollment of Asheville City School and Buncombe County Schools. If the percentage change between the prior year's certified enrollment and the current year's certified enrollment increases or decreases by two percent (2%) or more, then the upcoming year's Base Funding Percentage will increase or decrease, respectively, by one-half percent.

For purposes of this Agreement certified enrollment is the aggregate enrollment of Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools, and the number of students attending a North Carolina charter school that reside in Buncombe County.

6. PREVIOUS AGREEMENTS. This Agreement shall not terminate or invalidate any Memorandum of Agreement between the School Systems and County (or its respective agencies) regarding direct services.

7. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS.

(A) Amendment to Agreement. Any amendments to this Agreement shall be effective only when reduced to writing and adopted in the same manner as this contract is required to be adopted.

(B) Notice. All notices given pursuant to the terms of this Agreement shall be in writing and delivered in person or transmitted by regular, certified, or electronic mail , to the following entities and persons, or their successor:

For Asheville City Schools:
Superintendent Maggie Fehrman
85 Mountain Street
Asheville, NC 28801
maggie.fehrman@acsgmail.net

For Buncombe County:
County Manager Avril Pinder
200 College Street
Suite 300
Asheville, NC 28801
Avril.Pinder@buncombenc.gov

For Buncombe County Schools:
Superintendent Rob Jackson
175 Bingham Road
Asheville, NC 28806
robert.jackson@bcsemail.org

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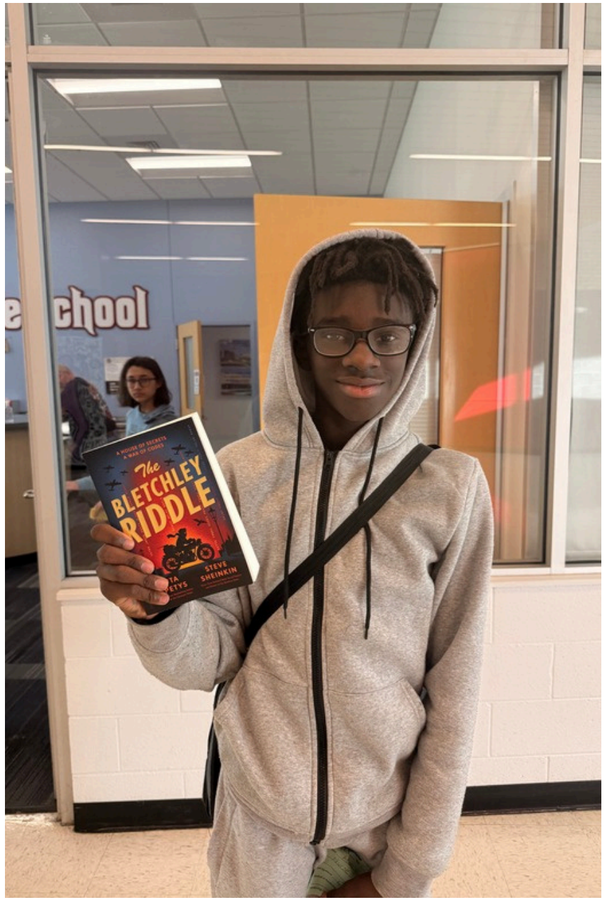
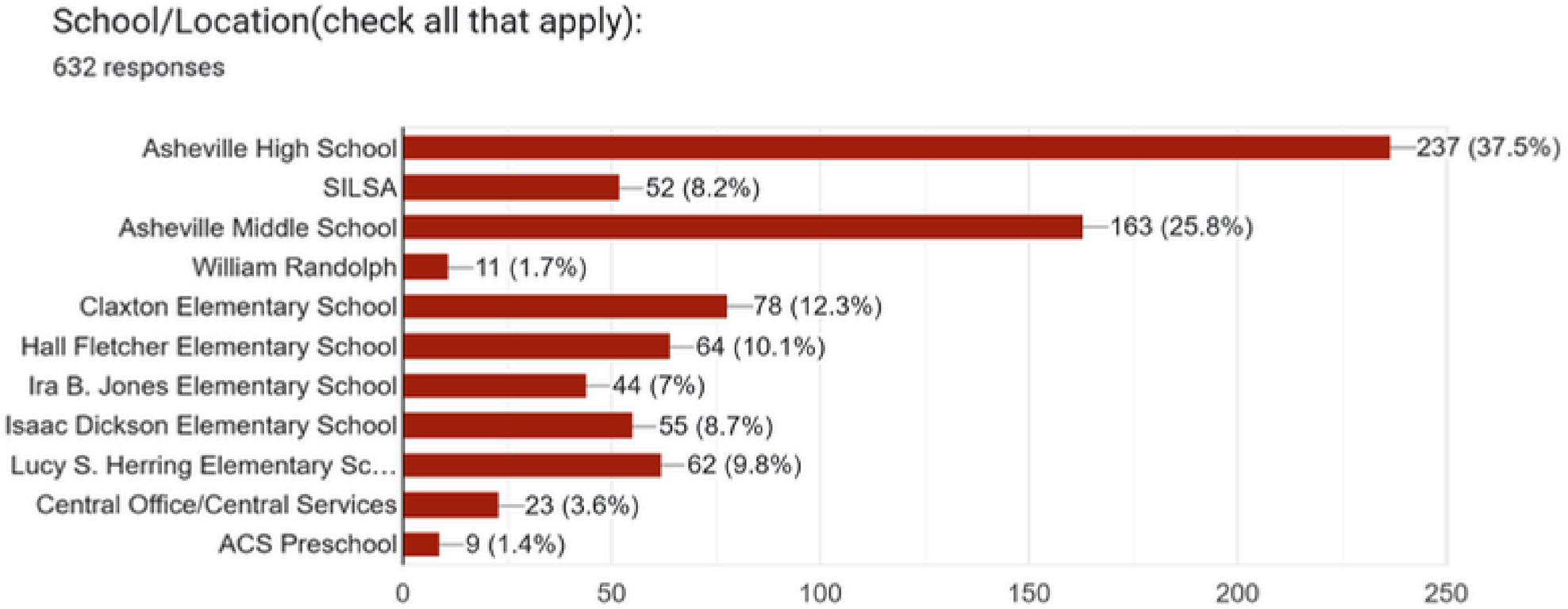
Anna Gillespie, Attorney for Board of Education Date Executed



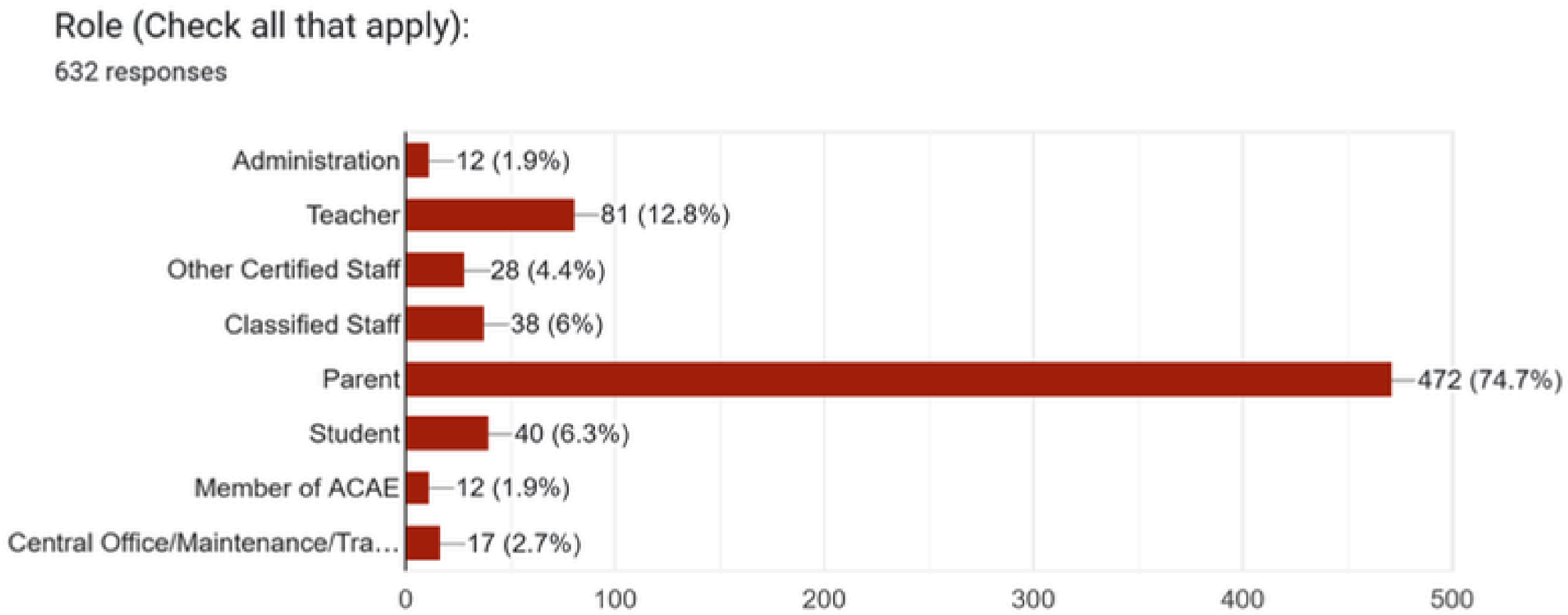


Spring Break Calendar Suvey Results

26-27 Calendar Survey



26-27 Calendar Survey



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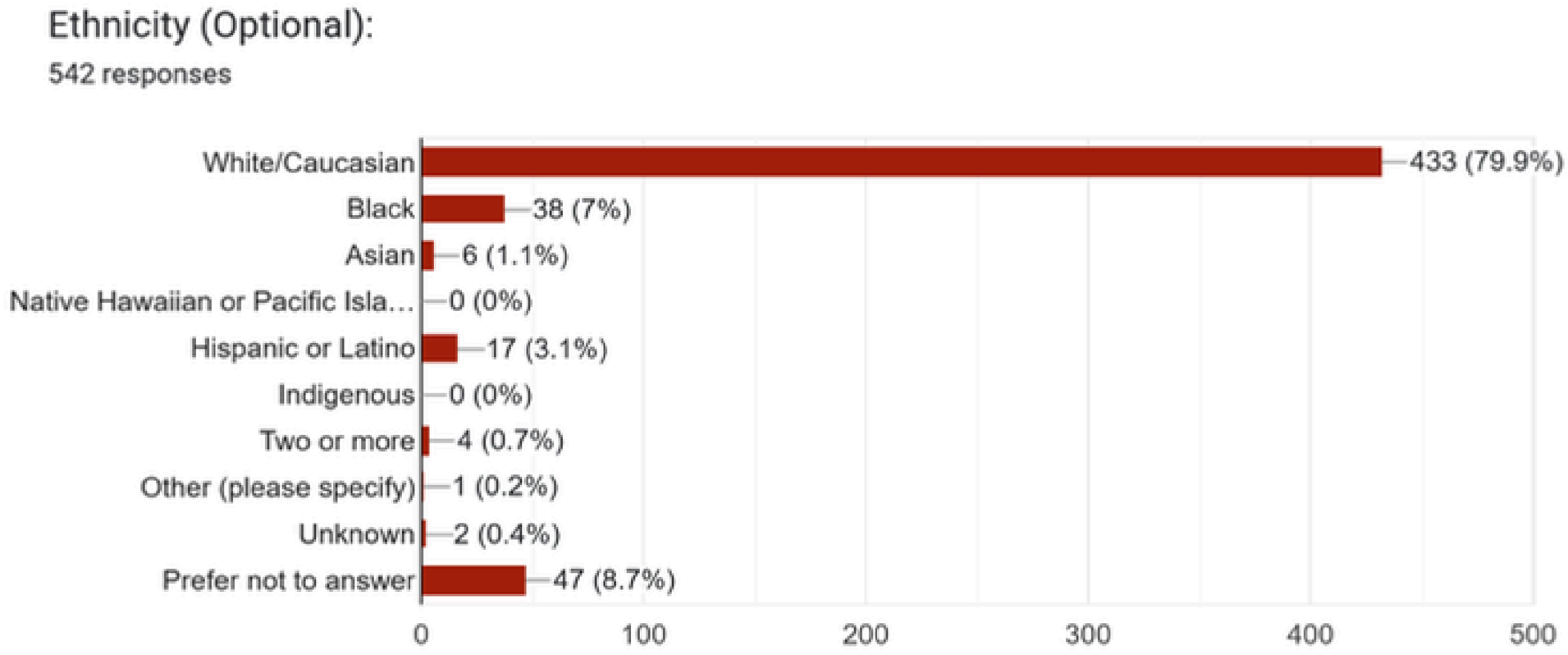

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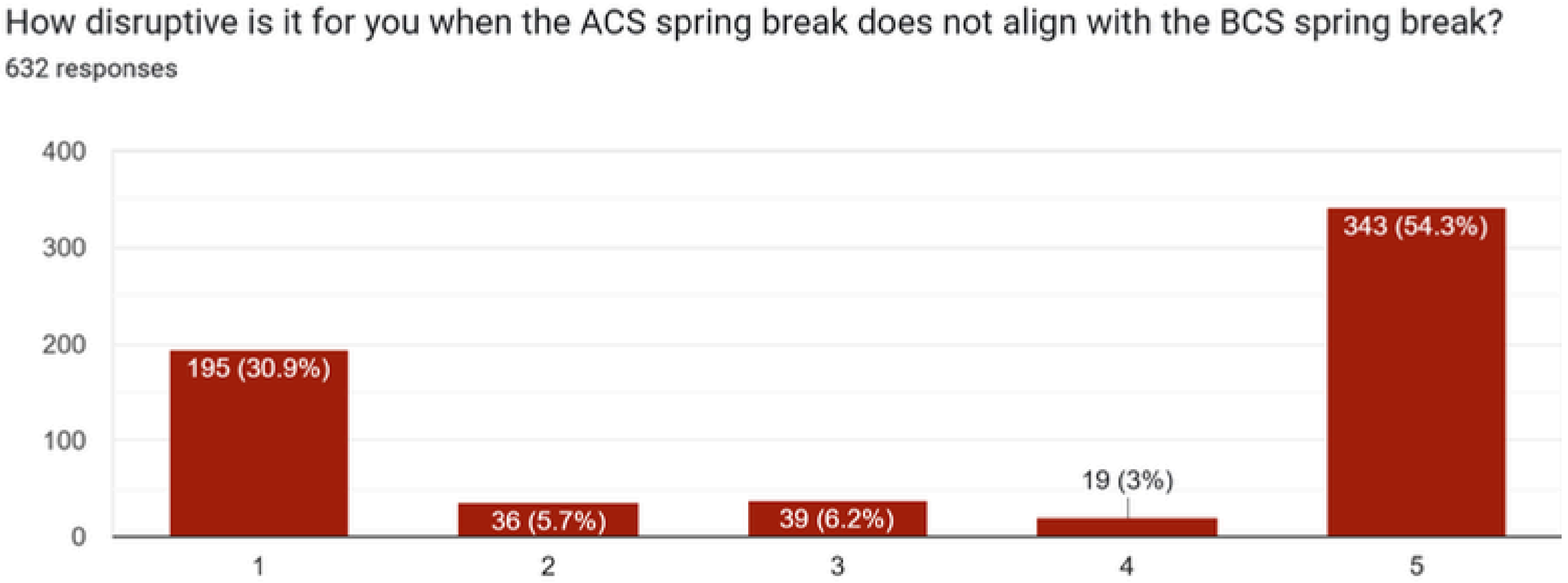


26-27 Calendar Survey

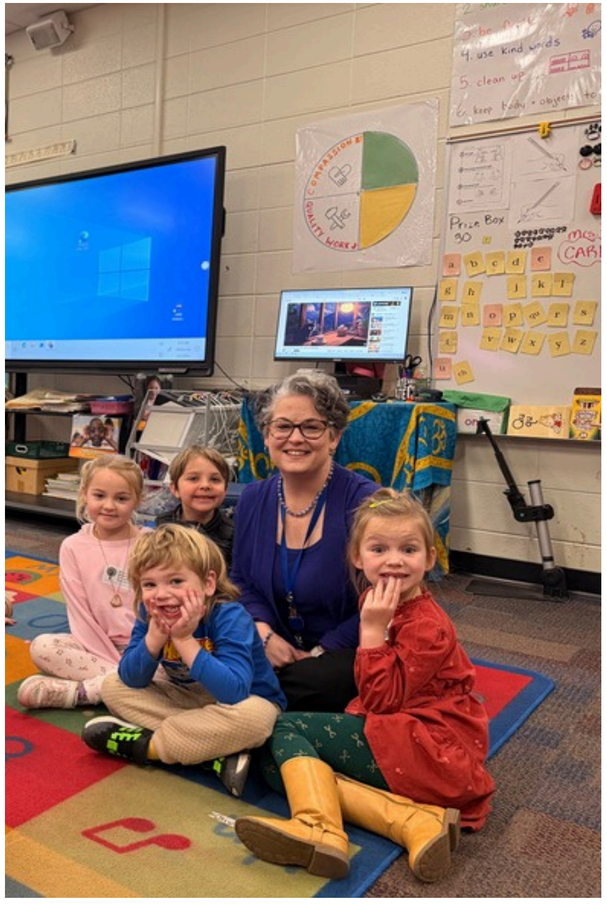
Recommendation:

To keep the previously approved calendar for 2026-2027

Going forward, make note of the AB Tech Spring Break when deciding on ACS Spring Break







February 2026 Superintendent Remarks

TABLE OF CONTENTS

01. REFORM POLICY UPDATES

02. STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE



Reform Policy

Policy 3000 - Goals and Objectives of ACS's Educational Program

1. September 2025 - Board Reviewed Policy and provided feedback
2. October 2025 - Drafted updated policy based on Board input
3. November 2025 - Reviewed updated policy language with EAC
4. January 2026 - EAC Survey

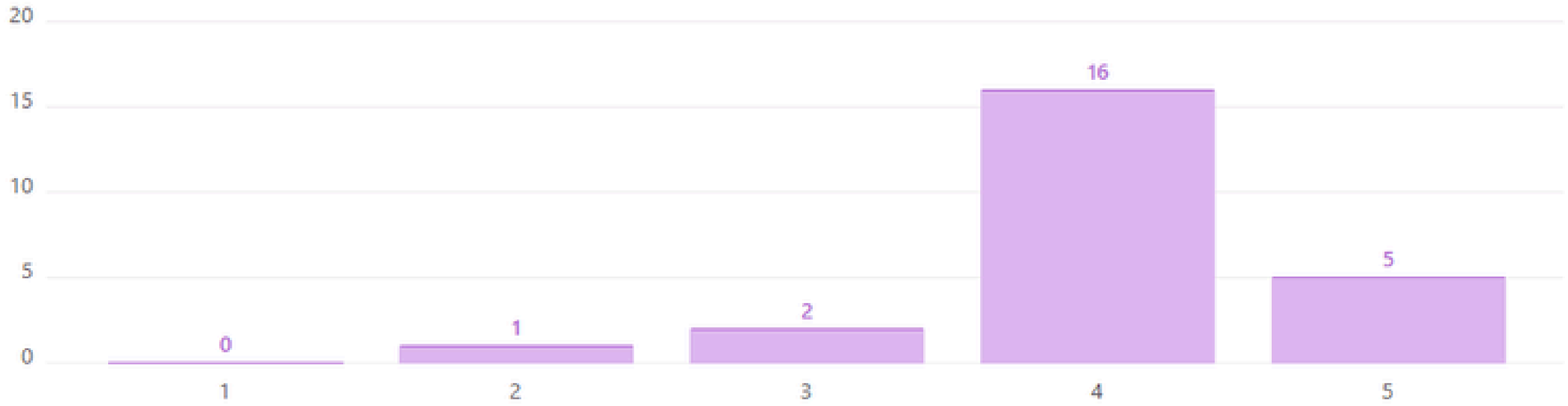


Survey Results

1 Paragraph 2 of Policy 3000 clearly communicates that school's have a high level of autonomy to develop plans that work for their school community.

24 out of 24 people answered this question.

4.04	4	0.69
Mean	Median	Standard deviation

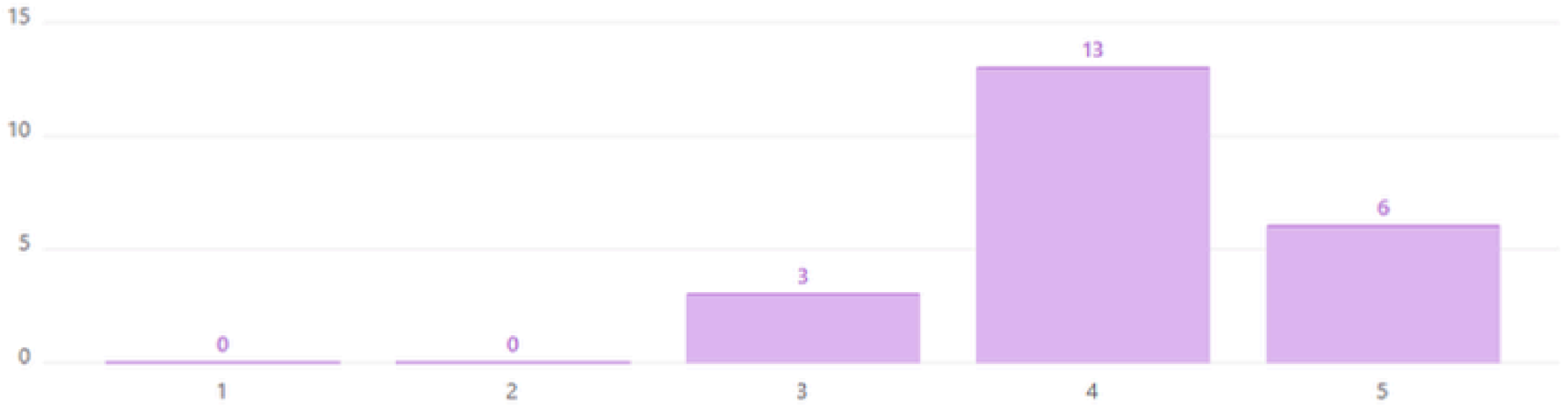


Survey Results

2 Paragraph 2 of Policy 3000 clearly communicates that the ACS Theory of Action is the framework leaders should use to implement change.

22 out of 24 people answered this question.

4.14	4	0.64
Mean	Median	Standard deviation

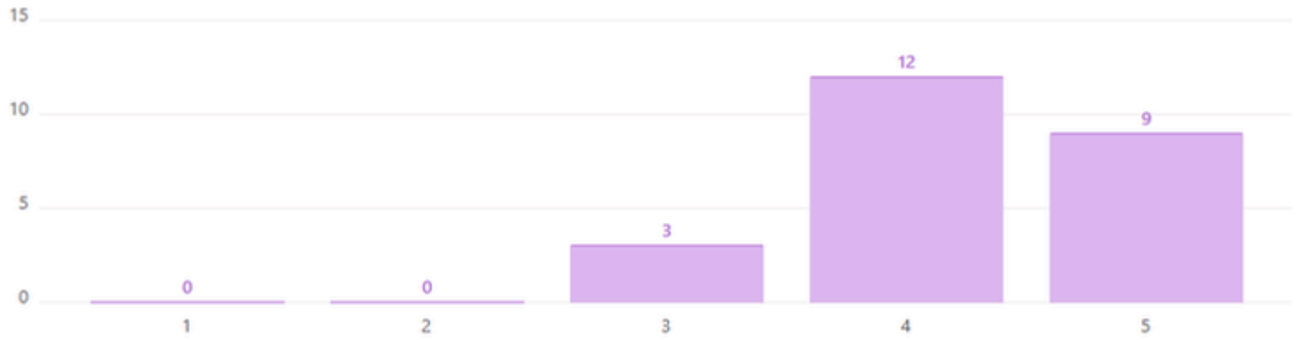


Survey Results

6 Overall, Policy 3000 provides a clear description of the goals and objectives of ACS's educational program.

24 out of 24 people answered this question.

4.25	4	0.68
Mean	Median	Standard deviation



Survey Results

To what extent do you agree or disagree that students should should have the opportunity to learn the skills and attributes that ensure success in life and beyond by

Descriptor	Disagree / Strongly Disagree	Agree / Strongly Agree
is both challenging and promotes a joy of learning	4.2%	95.8%
is based on grade level academic standards and allows students to grapple with demanding and meaningful content	0%	100%
elevates student collaboration, voice, critical thinking and reflection	0%	100%
develops world-class academic, career, and technical skills	4.4%	95.6

Survey Results

To what extent do you agree or disagree that students should should have the opportunity to engage in a curriculum that:

Descriptor	Disagree / Strongly Disagree	Agree / Strongly Agree
a classroom where materials reflect diverse perspectives, a wide range of voices, and lived experiences	0%	100%
instruction is alive with discovery, inquiry, critical thinking, problem solving, and collaboration so students can engage with complete issues, texts, and problems.	4.4%	95.6%
All students feel like they belong and work with teachers to become effective learners and ethical people who contribute to a better world	0%	100%
students reflect on their own learning by setting goals and tracking their progress	4.4%	95.6%
Students acquire the skills needed for technological literacy in a rapidly changing world	0%	100%

Survey Results

To what extent do you agree or disagree that a welcoming classroom environment includes:

Descriptor	Disagree / Strongly Disagree	Agree / Strongly Agree
Being responsible for and accept the consequences of one's conduct and academic performance	0%	100%
Demonstrating respect and appreciation for cultural and ideological diversity and differences	0%	100%
develop the ability to be productive in a team environment	0%	100%
learn and acquire the skills necessary for a lifetime of continuous learning and the ability to adapt to changes in the workplace and society	4.4%	95.6%
Develop the capacity to examine and solve problems	0%	100%

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES



YOU CAN GET IT



IN ASHEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS

TIMELINE

PHASE 1

December 2024 - May 2025
Data collection and analysis.

PHASE 2

March 2025 - July 2025
Portrait of a Scholar

PHASE 3

September 2025 - March 2026
Update Vision, Mission, and create Core Values

PHASE 4

November 2025 - June 2026
Developing the Plan

PHASE 5

July 2026 - Beyond
Implementation and Monitoring

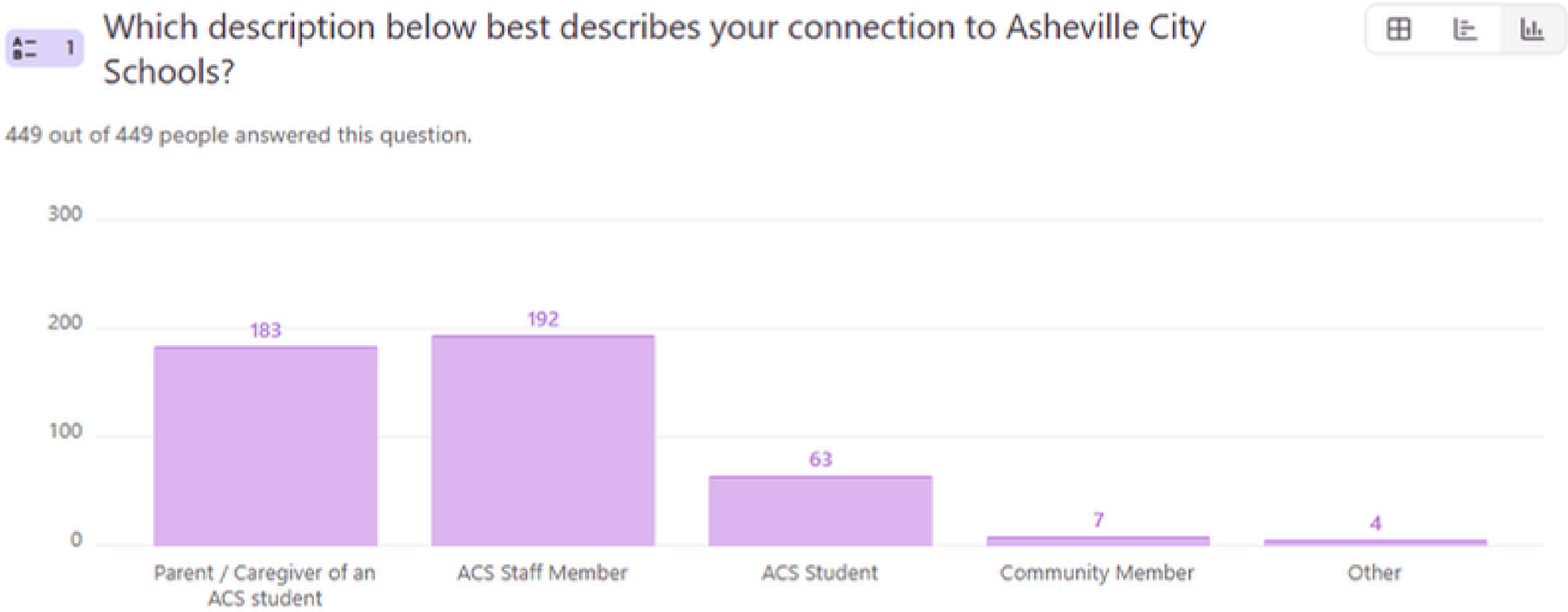


PHASE 4 OVERVIEW

- **November** - Completed SWOT, identified focus areas, prioritized areas to address, and formed focus area leadership teams
- **December** - Team updates, identify strategic initiatives, draft objectives, and inventory current initiatives
- **January** - Finalize strategy map
- **February** - Identify Critical Initiatives
- **March** - Build Action Plans
- **April** - Initial Presentation to the BOE
- **May** - Updated Presentation to the BOE and Board Action



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES



STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

STUDENTS OUTCOMESPlease rank the statements below regarding student outcomes that you feel ACS should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

401 out of 449 people answered this question.

Ranked from highest to lowest

1	ACS improves our overall academic outcomes.	2.32 Mean
2	ACS addresses academic disparities across racial groups.	2.68 Mean
3	ACS reduces student discipline disparities across racial groups.	3.52 Mean
4	ACS improves student attendance rates.	3.93 Mean
5	There is equitable representation of students from all racial groups in honors and AP courses.	4.05 Mean
6	All schools in ACS receives an A on the state accountability measurement tool.	4.5 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

EMPLOYEES: Please rank the statements below about employees that you feel ACS should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

441 out of 449 people answered this question.

Ranked from highest to lowest

1	All staff earn a living wage.	1.81 Mean
2	Improve staff retention.	3.12 Mean
3	All ACS Staff are respected for the jobs they perform in support of teaching and learning.	3.2 Mean
4	All ACS staff respect the differences and build on the rich diversity found within our student body, workforce, and community.	4.05 Mean
5	Improve the diversity of staff in teaching and leadership positions.	4.16 Mean
6	Develop a leadership development pipeline.	4.63 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

4 CULTURE AND CLIMATEPlease rank the statements below regarding the area of culture and climate that you feel the district should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

437 out of 449 people answered this question.

Ranked from highest to lowest

1	Build a culture of trust between the school district leadership and staff, students, and families.	2.28 Mean
2	Ensure that every student, family, and staff member has a strong sense of belonging in ACS.	2.79 Mean
3	Build clear accountability measures that are regularly shared with our community.	2.97 Mean
4	Improve the district's responsiveness to feedback and input.	3.27 Mean
5	Improve district communications.	3.69 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTIONPlease rank the statements below regarding curriculum and instruction that you feel ACS should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

5

433 out of 449 people answered this question.

1	ACS offers students a rigorous curriculum, coupled with engaging and innovative instruction that prepares students for their future.	1.78 Mean
2	Learning happens through hands-on opportunities where students are solving real-world problems.	2.73 Mean
3	ACS uses a balanced assessment program that measures students' mastery of knowledge and skills and supports students in creating high quality work.	3.54 Mean
4	High school students have the opportunity to participate in work-place learning through internships.	3.78 Mean
5	Students all graduate with a detailed plan to achieve their post-high school goals.	3.96 Mean
6	Teachers effectively use technology to engage students, enhance learning, and prepare them for college and the workplace.	4.51 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

STUDENT OUTCOMES:
Please rank the statements below regarding student outcomes that you feel ACS should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

1	ACS develops students who think critically, analyze, evaluate, and synthesize complex ideas and consider multiple perspectives.	3.15 Mean
2	ACS develops students who are effective learners and develop a mindset and skills for success in college, career, and life.	3.92 Mean
3	Students have the opportunity to take courses that speak to their interests and talents.	4.42 Mean
4	Students value, appreciate, and respect the differences within our community and student body.	4.5 Mean
5	Students achievement goes beyond proficiency to deeper understanding and can show mastery in a broad body of knowledge and skills.	4.64 Mean
6	Students have the opportunity to apply their learning in new ways through meaningful tasks.	4.82 Mean
7	ACS develops students who are ready to be active participants in our democracy.	4.94 Mean
8	Students have access to a wide variety of extra curricular activities.	5.6 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

FACILITIES AND OPERATIONSPlease rank the statements below regarding facilities and operations in ACS that you feel the district should address in our strategic plan from most important to least important. While this is not a complete list, it reflects the key ideas found in the data we gathered from stakeholders during our data collection phase.

6

420 out of 449 people answered this question.

Ranked from highest to lowest

1	Ensure all classrooms have necessary materials, technology, and furniture to create an environment where students can thrive.	1.77 Mean
2	Enhance safety measures and protocols on all campus.	2.45 Mean
3	Maximize the use of all facilities in ACS to ensure the long-term financial sustainability of the school system.	2.74 Mean
4	Invest in facility improvements that ensure all buildings are energy efficient.	2.87 Mean

STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATES

7 FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

416 out of 449 people answered this question.

Ranked from highest to lowest

1	The district develops and manages its budget in a transparent process.	2.33 Mean
2	ACS pursues additional sources of revenue other than taxes to ensure there are funds to meet needs both today and into the future.	2.83 Mean
3	ACS pledges to be a responsible steward of taxpayer dollars as essential to earning and keeping the public's trust.	3.03 Mean
4	ACS continues its commitment to distributing its resources equitably.	3.05 Mean
5	The district is recognized as meeting or exceeding the highest standards in accounting and financial reporting.	3.7 Mean


DISCUSSION