ASHEVILLE CITY BOARD OF EDUCATION WORK SESSION

Administrative Offices - Board Room
Monday, May 4, 2026 at 5:00 PM

BE IT REMEMBERED: The Asheville City Board of Education met in a regularly called session on Monday, May 4, 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.

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1. MEETING OPENING

1.1 CALL TO ORDER - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

5:03 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 APPROVAL OF AGENDA - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

Motion to Approve the Agenda

Moved by: Amy Ray; seconded by: George Sieburg

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

The motion passed 7-0

2. CCAR Six Agreements - Dr. Maggie Fehrman, Superintendent

3. DISCUSSION ITEMS

3.1 FY 27 Budget Update - Dr. Maggie Fehrman, Superintendent, and Heidi Kerns, Chief Finance Officer

FY 27 Budget Presentation

The FY 27 Budget Update included the following:

- FY 27 Tentative ACS Budget Calendar
- FY 27 Budget Planning (Revenue Neutral)
- Reasons for budget shortfalls
- Funding for Strategic Plan Success
- Staffing Allottments
- Enhancements Requests
- Supplemental Tax Rate Request
- FY 27 Budget Planning

3.2 Update on the Strategic Plan - Dr. Maggie Fehrman, Superintendent

Strategic Plan Update Presentation

Dr. Fehrman shared the following updates:

1. Feedback Process and changes that have been made
2. What is clear in the Strategic Plan?
3. What was missing in the plan that stakeholders expected to see?
4. What questions do stakeholders have about the plan?
5. Strategic Plan v. Action Plan
6. The Board has approved the vision and mission statements
7. ACS Strategy Map - noted that one specific revision was incorporated based on direct feedback from the community. The updated plan explicitly emphasizes the district's focused commitment to closing the achievement gap. To achieve this, Asheville City Schools will work toward ensuring every student receives the individualized support necessary to perform at or above grade level.

- Equitable Student Outcomes = Close the Achievement Gap
- What's Next?
- Action Plan Development
- Strategic Plan Accountability Team
- Timeline
- Journey to Become a High Quality Organization

Amy Ray left at 6:18 p.m.

4. INFORMATION ITEMS

4.1 Policies and a Procedure

Spring 2026 Update (Information Only)

Policy Code: 1510/4200/7270 School Safety

Policy Code: 3430 School Improvement Plan

Policy Code: 3565/8307 Title I Program Comparability of Services

Policy Code: 4001 Equal Educational Opportunities

Policy Code: 7530 Military Leave

Information Only

Procedure Code: 6350-P School Bus Seatbelt

5. POSSIBLE ACTION/CONSENT ITEMS FOR THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

Consent

Mountain Professionals - Drivers Education

Republic Services of NC - Waste and Recycling Collection

Tarheel Paving & Asphalt- AHS Parking Lot Repaving

TruBlue Services - Parking Lot Resealing at AHS, AMS, and Dickson

Western Waterproofing DBA Western Specialty Contractors- AHS Tuckpointing at CTE Building

Wilde Acre Landscapes - Lawn Mowing Services

The following contracts will be on the action agenda for the Regular Meeting on May 11th.

Compass Group USA Chartwell Dining Services - Food Services Management Co

EL Education - Staff and Leader Professional Development, Strategic Planning, Monitoring, and Implementation Support

Wilde Acre Landscape

Amy Ray returned at 6:37 p.m.

6. CLOSED SESSION - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg

6:57 PM

The Chair will entertain a motion for the Board of Education to enter into a closed session pursuant to G.S. 143-318.11 for the following purposes:

- **Under subsection (a)(1) to prevent the disclosure of privileged and confidential personnel information pursuant to G.S. 115C-319-321;**
- **Under subsection (a) (3) to discuss matters protected by the attorney-client privilege.**

AGENDA ITEMS

6.1 Personnel Report - May

6.2 Attorney Client Matters

7. FUTURE MEETINGS/ANNOUNCEMENTS -
Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg
Regular Meeting

Monday, May 11, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

Early Dismissal for Students

Friday, May 22, 2026

12:00 Noon K-5

1:00 PM 6-12

Holiday- Memorial Day - No School for Students and Staff

Monday, May 25, 2026

Work Session

Monday, June 1, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

Regular Meeting

Monday, June 8, 2026

Administrative Office - Board Room

2025-2026 ACS Board of Education Meeting Schedule

8. ADJOURNMENT - Board Chair, Sarah Thornburg
7:44 PM

8.1 Adjourn Meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Liza Kelly; seconded by: George Sieburg

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

Asheville City Schools WORK SESSION, 04 May 2026