

**Asheboro City Board of Education
Professional Development Center
July 10, 2025
12:30 p.m.**

Work Session

Board Members Present:

Baxter Hammer, Chairman
Ryan Patton, Vice Chairman
Hilda DeCortez
Gidget Kidd

Phillip Cheek
Linda Cranford
Michael Smith

Dr. Beth Knott
Melissa Calloway
Adam Hurley

Board Members Absent:

Hailey Lee

Staff Members Present:

Dr. Aaron Woody
Carla Freemyer
Christina Kinley
Deanna Wiles

Sandra Spivey Ayers
Gayle Higgs
Chandra Manning

Dr. Wendy Rich
Anthony Woodyard
Dr. Ana Floyd

Opening

Chairman Hammer called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

Work Session

- A. Dr. Woody welcomed the board, central office administrators and school administrators to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending.
- B. Dr. Woody began speaking about the successful week with the Administrative Leadership Team summer retreat on Tuesday and Wednesday. During the retreat, time was spent with a collective focus on excellence. We are all instructional leaders. We need to grow consistency and recognize our gaps. Dr. Woody shared that he and the team spent intentional time together making plans to address these areas. Dr. Woody ended with a quote from the retreat: "progress is not about speed, it is about direction", and our direction matters.

Dr. Woody added that during the work session the Board will hear highlights from principals for their schools for 2024-2025 and plans for some areas for growth in 2025-2026 from each principal.

Dr. Woody shared a recap of the 2024-2025 school year. This information included the following:

- The dropout rate has fallen from 3.8% to 2.1%, reflecting our commitment to keeping every student engaged and on the path to success.
- Attendance and engagement have also improved tremendously. Chronic absenteeism has dropped dramatically—from 31.5% in 2021-22 to just 15% this year—while average daily attendance increased from 92.8% to 94.1%. These numbers reflect more than policies; they demonstrate the deep relationships and supportive environments our educators and staff foster every day.

- Our investment in hands-on learning and workforce readiness continues to grow. This summer, 19 students will participate in internships, with 25 more joining in the fall and 56 in the spring. Our partnerships are expanding as well, with five students interning at Cone Health and three technology interns earning credit within ACS.
- Our apprenticeship programs are thriving. Through NCFame and Apprenticeship Randolph, we welcomed the largest group of new apprentices in the Piedmont Triad this year, setting the stage for bright futures in skilled careers.
- Student organizations like DECA, FFA, and HOSA are flourishing, engaging hundreds of students and earning top honors at state and international competitions. DECA celebrated multiple state winners and finalists, including a first-place finish at the DECA at the Bell international competition. FFA members earned scholarships and received recognition from National FFA New Horizons magazine for their innovative Zoo School program.
- Additionally, Asheboro City Schools CTE was selected as a pilot site for the new NC Fame pathway, reinforcing our district's reputation as a leader and valued educational partnerships. What these numbers and stories represent goes beyond achievement—they are proof of what happens when a community commits to lifting one another up, nurturing every talent, and working relentlessly to open doors of opportunity.

Closed Session

Under NC General Statute 143-318.11.A1, to prevent disclosure of information that is privileged or confidential pursuant to the law of this State or of the United States, or not considered a public record within the Meaning of Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, and upon motion by Phillip Cheek and seconded by Hilda DeCortez, the board unanimously approved to enter Closed Session to hear data presentations from the principals.at 1:00 p.m.

Dr. Woody's self-assessment for 2024-2025 was not discussed with the board during the closed session due to time constraints.

Upon motion by Phillip Cheek and seconded by Hilda DeCortez, the board unanimously approved to open the closed session at 1:00 p.m.

Upon motion by Linda Cranford and seconded by Michael Smith, the board unanimously agreed to close the closed session at 5:09 p.m.

Adjournment:

There being no further business and upon motion by Dr. Beth Knott and seconded by Hilda DeCortez, the board unanimously approved to adjourn at 5:09 p.m.

Chairman

Secretary